

NVC Utilities Committee  
Trustee Meeting  
Community Hall and by Zoom link  
Friday, Feb 16 2024, 2:30 p.m.

Trustees Present: Jeffrey Wilt, Judy Metcalf, Casey Brown, Brady Brim-Deforest  
Trustees Absent: David Crofoot

Staff: Bill Paige, Trish Parker, Chuck Applebee

The February meeting of the NVC Utilities Trustees convened at 2:34 Utilities chair, Jeffrey Wilt called the meeting to order.

**Community Comments** – See attached comments read by Rachel Rossa

**Approval of minutes:**

Brady moved (Judy second) approval of minutes of January 19, 2024, minutes. The motion was unanimously adopted.

**Superintendent Report:**

- **During the January operating period there were no exceedances**
- BOD rose toward end of month
- Tanks pumped on Feb 14 – we are budgeted for pumping 4 times this year
- December Mercury sample returned (4.1 ppt (parts per trillion) average, limit is 50.1 ppt) – we are well below our limit
- Began work with RCAP – service is at no cost to Utilities.
- MDEP Inspection in November – waiting on report
- Sewer service issue on lower Main Street – Bob Smith -- is there an agreement ? Double check the records. Moore to clean out. Broken pipe under Judy Metcalf’s property. Get cost estimate.
- Purchase water 2/3 of annual flow. Meter issue 4” meter failed. Replacing with 6” Belfast water will assist with installation. Emergency approval by Overseers. Revisit agreement with Belfast. Installation work from Belfast will be at no cost.
- RCAP working on rate increase

Dee Berglund guest from inforME to discuss electronic payment process. Allow us to accept credit card payment at no fee to Utilities. Disperse \$ every night at 11. Over 350 municipalities. Charges –2.5% to customer. OTC payment or phone payment. Payport online – 2 stores – sewer & water. Links to website. Also, General Gov't

Moratorium Discussion – consider extension through summer season. Two addition pump outs – extend to September will pumping methodology work through summer season.

Need for caution, always close to limit. Performances driven by weather events. Either we are at max or not.

EPA application based on existing license

**Judy (Casey second) made Motion to extend the moratorium by 6 months from April 7— October 7 to see the effects of new pumping schedule Implement 4 times per year pumping track BOD data.**

**Public hearing in March 15, 2:00**

**Trustees discuss an analysis of billing process if we did as “usage system “with a base bill to cover all fixed cost**

**Do calculation not what bills would look like and compare to what it would look like now. Casey will do if we provide the data. What costs are fixed. Which are variable.**

The next meeting of the Trustees is a **March 15, 2:30 p.m.**, Community Hall and on-line (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82961508196?pwd=ekpzTllZcm13cnJEZmlHRmlwR3ZSZz09>)

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jeffrey Wilt, Chairman

Feb. 9, 2024

## Utility Department Monthly Operating Report Sewer Department

### Jan. 2024 Effluent Monitoring Data

During the January operating period there were no exceedances. See performance table below for further details of the regulatory monitoring data. For the month January 2024.

See updated Flow, TSS and BOD Trend Charts at the end of this report.

### WWTP Monthly Performance Table

Parameters	Jan.	Dec.	Nov.	YTD Low	YTD Hi	YTD Ave	2023 Ave	DEP Limit	YTD Exceed- ances
Flow GPD	18633	30030	13338	18633	18633	18633	<b>20449</b>	<b>63,000</b>	0
Precip inches	<b>1.94</b>	<b>8.07</b>	<b>2.79</b>	<b>1.94</b>	<b>1.94</b>	<b>1.94</b>		n/a	0
TSS lbs/min	0.4	1	0.26	0.4	0.4	0.4	<b>1.36</b>	<b>&lt;76</b>	0
TSS lbs max	1.6	9	2.25	1.6	1.6	1.6	<b>3.09</b>	<b>report</b>	0
TSS mg/l ave	6.0	4.6	7.7	6.0	6.0	6.0	<b>10.6</b>	<b>&lt;145</b>	0
TSS mg/l max	7.7	5.8	14	7.7	7.7	7.7	<b>12.9</b>	<b>report</b>	0
TSS % removal	97.9	96.8	97.3	97.9	97.9	97.9	<b>96.1</b>	<b>&gt;50</b>	0
BOD lbs/min	9	11	6.31	9	9	9	<b>19.7</b>	<b>&lt;107</b>	0
BOD lbs max	52	278	33.45	52	52	52	<b>65.6</b>	<b>report</b>	0
BOD mg/l ave	192	113	126	192	192	192	<b>178</b>	<b>&lt;203</b>	0
BOD mg/l max	240	150	170	240	240	240	<b>259.1</b>	<b>report</b>	0
BOD % removal	33.8	44.3	56.5	33.8	33.8	33.8	<b>39.4</b>	<b>&gt;30</b>	0
pH low	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.7	<b>6.7</b>	<b>&gt;6.0</b>	0
pH high	6.9	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.9	6.9	<b>6.9</b>	<b>&lt;9.0</b>	0
St solids ml/l	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	<b>0.1</b>	<b>report</b>	0
TRC mg/l max	0.05	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.05	0.05	<b>0.066</b>	<b>&lt;0.3</b>	0
Fecal cfu ave	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	<b>&lt;4</b>	<b>&lt;14</b>	0
Fecal cfu max	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	<4	<b>&lt;4</b>	<b>&lt;31</b>	0
Enterococcus cfu ave	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>108</b>	<b>&lt;8</b>	0
Enterococcus cfu max	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>9680</b>	<b>&lt;54</b>	0
Hg ng/l ave	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>4.1</b>	<b>33.4</b>	0
Hg ng/l max	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	<b>4.1</b>	<b>50.1</b>	0

