

Amherst WSPC Meeting - January 21, 2021

In attendance: Lyons Witten (chair), Amy Rusieki, Beth Willson, Anna Martini, Linda Arsenault, John Tobiason, Brian Yellen (taking notes), Jason Skeels, Chris Cianfrani, Jack Jemsek (joined late due to planning meeting).

1. Atkins levels

- Drought ended in the last month or two
- Atkins levels mostly recovered
- Precip for 2020 recovered in fall to close to recent years' values
- Monthly demand was down with the exception of June

2. Water supply infrastructure projects updates

- *Centennial Design*
 - Dissolved air floatation for new treatment plant
 - New footprint, a little further back off the road, smaller lagoon
 - B/c it's in Pelham, the net zero energy bylaw does not technically apply. Also, since it is an industrial building, would be hard to achieve.
 - Town will do what it can to make the building as energy-efficient as possible
 - E.g., roof will support solar panels
 - Timeline:
 - Design and permitting by early summer.
 - Start construction late 2021 or later
 - Costs have gone up a little, \$11 mill to \$13.2 mill
 - 1.5 MGD design capacity, Design summary can be sent to Committee members
 - JT asks what financing looks like...Amy thinks it's a 20 year loan, standard interest rate. Have not done SRF for it.
- *Well #4*
 - Drilling and development starting next week.
 - Should be done in a few weeks, pump tests and sampling
 - DEP Permitting is complete but took longer than expected
 - Well depth will be 170 ft
 - About 40' from the old well, screened in same aquifer
 - Temporary test well checked out with similar hydraulics and chemistry
 - Maher Drilling is doing the drilling
 - Submersible pump in new well outside of existing well house
 - Existing pump to remain
- *Water line extension – E. Lev Road*
 - 9500 Linear feet of 12inch diameter pipe
 - Pipe material to be determined based on bid price Ductile iron will be bid with C-909 (Ultra Blue or Bionax trade names) as a bid alternate. South Hadley District 2 uses C-909 Pipe

- Design to be extended to one additional house on Teawaddle requiring an additional stream crossing
- Both Stream crossing will use directional drilling instead of crossing the bridges
- *West Pomeroy Water Supply Replacement*
 - Several recent leaks prompted replacement. Several rusted sections found when pipe was removed, likely would have sprung new leaks if left in place
 - Project went well, only 6 houses
 - Replaces existing 8" Ductile Iron Pipe with 8" C-909 pipe
 - Highway and Dater Dept worked together
 - Project took a few weeks, was a little tricky to do pressure testing
 - Replaced services from water main to folks' curb stop. Tapping was easy in C-909

3. 2020 Lead and Copper Sampling

- Sampled ~37 houses, and sampled UMass child care and All About Learning at Pomeroy Corner in October (testing currently required every 3 years)
- Lead action level is 0.015 mg/l. But 0.010 mg/l prompts some action. Copper is 1.3 mg/l.
 - 90% level for Amherst homes was 0.0071 mg/l
 - JT mentions that DEP public school building goal is 1 ppb, or 0.001 mg/l
 - JT recommends sampling all fixtures at the school (not just 2 samples)
 - School Water Improvement Grant (SWIG) received by Amherst Schools was briefly discussed, Importance of using labs certified with e-DEP reporting capabilities was stressed. Follow up with schools for answers.

4. PFAS sampling

- Will start in April, 5 samples quarterly at each intake point (DEP PFAS program)
 - JT encourages getting the first quarter done for free
- JT mentioned that there is also a state private well program. Belchertown is the test community.
 - Goal is to determine how extensive PFAS is within the state
 - 83 communities in the state where 60% of population rely on private wells, but most have ~500 pop. Aiming for 20 to 40 well tests per community
 - >90ppb detected instantly becomes a Hazardous Waste Site
 - Legal responsibilities for contamination and remediation was discussed

5. Atkins Dam Report

- Tighe and Bond Performed Phase 1 Dam inspection in October which was submitted to DCR.
- Received a "fair" rating. There is slow embankment seepage on left side
- Have been doing some monitoring over the years. Tried measuring with a weir
- BY mentioned seepage out of the dam was minimal in fall 2016 when he tried to measure with his class. Too low to measure with salt tracing.

9:00 John T had to leave meeting

6. Brian Yellen presented data on sedimentation of Pelham reservoirs (Intake, Hills, Hawley)

- Only about 20% full of sediment.

- Dredging would only restore approx. 2-6% of volume.~30,000cu yds prior to dewatering
- Consensus was not worth doing extensive dredging given low storage reclamation. But, probably worth dredging some of the low hanging fruit such as the Intake forebay and the Atkins sedimentation ponds.

7. MS4 permitting

- Draft Bylaws submitted to Town Council changes ...Stormwater Management Bylaw and Illicit Discharge, Detection, and Elimination (IDDE)
- Collected data on outfall locations
- Continuing public outreach and education
- Interested in doing catch basin painting, waylaid by school shutdown in March 2020 (COVID)

Ad hoc

- Jack Jemsek has a question about the Waste Water treated water re-use (reclaimed water) along West Street
 - Amy responded that some reuse water is currently used at Umass central heating plant, currently treating WWTP effluent in membrane filtration trailers owned by Umass
 - Town is looking at integrating membrane filtration into the Treatment Plant to replace the trailers
 - Might be worth installing projects to clustered users, like a golf courses or athletic fields.
 - Re-use water infrastructure (ie Piping) is an ambitious/expensive endeavor

8. Next meeting date:

September 16, 2021 at 8:00 am

Meeting adjourned 9:23.