

NVC Utilities Committee
Trustee Meeting
Community Hall and by Zoom link
Friday, January 19 2024, 2:30 p.m.

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

Staff: Bill Paige, Trish Parker, Chuck Applebee

The January meeting of the NVC Utilities Trustees convened at 2:45 Utilities chair, Jeffrey Wilt called the meeting to order.

Community Comments – See attached comments read by Rachel Rossa

Approval of minutes:

Judy moved (Brady second) approval of minutes of December 8, 2023, minutes. The motion was unanimously adopted.

Superintendent Report:

- **During the December operating period there were no exceedances**
- Mercury sample returned– we are well below our limit
- EPA has confirmed that application for licensee renewal is complete
- Began work with RCAP – service is at no cost to Utilities.

Brady moved (Judy second) to approve RCAP contract to assist in preparing the water rate increase request and associated items.

The motion was unanimously adopted.

Judy moved (Brady second) to approve RCAP contract to help to perform waste water mapping, chlorine content and associated items.

The motion was unanimously adopted

Judy moved (Brady second) approval of Dirigo contract in service of two DEP grants--fiscal sustainability and climate adaptation—with necessary funds drawn down from grant.

The motion was unanimously adopted

- Back-flow preventers were tested and performing well.
- A water meter – in vault (Belfast) – malfunction & repaired

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

Budget Process:

Judy moved (Brady second) approval of Sewer Budget as updated with recommendation for approval sent to Overseers at their February meeting. and presented to O at Feb mtg

The motion was unanimously adopted

Judy moved (Brady second) approval of Water Budget as updated with recommendation for approval sent to Overseers at their February meeting. and presented to O at Feb mtg

The motion was unanimously adopted

The next meeting of the Trustees is a **February 16, 2:30 p.m.**, Community Hall and on-line (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82961508196?pwd=ekpzTlZcml3cnJEZmlHRmlwR3ZSZz09>)

The meeting adjourned at 4:02 p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Jeffrey Wilt, Chairman

Jan. 12, 2023

Utility Department Monthly Operating Report Sewer Department

December 2023 Effluent Monitoring Data

During the December operating period there were no exceedances. See performance table below for further details of the regulatory monitoring data. For the month December 2023.

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

WWTP Monthly Performance Table

Parameters	Dec.	Nov.	Oct.	YTD Low	YTD Hi	YTD Ave	2022 Ave	DEP Limit	YTD Exceed- ances
Flow GPD	30030	13338	25692	13338	30030	20449	20228	63,000	0
Precip inches	8.07	2.79	7.53				n/a	n/a	0
TSS lbs/min	1	0.26	1	0.59	2.13	1.36	2.6	<76	0
TSS lbs max	9	2.25	4	2.25	9	3.09	5.1	report	0
TSS mg/l ave	4.6	7.7	8	4.6	17	10.6	26.1	<145	0
TSS mg/l max	5.8	14	17	5.8	19	12.9	37.5	report	0
TSS % removal	96.8	97.3	97.2	84.8	97	96.1	89.7	>50	0
BOD lbs/min	11	6.31	15	5.4	33.84	19.7	15.2	<107	0
BOD lbs max	278	33.45	64	8.2	278	65.6	26.9	report	0
BOD mg/l ave	113	126	181	62.3	333	178	140.1	<203	2
BOD mg/l max	150	170	390	56	420	259.1	161.6	report	0
BOD % removal	44.3	56.5	37.5	-3	56.5	39.4	51.6	>30	2
pH low	6.7	6.7	6.7	6.4	6.7	6.7	6.5	>6.0	0
pH high	7.0	6.9	6.9	6.7	7.0	6.9	6.7	<9.0	0
St solids ml/l	0.1	0.1	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.15	report	0
TRC mg/l max	0.05	0.04	0.05	0.02	0.08	0.066	.03	<0.3	0
Fecal cfu ave	<4	<4	<4	<4	4	<4	9.58	<14	0
Fecal cfu max	<4	<4	<4	<4	4	<4	19.37	<31	0
Entero cfu ave	n/a	n/a	<4	<4	714	108	10.8	<8	2
Entero cfu max	n/a	n/a	<4	<4	9680	9680	26.9	<54	2
Hg ng/l ave	n/a	n/a	n/a	na	n/a	n/a	18.28	33.4	0
Hg ng/l max	n/a	n/a	n/a	na	n/a	n/a	7.0	50.1	0

1. Moore's Septage is pumped sludge 10/6/23.
2. BOD concentration dropped after pumping
3. EPA renewal application was submitted on 11-29-23
4. MDEP Inspection still waiting on final report
5. Work has begun with RCAP to submit a rate increase request to MPUC
6. RCAP will also assist with GIS mapping and wastewater chlorination review

Drinking Water Department

December 2023 Production and Water Quality.

Purchased water for the month averaged 12,740 gpd compared to 16,021 gpd for the same month in 2022. The weekly free chlorine residual in the drinking water ranged from 0.2 - 0.32 ppm/Cl₂ compared to the recommended goal of >.20 to <1.0 ppm/Cl₂ 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.

January 19, 2024
Rachel Rosa,
7 Auditorium Park

It was my hope that the 2024 water and sewer budgets were final and behind us but it seems we will be reviewing them again in this meeting. Sewer rate review will come only after these obligations are completed. The NVC Utilities Committee has made a commitment to review sewer rates. I have demonstrated that towns assess sewer rates in part on water usage. This is true even for Isleboro with only 35 users on the system. I have provided the North Haven sewer rate schedule that shows how rates are based on water usage. Judy we agree on many things but we clearly do not agree on what is a fair and equitable way to assess sewer fees. If a fixed rate divided by number of users is fair for funding the sewer utility then it should also be fair to assess water fees or electricity or even trash collection based on that same formula. I cannot imagine a scenario where that would be acceptable to residents in any municipality.

I point out that while the NVC Utilities Committee has agreed to sewer rate review no money has been allocated in the 2024 budget to support the effort. It may be possible to do the required analysis with Water Quality & Compliance Services expertise but that still requires access to accurate data. As many of you know I have requested and received the Average Water Usage data for multiple time periods. The data is just one of the reports available from the CUSI billing software. Data analysis requires confidence in and access to accurate data; I have concerns about the data I have received to date.

- No two reports show the same number of residences.
- Determining a full year of water usage is difficult. Is it the final reading for March through March of the following year, or some other dates?
- The report shows how many readings are included in the average as well as total usage. Readings on every report I have obtained include 1, 2 or 3 readings. Year round users should have three readings and seasonal users should have two readings. This is inconsistent on reports I have received.
- There must be an identifier in the software to determine who gets both a water and a sewer bill. This will help with water usage analysis of those on the sewer system. I have been unsuccessful in accessing that information.

Garbage In - Garbage Out.

Maine Rural Water Association has a Rate Analyst on staff as I have noted in prior comments. When I spoke with Cathy Robinson last summer she indicated that there might be grant money available to assist with rate review. We won't know unless we ask.

The CUSI software company that drives the billing process provides support for Rate Structure Management and Usage Data Analysis. I understand that the NVC Utility already pays for customer support from CUSI.

I remain hopeful that the NVC Utilities Committee can focus on serious sewer rate review in

2024. Discharge levels and budgets should not be the only priorities for Utility management