

Town of Oriental
Water Advisory Board Meeting
July 28, 2014

Attendees:

David White (substitute liaison from Board of Commissioners; Larry Summers is out of town), Warren Johnson, Jackie Mahan (Vice Chair), Jim Barton (Chair), Warren Johnson, Diane Miller, David Rittenhouse (a few minutes late), Drew Cox (a few minutes late).

Chairman Barton opened the meeting at 1:30 p.m., noting that we had a quorum. Warren made a motion to approve the minutes from the June meeting. Jackie seconded, and the motion was passed 3-0 (unanimously for the quorum present at that time).

Diane presented the manager's report, beginning with a request for assistance researching a Water Pipe Detector - PVC, as well as Iron, Clay. The Board members agreed to look into the options to save Drew time.

Significant discussion followed regarding the perceived lack of progress on documentation and state-mandated testing (e.g. cross-connect and backflow devices). Diane indicated that they are working on updates, but that other town priorities have precluded significant progress.

Another short discussion, led by Mr. Barton, indicated his concern that the information from the WAB is not being accurately relayed to the Board of Commissioners.

Jackie suggested that we ask Diane, the Town Manager, to provide us with her dates for O&M document final changes, Cross Connect & Backflow document final changes, and the Cross Connect & Backflow inspections start date. Jackie made a motion to request these dates from Diane. Jim seconded. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

Jackie also volunteered to help Diane with consolidation of maintenance tables in the O&M manual (several formats requesting the same information).

Diane provided a Chapter K draft update, which had already been submitted to the Board of Commissioners for their consideration. Diane pointed out that the change regarding the 25th day of the month (versus the existing 30th day of the month) is required to provide sufficient time for billing mailings from the Town offices to the vendor who mails out the actual bills. (Diane and Drew had to step out before the ensuing discussion.) There was significant discussion regarding 1) No notice to WAB of the proposed changes prior to the WAB meeting, 2) the change of responsibilities of the WAB (moved to the Town personnel - this "could be" read to suggest that the WAB no longer has a key role in Water System oversight, 3) the addition of the statement re: contacting state/regulatory groups - this "could be" read to imply that the WAB should not reach out to these groups (solo) on behalf of the ONC Water System. Further clarification is needed.

Motion by Warren to review Chapter K changes submitted to the Board of Commissioners during our next mtg. Motion was amended (suggested by Jackie) to stipulate 25th as billing due date (to support the required billing mailing cycle) should be recommended to the Board of Commissioners. Seconded by Jackie. Motion was approved unanimously.

Two board members resigned at the end of the meeting - David Rittenhouse, Jim Barton, the Chair of the WAB.

Next mtg is August 18th (1:30 p.m.), at ONC Town Hall.