

**NVC UTILITIES MEETING  
MINUTES  
January 9, 2009**

**Present:** Chairman David Crofoot; Committee Members: Judy Metcalf(via phone), Jane Strauss, Peter Allen, Ned Lightner; Superintendent Dick McElhaney; Office Manager Paul Bartels; Treasurer Bill Cressey.

Chairman Crofoot called the meeting to order at 2:30 PM.

**Minutes**

Jane Strauss moved to approve the minutes from the last meeting seconded by Judy Metcalf. **Voted – All in Favor.**

**Visitors Concerns**

None Voiced.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT**

**Sewer Department**

**November 2008 Effluent Monitoring Data**

The NVC was in full compliance of its wastewater discharge license in November. There were no license exceptions.

Flow averaged 20,360 gpd compared to 30,977 gpd in November of 2007. The high day was on the 26<sup>th</sup> at 67,600. The low was 7,500 on the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>.

Precipitation during the month totaled 3.98 inches compared to 6.47 inches in November of 2007.

TSS and BOD averaged 1.7 lbs/day (13 mg/l) and 4 lbs/day (35 mg/l), respectively.

See performance table below for this month's comparisons, averages, year-to-date highs and lows, permit limits, and year-to-date violations.

## Performance Table

Parameters	November	October	YTD Lo	YTD Hi	YTD Ave	2007 Ave	DEP Limit	Violations
Flow GPD	<b>20360</b>	14129	10067	38076	<b>22216</b>	20619	<b>63000</b>	0
Precip Inches	<b>3.98</b>	3.14	2.31	9.61	<b>5.14</b>	4.06	<b>n/a</b>	0
TSS lbs/d	<b>1.7</b>	2.3	1	8	<b>3.11</b>	2.8	<b>76</b>	0
TSS mg/l	<b>13</b>	25	4	44	<b>19.5</b>	19.8	<b>145</b>	0
BOD lbs/d	<b>4</b>	6	2	23	<b>8.68</b>	8.9	<b>107</b>	0
BOD mg/l	<b>35</b>	65	11	143	<b>60.18</b>	69.1	<b>203</b>	0
TSS % Rem	<b>95</b>	92	85	99	<b>93.8</b>	92.4	<b>50</b>	0
BOD % Rem	<b>88</b>	78	50	96	<b>79.1</b>	76.5	<b>30</b>	0
pH lo	<b>6.6</b>	6.7	6.6	6.8	<b>6.69</b>	6.72	<b>6.0</b>	0
pH Hi	<b>6.9</b>	6.8	6.9	7.1	<b>6.94</b>	7.1	<b>9.0</b>	0
S.S. ml/l	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<0.1	<0.1	<0.1	<b>&lt;0.1</b>	<0.1	<b>Report</b>	0
F Col/100 ml	<b>N/a</b>	N/a	0	<2	<b>&lt;2</b>	<1.2	<b>15-ave</b>	0
F Col/100 ml	<b>N/a</b>	N/a	0	<2	<b>2.0</b>	4.0	<b>50-max</b>	0

**Note: The last NVC Sewer Dept. violation was in February of 2006 which was for flow.**

## December 2008 Snapshot

The NVC Sewer Department was again in full compliance with its discharge license for the December 2008 operating period. Flow will average 27,339 gpd. Rainfall, as totaled by the Belfast Water District at Little River, was 4.73 inches.

## Consent Agreement Interim Funding Report

The eleventh of eleven interim funding reports was submitted to the DEP December 29<sup>th</sup>. The reports are required semi-annually per the 2003 NVC Consent Agreement with the MEDEP. The NVC Sewer Department letter report focused on:

- 1) The need for a funding package of \$3.14 million to make improvements in the sewer system per the 2005 Woodard & Curran Stage II Facilities Report.
- 2) The time line for improving the system is subject to funding availability.
- 3) The agreement the MEDEP would assist the NVC in developing a funding package to keep user fees consistent with the MEDEP guidelines for affordability.
- 4) The MEDEP to date has not yet developed an affordable funding package to complete any of the recommendations in the aforementioned Woodard & Curran report.
- 5) The hope the much talked about and probable infusion of massive federal tax dollars to stimulate the economy into ready-to-go infrastructure projects would come into fruition in developing a funding package for the NVC in 2009.
- 6) The receipt of a \$100,000 loan from the MMBB to complete the replacement of sewer lines on sections of Clinton Ave and North St in October per the NVC and MEDEP agreement (in the interim, absent significant funding to fulfill any of the major recommendations for improvements in the Woodard & Curran report) to work on removing the infiltration and inflow (I&I) of clean water into the sewer collection system.

- 7) The high performance of the existing treatment plant and the NVC's progress of removing I&I from the sewer collection system.

#### Dig Safe System, Inc. Membership Application

The NVC Sewer Department general membership application with Dig Safe System, Inc. has been approved. Dig Safe will notify the NVC of any proposed excavations within 500 feet of the NVC sewer and water lines. The system, however "dig safe", may not always be "fail safe" as the system relies upon excavators to notify Dig Safe when they are planning to dig. This, of course, can not be guaranteed.

