Hooksett Sewer Commission
Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2019

This meeting was called to order at 12:00pm. Present were Chairman Sidney Baines, Commissioner Frank Kotowski, Commissioner Richard Bairam, Superintendent Bruce Kudrick, Assistant Superintendent John Clark, Guy Beloin and Kim Langlois.

Approve and Sign Manifest

Read Correspondence

Approve Minutes: Commissioner Richard Bairam made motion to accept the Meeting Minutes and Workshop Minutes from September 17, 2019. Commissioner Frank Kotowski seconded. All in favor, the motion was carried unanimously.

Approve Quarter 4 Billing Warrant: Commissioner Frank Kotowski made motion to approve the Quarter 4, 2019 billing warrant. Commissioner Richard Bairam seconded. All in favor, the motion was carried unanimously.

Financial Report: Guy came in to give a quick overview of the Sewer Commission accounts.

- Commissioner Frank Kotowski made motion to Transfer $102,000.00 from the Hooksett Sewer Fund-Checking account to the Hooksett Sewer Commission Trust- Capital Reserve account. Commissioner Richard Bairam seconded. All in favor, the motion was carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Richard Bairam made motion to transfer $3,000.00 from the Hooksett Sewer Commission Fund- Checking account to the Hooksett Sewer Commission Trust- Property Enhancement account. Commissioner Frank Kotowski seconded. All in favor, the motion was carried unanimously.
- Commissioner Frank Kotowski made motion to amend the May 20, 2019 meeting minutes to reflect the new gallonage rate from $6.17 to $6.25, effective January 2020. Commissioner Richard Bairam seconded. All in favor, the motion was carried unanimously.

Scheduled Appointments:

12:15pm- Pam Thornton **RE: Meadowsett Village**

Pam is the owner of Meadowsett Village and she came in because over the last few billing cycles her water and sewer bills have been increasing. This billing cycle which includes usage from April through July proved that there had to have been some major leaks occurring within the park. Pam did have a professional come out and fix multiple known leaks. She sent out notices to her residents asking them to be diligent in checking for any leaks. There are 41 units and 67 residents living in this development and she was looking for the Sewer Commission to work with her on the amount of the bill

for this quarter because all of the usage that she was being charged for (she felt) was not going into the sewer due to the various leaks. The bill in question was a total of $8645.38. The Commissioners were willing to help her out with a ONE TIME ONLY adjustment of $5000.00. An average of the parks normal usage was taken to come up with this dollar amount. Commissioner Frank Kotowski made motion to adjust account 099705 belonging to Meadowsett Village to $3000.00. Commissioner Richard Bairam seconded. All in favor, the motion was carried unanimously.

12:30pm- Sarita Croce from the Town of Merrimack **RE: PFAS**

Sarita, came in as a favor to Superintendent Bruce Kudrick; to help the Commission better understand what PFAS is and how it could potentially affect the Sewer Department. Sarita gave everyone an informative PFAS handout (see attached) and helped give a better understanding to this sensitive subject.

Superintendent's Report:

Shincci Dryer: Was delivered. The plan is to have power to it by next week. They are going to set up the main unit minus the conveyer belts, so that the unit can be started to see if it is hooked up correctly.

Main Street Pump Station: The final design was sent to DES to be approved. Bruce is researching how to have an easement written up so that it will be in place for if and when the pump station goes in.

BOD Violations: Bruce went to the Underhill school to talk to the Janitor there regarding the issues the Plant has been having with BOD violations. It is believed that these violations are being caused by something being dumped down the drain. Bruce asked the Janitor to get him information on the types of stripping product and wax that the schools use on the floors. These chemicals are being disposed of and may be causing the issues at the plant. Bruce has also visited General Electric and may have to go to individual car washes in the area as well.

Smoke Test: Bruce performed a smoke test on the sewer lines last Friday. He tested the lines near Martin's Ferry, Route 3 and Mammoth road.

TV Sewer lines: Bruce had the sewer lines at Burgess Trailer Park TV'd. Other than some tree roots and minor things all looked well. Bruce gave a copy of the TV'ing to the owner of the park and thumb drive with the information.

Sampler and Shed: The new sampler and the shed that houses it are all set up.

Land behind the Sewer Commission office: It was discussed that at this time nothing further will be done to the land behind the office until all information needed has been gathered.

Old Business: None

New Business: The next Sewer Commission meeting is October 15, 2019.

