



Minutes of July 10, 2023

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 1:30 p.m. in City Hall on Monday, July 10th, 2023. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on July 6th, 2023.

Members Present: President Rosenberg, Commissioners Herbst, Robinson, Force, Gehin
Others Present: Eric Lindman, Scott Boers, Ben Brooks, Anne Jacobson, James Henderson, Tonia Westphal/ Clark-Dietz, Joe Kafczynski/ Becher Hoppe.

1) Approve Minutes of June 6th 2023 Meeting.

Herbst motioned to approve minutes. Seconded by Gehin.
Motion Carried 5-0.

2) Director's Report on Utility Operations.

Lindman began there's an update on the Water Research Foundation forum that Brooks, Boers and I attended in Chicago with some highlights that may trigger questions from the Commission. Mayor had an update on budget impact and where things were at with the \$125 million for PFAS.

Rosenberg stated Governor Evers signed the budget into law last Wednesday. The money is there but we don't have any rules governing how we spend that money so we will await any legislature action, but we know it's been allocated.

Robinson commented the importance of the engagement and monitoring of the biosolids. Understanding the reluctance and the many people that need to become engaged in the monitoring of the biosolids but would like to point out some opinions in there. The State of Maine and Michigan are concerned about biosolids relative to PFAS in agricultural products. Michigan is a leader in trying to set some of those standards. If you look to the North in Wisconsin in Oneida County with concerns of elevated PFAS in groundwater that may be of concern in the land application of the biosolids. We can't take our eye off of it and there are a number of people pushing for the development of standards not because of politics but because the lack of uncertainty that creates fear. There are a number of counties looking to ban the land application of biosolids. We need to stay on top of the effluent and the biosolids moving forward and look at product in terms of what we are producing and the short/long term ramifications and liabilities associated with this use. We are hoping with the GAC system, much of the input into the system will be removed but we don't know what the products are. We have concerns in the community with all 6 wells, we need to be vigilant and cautious in where we go and what we do going forward.

Rosenberg replied this was a good discussion to continue at the MPO as it included County key players and this would be a good opportunity to have a discussion with the DNR about the expectations. Last time we weren't sure what would happen after we got our PFAS results.

Robinson replied the focus would be more on water at the MPO. It's an issue that is not unique to Wausau if other communities were experiencing it. It's evident by the PFAS conference that was held earlier this year in Wausau where the Wisconsin's Town Association Co-sponsors. This is an evolving issue about what's in the stream from wastewater perspective as the WPDES permit renews, there would be sampling requirements relative to effluent and issues to where we go from here. It's uncomfortable because we don't fully understand science but we are looking across the states and the spreading of the land application of the solids. MPO is a good venue and there are other parties too.

Brooks stated we have been notified by the Municipal Environmental Group that the DNR will be testing our biosolids sometime in the near future (possibly July) and hopefully that puts your mind at ease that the DNR is taking action.

Lindman replied that is part of the start of it. We are taking this seriously and will continue to do that. Wausau has always been proactive and we want to maintain that and be proactive but we don't want to be proactive and then have a regulatory agency make it punitive on us for doing so. Just like discussion on the Leachate, we've got a meeting set up in July with DNR and the County to make sure what we are going to do together to set a program up is not punitive to the users of Wausau or the County. The Regulatory Agencies fail to see or recognize local impacts. We really saw that when we went down to the Water Resource group and talked with other Municipalities around the country. There's great research happening as far as how these biosolids react in the soils. What they are seeing is the regulated PFAS being tested for going into the water treatment plant are lower than what's coming out so they are having these bio-transformations of the precursors. So, you are right, there are a lot of things happening that we don't understand yet. We want to make sure we are working with the regulatory authorities and not one against the other. Your point is well taken but the discussion by experts is that we are not there yet and it's been a struggle across the country and we will get there. DNR seems to be onboard but further discussion needs to happen.

Force questioned the number of LSL's reported being 55 vs estimated 90. Are all 55 identified and remediated, have we had a big pushback, if we started testing PFAS at the plant and if we were well below those requirements?

Lindman replied the 55 services are all bid and scheduled to be replaced. The homeowner will make the final determination of replacement. There's one final step and we have a contractor on board signing contracts. The homeowner will meet with the contractor. As far as pushback, we've had at least one that has refused to let us go in but nothing like what we had in the past.

Boers replied we have started testing and the results just came back. PFOA/PFAS combined are at 9.9. The 4 precursors that EPA plan on regulating came back with 3 non- detects, and one at 1.42 PPT so we were not close to that hazard index so we are well below that requirement.

Robinson questioned the number of identified lead service lines confirming that in the estimated 90, only 55 were identified, and if we were updating those databases based on those findings?

Lindman replied correct. We set up temporary water for all those individuals and where they connect in the temporary water is at the curb stop. When they dug down, there were a number of those lines they didn't find lead leaving the curb stop going to the home and that eliminated a number of those sites. We are updating that as we get more information especially the field data but what we are finding is that we may have to spend some upfront money in planning so that we can do some hydro excavating ahead of time. The difference from what we had in GIS to what's in the field just shows our inventory is not accurate.

Gehin questioned if LSL replacement would be an open trench construction? Gehin asked if there was a defined testing protocol for the monitoring of PFAS in the sludge? If Michigan is in

the lead then testing should be uniform through all the plants.

Lindman replied the contractor that bid LSL replacement is proposing open trench excavation this year for the water lines. If people wanted to do their sanitary line, they'd be able to do that.

Brooks replied there is not a standard in place yet for the testing but they are testing. The walk away from the program we went to didn't define that but there are labs testing but no standard for the State of Wisconsin. A lot that comes into play are the precursors that everyone's been referring to. There's a lot of unknowns with biotransformation short chain PFAS within the treatment itself.

Lindman stated we won't be sure what method the State of Wisconsin will use but they were talking about the DOD or what Michigan was using.

Director's Report Placed on File.

3) Discussion and Possible Action Approving the Sole Sourcing of Polymer for the new Belt Filter Presses and Gravity Belt Thickeners from Midwest Chemical.

Herbst motioned to approve the sole sourcing of Polymer for the new Belt Filter Presses and Gravity Belt thickeners from Midwest Chemical. Seconded by Gehin.

Motion Carried 5-0.

4) Adjourn.

Herbst motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Gehin.

Motion Carried 5-0.

Link to view meeting in its entirety: <https://tinyurl.com/wausaucitycouncil>

Gina Vang, Recording Secretary

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