#### Dedicated Pump Station No. 1 High Water Alarm

A high water alarm was received from Pump Station No. 1 which services a resident on upper Shore Road. Fernie responded and reset the pump which had again tripped out on an apparent overload. There was no evidence of any freeze-up. The pump had kicked out the first time back in July.

**A brief discussion of some minor confusion about how to page the sewer contract worker when this happens was resolved.**

#### Potential Outfall Piping Replacement Funding Package

Within hours of his receipt of copy of the above interim funding report, the NVC Sewer Department received a call from Steve McLaughlin of the Maine DEP. Steve handles the State's Clean Water State Revolving Loan Fund (SRLF) for funding sewage infrastructure projects. He wants to put a funding package together to replace and extend the existing 335 ft outfall pipe to 1000 ft, furthering it away from the swim float and boat mooring area in order to provide yet another level of public protection from the treated wastewater discharge. The replacement and extension of the outfall is one of the major improvements recommended in the Woodard & Current report to satisfy conditions of the 2003 Consent Agreement and would relieve the utility of the expense of annual inspections and repairs.

Maine DEP anticipates \$50-\$90 million in federal economic stimulus funding in March to fund infrastructure projects like the replacement of the NVC outfall: projects would need to be ready to go within 90 days of the MEDEP receiving the funds. The exact details of the funding are pending. However, Steve believes that there will be as much as 40-50% in "principal forgiveness" (grant) and 0% loan interest over 20 years with the balance. Steve was reminded it was the opinion of the NVC Superintendent of Utilities that maybe as much as 90% grant would be needed to make it affordable. Dirigo Engineering's preliminary cost estimate to complete the outfall project is \$574,000.

If funds become available, the Department would have to move quickly to design the project in order to start construction as soon as possible.

**Chairman Crofoot moved that if and when money becomes available, the Utilities Committee will be, in principal, in favor of accepting a grant from Economic Stimulus if funding made available is affordable without raising sewer rates, seconded by Ned Lightner – Votes all in favor.**

## Wastewater Discharge License Renewal

The NVC's EPA NPDES Discharge Permit and Maine Wastewater Discharge License expire on June 29, 2009. Licenses need to be renewed every five years. The NVC Sewer Department is now in possession of the license renewal application and should be able to complete it in-house without any outside engineering assistance. The Superintendent anticipates no changes in the conditions of the license.

## Water Department

### November 2008 Usage and Water Quality

Water consumption during November averaged 13,554 gpd compared to 17,812 gpd in October and 12,569 gpd in November of 2007. The average weekly chlorine residual in the drinking water was 0.09 ppm compared to the recommended level of less than 0.2 ppm. The lone monthly coliform test result was negative.

### Application of the Maine Sales Tax

It has come to the attention of the Superintendent of Utilities that certain water customers may be liable to a 5% sales tax on the sale of water to them. The Superintendent has asked Mr. Bartels, the NVC Office Manager to review the law and apply any applicable sales tax to the May trimesterly billing. Sale of water for consumption to non-residential or commercial and/or where residential consumption may be mixed is taxable. In general, a tax on the consumption of water for residential and governmental use is not taxable. The Department believes there may be as many as 5 customers whose consumption and or a portion thereof should be taxed.

## Financials

2008 reported financials (Draft) were discussed. It appears that there are positive balances in both sewer and water account at the end of fiscal 2008.

Chairman Crofoot moved that Treasurer Cressey transfer any overages from the general account to-the Sinking Fund account. Judy Metcalf seconded – **Voted all in favor.**

Judy Metcalf moved that upon confirmation of the reported positive balances that those funds be placed in an interest bearing bank account for future projects, Jane Strauss seconded – **Voted all in favor.**

## Other Business

### Discussion about discrepancies with contract labor:

It has been the intention of the Utilities Department that William E. Paige (Billy Paige, Jr.) be paid as a contract laborer (1099) rather than as a Village Employee. Our budgets reflect this. The Trustees will need to address this matter before the Overseers at their next meeting.

### Discussion about a new property on Shore Road that has an apartment:

A newly constructed house on the South Shore has advertised an apartment for rent. Paul Bartels has been in touch with the property owner and made him aware that, from the standpoint of the Utilities Department Rules and Regulations, such a usage would result in billing for two water services.

Overseers present at the Utilities meeting also noted that rental of an apartment violates the Zoning Ordinance which requires single family dwellings in R2 zones. Bartels was instructed to include a letter with their January bill stating that the Utility Department has no authority over zoning rules; billing for a second service is, in no way, a *de facto* recognition or permission for this zoning violation. The Overseers will need to address the broader issues of the Zoning violation.

### **Adjourn**

Judy Metcalf moved to adjourn at 4:10 PM, seconded by Jane Strauss –**Voted, All in Favor.**

Submitted by Paul Bartels