Non-Public Session: The Commission did not go into non-public session

Public Input: None

Adjournment: Commissioner Richard Bairam made motion to adjourn at 2:15pm. Commissioner Frank Kotowski seconded. All in favor, the motion was carried unanimously.

Frank Kotowski

Respectfully Submitted,

Frank Kotowski
Clerk

TOWN OF MERRIMACK, NH
PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
WASTEWATER TREATMENT FACILITY

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TO: EILEEN CABANEL, TOWN MANAGER
KYLE FOX, PUBLIC WORKS DIRECTOR

FROM: SARITA CROCE, ASSISTANT DPW DIRECTOR

SUBJECT: PFAS LEGISLATIVE MEETING – REVIEW OF PFAS INFORMATION

DATE: SEPTEMBER 19, 2019

The communities in the State of New Hampshire are at a critical point. Because of the PFAS issue, the State has sought to find and hold accountable Responsible Parties for the contamination. In fact, NHDES has stated in multiple meetings that liability for the application of wastewater treatment plant biosolids/compost rests with the community/entity which distributes/generates the biosolids/compost. In addition, NHDES has also stated in multiple meetings that NHDES envisions in some cases needing to eliminate compost/biosolids through a regional Incinerator in order to destroy the PFAS.

Wastewater treatment plants to do not make or use PFAS compounds as part of their operations. Wastewater treatment plants receive PFAS from commercial, industrial, and residential dischargers. As long as PFAS is available in consumer commodities and industrial products, it will continue to be discharged to wastewater treatment plants. The concept of liability being solely borne by municipalities or entities which accept the sludge for further processing does not make sense.

Like paper, plastics, and glass, biosolids (treated wastewater sludge) was once considered a waste that was too challenging to recycle. Biosolids contain abundant nutrients and organic matter that benefit soils. Properly treated, tested, and managed, biosolids enhance the environment, help farmers and other landowners, and serve the communities that generate and receive them. Today, biosolids are in a high demand because they help recycle valuable nutrients which are essential for plant growth. Despite the value of wastewater sludge recycling, we are at a critical juncture. The liability associated with the biosolids recycling, as stated by NHDES, is currently being borne by the communities/compost facilities which are generating the compost/biosolids unless a sole Responsible Party could otherwise be identified.

Resource Management, Inc. (RMI) located in Holderness, NH is a facility which treats wastewater sludge that is generated in municipalities throughout New Hampshire to create a Class A biosolids fertilizer product. Because of the liability issues associated with processing municipal sludge, RMI is considering shutting down their operation and services for biosolids management. RMI currently recycles approximately 1000 tons of sludge per week for a total of 50,000 tons per year. Please note, 1000 tons is equivalent to 2,000,000 pounds of sludge per week. The major communities that RMI receives product from include:

a. Nashua
b. Plymouth – Plymouth accepts septage from 25 communities.
c. Durham
d. Dover
e. Concord – Concord receives septage from 25 communities.

f. Manchester – Manchester sends their incinerator ash to RMI.
g. Franklin – Franklin is a NHDES operated facility.
h. Woodsville

Attached are a map and summary of the communities served by RMI's . When reviewing this list, it became apparent that the impact is much farther reaching than one would think. Each community on the list also accepts septage from multiple communities in New Hampshire, which compounds the extent of the impact.

The Town of Merrimack currently accepts septage from up to 10 communities and sludge from 7 communities, providing a critical service to New Hampshire communities. As you know the Town currently generates and distributes Class A biosolids compost that is valued as a premier soil amendment throughout New England and sells for $30+ per yard. In 2018 we received and treated 3.8 million gallons of septage from the towns of Merrimack, Hollis, Amherst, Brookline, Mont Vernon, Wilton, Lyndeborough and Mason. We received 5,114 tons of sludge from the towns of Jaffrey, Hooksett, Bristol, Henniker, Milford, Sunapee, and Amesbury, MA for composting. The Town also generated 5,581 tons of processed wastewater sludge in 2018. The total sludge processed in the Merrimack's Compost Facility was 10,696 tons in 2018. This is equivalent to 400,000 pounds of sludge per week or 21 million pounds of sludge per year from just Merrimack.