1. December mercury test result came in January was a 4.1 ppt
2. BOD concentration is up last week in January and first week in February.
3. Moore's Septage is scheduled to pump first 2 tanks on each train Feb. 14, 2024.
4. EPA renewal application was submitted on 11-29-23
5. MDEP Inspection still waiting on final report

## **Drinking Water Department**

### January 2024 Production and Water Quality.

Purchased water for the month averaged 9,530 gpd compared to 14,839 gpd for the same month in 2023. The weekly free chlorine residual in the drinking water ranged from 0.24 - 0.31 ppm/Cl<sup>2</sup> compared to the recommended goal of >.20 to <1.0 ppm/Cl<sub>2</sub> at the entry point to the distribution system. The EPA maximum concentration level (MCL) not to be exceeded for chlorine residual related to human health is 4.0 ppm. The monthly total coliform and e-coli water sample test results were both negative.

- 1. Meter problems began in January so water usage is artificially low**
- 2. Belfast water bills will be averaged during the time of the faulty meter**
- 3. RCAP continues work on water rate increase**
- 4. Four increase meter at the Belfast water vault failed and can not be repaired**
- 5. A new 6 inch meter is ordered and will increase fire flows from 1000 gallon to 2000 gallons per minute**
- 6. The approximate cost for the meter replacement is \$8,000 and will come from the water reserve account**
- 7. Northport Fire Department may contribute to the cost of increased meter replacement to 6 inch**

Rachel Rosa  
7 Auditorium Park

I have been providing the NVC Utilities Committee information and advocating for sewer rate review since December 2021. This week I have reviewed 16 coastal communities regarding their wastewater treatment rate schedules and how they set them.

They are:

Bath	Islesboro
Bangor	North Haven
Belfast	Rockport
Bar Harbor	Rockland
Boothbay Harbor	Searsport
Bucksport	Southwest Harbor
Camden	Stonington
Castine	Vinalhaven
Damariscotta	

They all assess sewer fees based on water usage.

They all assess sewer fees differently.

They all base fees on a quarterly or seasonal basis, not a trimester schedule.

Bar Harbor, Boothbay Harbor, Castine, and North Haven have a fee structure for seasonal residences as well as residents. I have appended these towns sewer rate schedules to these comments. The rate schedules are available on the towns' website and show the different formulas used to calculate fees.

Comparisons of these towns' fees to the NVC 2024 sewer rates show my sewer bill will be over \$300 more per year than any other town reviewed.

The town of Rockport is working on solutions to their wastewater discharge. Rockport will be building a Water Resource Recovery Facility (WRRF) on their town property. The cost is estimated to be 18 million dollars, yet at completion in 2026 rates to town residences are anticipated to be \$1,273 annually.

The NVC Superintendent, Chuck Applebee was asked to prepare information for the Committee on sewer rate review for this months' meeting. While Chuck may have the expertise to conduct the rate review I suggest that may not be where the Committee would want Chuck to focus his time. I have provided information to the Committee regarding rate review assistance from the Maine Rural Water Association, as well as from the billing software company CUSI. In addition I have found that RCAP Solutions also provides assistance to communities for utility rate review. This organization is currently helping NVC Utilities with the request to the PUC for a water rate increase. RCAP is presenting a workshop next Wednesday February 21, from 8:00 to 12:00 on Rate Setting & Management Overview. I have called to find out if members of the public are able to attend. I have had no response as yet. The workshop is free and a Great opportunity for NVC Utilities if any Committee members could attend. I know most of you have day jobs.

2/15/2024

