

Memo

To: Mayor and Council
cc: Department Heads
From: Pat MacQueen
Date: December 20, 2010
Re: Manager's Report

\$285K Acquisition and Demolition Grant

I am happy to report that we finally received the paperwork on a \$285k acquisition and demolition grant from HUD which we had applied for several years. Senator Sununu had been instrumental in helping us to obtain this federal funding. This funding will not only allow us to continue to demolish blighted structures, but also to acquire them. Of course most federal requirements still go with this grant including historic provisions, but this is the closest we have come yet to obtaining outside funding for this purpose. This has been one of our major problems in our effort to remove blighted surplus structures. \$285k will go quickly, given the expense of acquisition, abatement and demolition, but it is a lot more than we have had to spend for these purposes in the past.

I&I Project and EPA Violation Notice

Bids will be received on Tuesday on I&I bid package. They will be reviewed by Wright-Pierce and hopefully be ready for an award recommendation sometime this week. As you know, the work involves re-lining in place the existing pipe which runs south along the river from the College to the Dairy Bar pump station. The remaining schedule for the project is for the work to be carried out from January through March.

We are hoping that this work will do much to cut down on the high flows we get in our sewer system in heavy rain events.

We have already received what the EPA calls an Administrative Order (copy attached) which is based on violations of our National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. In these events the water in our system goes up 5-fold and we then have to divert excess flows that can't be handled in our WWTF directly into the river. Our NPDES Permit allows us to do this in what is called a Combined System Overflow (CSO), but it does not allow us to discharge over a certain amount of E. coli bacteria into the river. Unfortunately, discharge of dilute sewage into the river is likely going to contain E. Coli bacteria beyond this limit. Hence the violation.

Therefore as we have said many times before, our options probably in order of priority are to reduce I&I which is what we are working on now, store the raw sewage somewhere until the flows go down and then treat it. (We have talked about acquiring and using the old Fraser Plant owned by the Waste District for this purpose.) Or finally, actually installing a system to chlorinate (disinfect) the raw sewage before discharging it.

The Administrative Order also mentions that we are late on providing them with an O&M Manual which we are still working on completing.

Discussion with BOP on Sewer

We have begun a weekly discussion with the BOP regarding their beginning to bring prisoners into the new FCI relative to our ability to take and treat sewage in a manner which does not put us in further violation of our NPDES permit. The gravity sewer, force main and pump station are on a schedule which pretty well meshes with the needs of the BOP-FCI which would like to start bringing in prisoners early next summer and ramp up from there over nine months. The primary difficulty comes with the improvements needed at our WWTF which will not be fully complete at least until the end of 2012. We are working to try to best plan our work on the improvements so as to accommodate the BOP ramp up of use as rapidly as we are confident that we can properly treat the additional sewage which will stem from that ramp up.

Waste District Public Hearing

Attached is a notice of public hearing which will be held by the AVR RDD as part of its plans to expand the footprint of the Mt. Carberry Landfill by 28 acres. The public hearing will be held at the AVR RDD offices on Tuesday, January 11, 2011 at 6pm.

"Seven to Save"

Berlin's Research and Development Building at the NFHP will be the focus of a special presentation by the New Hampshire Preservation Alliance on Tuesday, December 21 at 11am at the Park. These R&D buildings were officially named to the "Seven to Save" in list of landmarks deemed as irreplaceable assets for the State of New Hampshire in October of this year. The flier for this event is attached.