



Minutes of September 3, 2024

A meeting of the Wausau Water Works Commission was called to order at 11:00 a.m. in City Hall on Tuesday, September 3, 2024. In compliance with Wisconsin Statutes, this meeting was posted and receipted for by the Wausau Daily Herald on August 29, 2024.

Members Present: President Diny, Commissioners Robinson, Gehin, Force, Watson Present at 11:04am

Others Present: Scott Boers, Eric Lindman, Ben Brooks, Anne Jacobson, Susan Wojtkiewicz/Donohue, Joe Kafczynski/BecherHoppe, Tonia Westphal/Clark-Dietz

1) Approve Minutes of August 6, 2024 Meetings.

Force motioned to approve minutes. Seconded by Robinson.

Motion Carried 4-0.

2) Director's Report on Utility Operations.

Lindman highlighted the updates on the Lead Service Line Replacement program that CIP/Equiflow were preparing for public communication and outreach relating to 2025 construction season that would include public education to scheduling and reaching out directly to homeowners. Updates on additional utility staffing proposed 1 in water and 2 in sewer goes to City Council Sept. 10th for final approval then we'll advertise for those positions. Minutes from our joint meeting with Finance are on file for reference.

Robinson questioned if the operational budget in September would come to this body and if we could get a presentation on it?

Lindman replied it goes to Finance but would be glad to provide that.

Gehin questioned how many lead service lines have been replaced on the private side?

Lindman replied the exact number not known but beginning of last week was over 200, they are doing 8-10 a day. They are finished with Eau Claire Blvd; they're working on the Southwest side- Edwards/Emter St area.

Director's Report Placed on File.

3) Presentation by Donohue on the GAC (Granular Activated Carbon) Treatment Construction Project.

Wojtkiewicz presented slides in packet page 10-20.

Robinson questioned how many vessels would be used in any given time and if there were any lead/lag or shut down of the units? What the life cycle of each vessel or how often change outs were, if it were volumetric or time based? Are we anticipating the primary/lead vessel need to be changed out annually, and if it's 2-year life cycle, what's the cost for 6 pairs in a year? Was there a difference in the quality of Carbon that impacts the absorptive capacity? Did we spec this carbon we chose?

Wojtkiewicz replied dependent on the flow; could use up to all 12 of them. Once the vessels are in place in use, you would be able to take one pair out at a time and not the whole system to replace the media. We're thinking about a year dependent on data collection. It goes through the Ion Exchange first then through GAC to get rid of the organic carbon before we hit the GAC, then through each pair. There's a header that splits the water 6 ways. You'll flip the lead and lag out. I don't want to quote the cost without having the numbers with me but I could

look those numbers up and give them to Lindman to share with you for the whole system. The purchase of the carbon was handled separately from the equipment to give us the most flexibility and pricing. The materials selected were based on the pilot testing done, there are various types of granular activated carbon with different constituents, different affinities for different PFAS. We selected the Filter Sorb product by Calgon Carbon. Some come more pre-treated than others and some have different operational requirements. When we put the RFP out, we requested pricing on various types of carbon, we were able to get a cost comparison.

Boers replied, operationally, we are looking at minimum of \$700,000 to \$1 million.

Force questioned who the general on this project was and where the vessels came from? What kind of testing would we be doing to determine the veracity of the process, would we be doing those tests or are they sent out, did we avoid 2nd round of resin changeout?

Wojtkiewicz replied Ellis Construction and vessels are from Aqueous Vets. The Department of Natural Resources have not provided us with a specific as far as requirements for testing but there will have to be ongoing testing whether, at some point you'll have breakthrough, that's where the lead-lag will protect you. The city staff are collecting the samples but they must be analyzed by the lab. The city currently utilizes Northern Lakes.

Gehin questioned if we were still feeding sodium silicate for corrosion control?

Boers replied it's added post treatment and we avoided the 2nd changeout. The first round was \$1.1 million.

No Action Taken.

4) Update on the 2023 Compliance Maintenance Annual Report and WDNR Responses.

Brooks highlighted that the DNR stated good job despite the shortage in staffing situation and still achieving 4.0 GPA.

Force questioned if Brooks saw the New York Times Edition on PFAS/Biosolid spreading and wondered if we had PFAS in our biosolids that impacted our land spreading operations?

Brooks replied not that we are aware of, we performed those 6 months of biosolids testing that were provided to you, we are still proceeding with land application in approved fields instead of allowing the public to come and get it. DNR has not approved Class A Status, exceptional quality but still waiting on DNR.

Force questioned if PFAS would impact Class A designation? For the record: Wastewater Plant does not create PFAS, it's coming from other sources?

Brooks replied it shouldn't, the preliminary results we saw were well below take action status and hope it remains the same. Correct. For the record, all our treatment tests indicate we are meeting Class A Status, just waiting on the DNR official classification.

Diny replied what we've already been doing PFAS removal and upcoming GAC filtration, we are significantly minimizing what we're delivering to the plant. Any PFAS is coming from somewhere else.

Lindman stated we are still waiting for our Discharge Permit that hasn't arrived yet, the DNR's backed up.

No Action Needed.

5) Adjourn.

Diny stated last meeting, we wanted to look at improving our communication for the water confidence report, Mr. Force, Miss Watson, and Mr. Boers will work on that. Next meeting is October 1st at 11am. Robinson motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Gehin.

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

Gina Vang, Recording Secretary

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