The Town attended the PFAS Summit in Maine on September 13th. At the Summit Maine's DEP Commissioner spoke and supported the continuation of that state's biosolids program. Even though Maine implemented guidance values for PFAS, they have implemented the program in a manner to allow for the continuation of land application of biosolids, understanding that the concept of landfilling thousands of tons per week is not a viable or reasonable option for many technical reasons. The concept of landfilling or incinerating several thousand tons of sludge per week in New Hampshire is staggering and will certainly have an impact on greenhouse gas emissions which is a byproduct of combustion and landfilling of organic material. So the ultimate questions for the Legislature is how will the State of New Hampshire manage the sludge generated from wastewater treatment plant operations going forward Will one of the state's most important, long-lasting recycling programs be abandoned because of unproven concerns about traces of PFAS in biosolids?

These questions were posed to NHDES on September 19, 2019 at a meeting regarding biosolids management. During the meeting NHDES stated that the Department does not reduce or assign liability. That responsibility sits primarily with the Legislature. As such, per NHDES, the Town of Merrimack already bears liability for compost which has already been distributed, and should groundwater levels rise above the MCL/AGQS where compost has been applied, the Town could become a Responsible Party to both environmental and civil liability. Therefore, given the impact of eliminating all biosolids recycling programs in the State of New Hampshire, it is imperative that the Legislature provide some guidance and answers to the following questions.

1) What is the basis in the law for making an assumption when identifying a "Responsible Party?" Land application of biosolids is an activity that is specifically permitted by NHDES. Unless we can address all of the sources of PFAS contribution this issue will not disappear. And the reality is that PFAS enter wastewater from all homes, so its complete elimination is impossible unless PFAS are removed entirely from commerce. Note that under the federal CERCLA (Superfund) program, municipalities are provided limited exemptions from Responsible Party liability as generators and managers of sewage sludge and municipal solid waste.
2) What is the Legislature's vision, both short term and long term, for handling wastewater sludge? When implementing legislation, it is assumed that the Legislature reviews all the potential consequences of the legislation. Therefore, if the Legislature has a vision, it would be very helpful if that vision was shared so that communities in New Hampshire can make the appropriate changes to their operations. Or it would be helpful for the Legislature to affirm that the current successful biosolids recycling programs should be allowed to continue and not leave municipalities liable for impacts.
3) If a plan does not exist to address this issue, how do communities comply? How should we manage wastewater sludge if biosolids production is no longer a viable option in New Hampshire?

4) Finally, there is no approved test method for PFAS in solids. How does Legislature expect communities/businesses to identify whether biosolids have PFAS before such a standard test exists?

The Town of Merrimack Composting Facility has been recycling biosolids successfully since the late 1980's. The current composting operation began in 1994.. RMI has been successfully recycling biosolids since 1994. The Town of Claremont Compost Facility recycles biosolids compost to area farms who rely on this as fertilizer. The NHDES and the Legislature need to provide assurance that these practices can continue, and not jeopardize these programs by asserting Responsible Party status for PFAS compounds found in groundwater. Municipal wastewater treatment facilities did not create PFAS; did not add PFAS, and should not be held responsible for cleaning up PFAS. This is a society issue. Not a biosolids issue. All of society has been using PFAS for decades, and all wastewater and biosolids contain it today and will for some time.

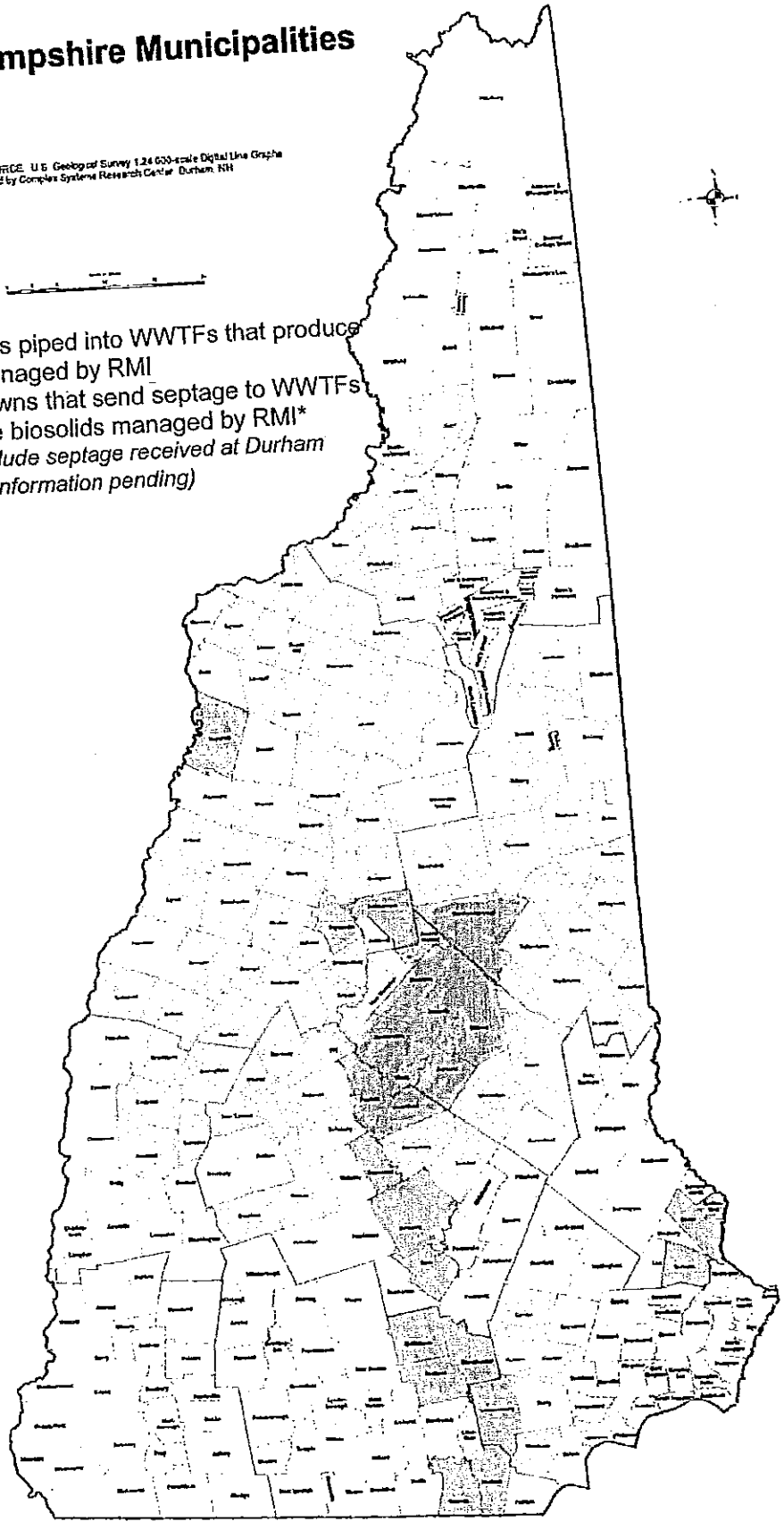
New Hampshire Municipalities

DATA SOURCE: U.S. Geological Survey 1:24,000-scale Digital Line Graphs
distributed by Complex Systems Research Center, Durham, NH

Pink = Towns piped into WWTFs that produce biosolids managed by RMI

Yellow = Towns that send septage to WWTFs that produce biosolids managed by RMI*

**does not include septage received at Durham or Concord (information pending)*



GRANIT

Map produced at NH Office of Energy and Planning, November 29, 2004

Towns Served by RMI
September 19, 2019

NH Towns Served:	**97**	**41.5%**
Total NH Population Served:	**604,823**	**44.6%**
Total Septage Received (gal):		

Concord WWTF

Total Population Served: 55,025 (piped in only)
Total Septage Received (2018): *pending*

Towns Served:	Towns Piped In	Septage
	Boscawen	*Pending*
	Bow	
	Concord	

Dover WWTF

Total Population Served: 40,152
Total Septage Received (2018): 332,300

Towns Served:	Towns Piped In	Septage
	Dover	Dover
	Rollinsford	Lee
		Madbury
		Rollinsford

Durham WWTF

Total Population Served 15946(durham only)
Total Septage Received (2018) *pending*

Towns Served:	Towns Piped In	Septage
	Durham	*Pending*
	pending	

Manchester WWTF

Total Population Served: 216,072
Total Septage Received (2018): 11,112,807

Towns Served:	Towns Piped In	Septage	
	Bedford	Atkinson	Goffstown
	Goffstown	Auburn	Litchfield
	Londonderry	Bedford	Londonderry
	Manchester	Candia	Manchester
		Chester	Plaistow

Nashua WWTF

Total Population Served: 114,164
Total Septage Received (2018): 834,600

Towns Served:	Towns Piped In	Septage
	Hudson	Hudson
	Nashua	Nashua

Towns Served by RMI
September 19, 2019

Woodsville

Total Population Served:	4712	
Total Septage Received (2018):	does not accept septage	
Towns Served:	Towns Piped In	Septage
	Haverhill	none