MERRIMACK VILLAGE DISTRICT
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
JUNE 16, 2025
MEETING MINUTES
(approved July 21, 2025)

A regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners was conducted on Monday, June 16, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. at 2 Greens Pond Road, Merrimack, NH.

Donald Provencher, Chairman, presided:

Members of the Commission present:	Erin Clement, Vice Chairman Scott Sabens, Personnel Liaison Dan Allen Wolfram von Schoen (participated electronically)
Members of the Commission Absent:	
Also in Attendance:	Ron Miner, Superintendent Jill Lavoie, Business Manager Kristen Maher, HR/Finance Director James Emery, CEO, GZA/Emery & Garrett Groundwater Investigations Keith Pratt, COO, Underwood Engineers, Inc. Lynette Carney, Project Manager, Underwood Engineers, Inc.

As Commissioner von Schoen was participating electronically, in accordance with the Right to Know Law, Chair Provencher requested he state, for the record; where he was, why his attendance in person was not reasonably practical, who, if anyone, was with him, and whether or not he was able to hear the proceedings.

Commissioner von Schoen responded he had just returned to his home at 4 Conservation Drive, no one was with him, and he could hear the proceedings.

Those present were able to hear Commissioner von Schoen. The Board was reminded that all votes would be taken by roll call.

NON-PUBLIC

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CLEMENT THAT THE BOARD, BY ROLL CALL, GO INTO NON-PUBLIC SESSION PURSUANT TO RSA 91-A:3 II (L) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the public body, even where legal counsel is not present
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER SABENS

A Viva Voce Roll Call Vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea:	**Erin Clement, Scott Sabens, Dan Allen, Wolfram von Schoen, Don Provencher**
	5
Nay:	**0**

MOTION CARRIED

The Board entered non-public session at 5:02 p.m.

The Board reconvened at 6:15 p.m.

FINANCE/HUMAN RESOURCES REVIEW

A. Analysis of Revenue and Expenditures

With one month remaining in the fiscal year, revenue is shown as $6,409,172 (102.03% of budgeted amount) and expenses $5,145,945 (81.92%). Net Ordinary Income is $1,263,227.

Revenue

40100-40300 Water Usage - higher during summer - very hot July
40405 Interest Income - rates still high
40408 New Mains – Saint-Gobain's new services online
40413 Entrance Fees - new construction
40414 Merchandise Sales - sold scrap Metal

Expenses

60300 Purchase of Water – Moved ALL to budget
60650 Filtration – Budget only has 1 for each, want to expense 2nd in budget or keep under Capital?
70040 New Entrance/Meters - new construction around town (offset by 40413)
70450 R&M Meters - replacing old meters
70675.6 WTP Janitorial - chemical disposal needed
70677.4 & 70677.8 R&M WTP - additional pumps & VFDs on shelf

Kristen Maher, HR/Finance Director, noted the income includes the loan payment for Wells 2, 9, 7, and 8, which came in significantly less than what was budgeted (budget estimates made during budgeting process two years prior). The true amount and true schedule for the loan going forward has been received. The numbers for the coming year may be slightly off as well because of estimates used at the time the budget was prepared.

Missing from the report is the May Pennichuck invoice, which was received earlier in the day. That invoice will go against Account # 60300 – Purchase of Water.

Invoices for the changeouts for 2&9 and 4&5 have not yet been received. Significant space exists to keep those within the operating budget for account 60650 – Filtration – PFAS (T), which was mentioned at the last meeting.

Asked for additional clarity on account #60300 – Purchase of Water; the year to date expense is identified as $266,439.19 and the budgeted amount of $50,000 results in the line item being 532.88% over budget, Director Maher explained when the budget was prepared, $50,000 was identified as the amount that would

be expended from the budget. However, given the positive financial position, the entirety of the contract amount will be addressed through the operating budget rather than utilizing capital reserve.

Next year, the amount in the budget is increased to $75,000 with the same process in mind; if funds remain at year end, the operating budget will be looked to as the funding source as opposed to the capital reserve. The intent is to grow the budgeted amount each year so that the amount of the contract is addressed through the operating budget, should we continue with the contract.
Chair Provencher questioned Line Item #70040 –New Entrances/Meters; has quite a bit more expense. He understands that also has corresponding revenue but wished to understand if that is related to new single-family homes or condominiums. Superintendent Miner stated it to be a mix. He spoke of the Saint-Gobain connections.

B. Capital Reserve Balance

Net income for all accounts is $2,387,884. The Unassigned Fund Balance is at $21,568,634. Actual cash is $3,986,094 (16.6 % of fund balance). Total percent that is considered fund balance is 63.0%.

Trust Activities

All activities for 2025 have been cleared out. Agreed at the last meeting was to wait until project completion and request the full amount approved for each year. Those have been moved down to FY26. The figures will continue to move to outyears depending on when the projects reach completion.

In the last column for water purchase, it was decided all of the items that we had planned to take out of capital reserve are now moved to the operating budget.

Chair Provencher questioned the identification of Belmont Booster – Pumps & Controls ($50,000) and Booster Pumping Station Evaluation ($100,000) listed under Equipment & Facilities; is this a duplicate listing with different dollar amounts? Director Maher stated one to be temporary pumps & controls. In previous reports/discussions, noted was a duplication of the $100,000 amount, which has been removed. There is the possibility that a duplicate entry remains.

Under System Development Charge, listed is Mitchell Woods Reimburse Request for FY24 at $75,000 and Artificial Recharge Reimburse request for FU24 at $25,000. Director Mahor noted notations noted last month around what has been expended. The decision was made to make a single request for the entirely of funds expended over the years at project completion.

C. Software bonding information

Director Maher noted a question raised about whether GovSense would bond for our project (changing software). Since it is not a physical item or a project with an end date, but rather a service that we are purchasing, in conjunction with legal and work done on our end, it was found not to be something that would be bonded. The data would be owned but not the software

Commissioner von Schoen spoke of having been involved in a number of projects where software was bonded. There are plenty of organizations that require an infrastructure critical supplier is bonded. If it is a cloud-based product it is a bit of a different story. If it is a hard coded product, it is pretty common

especially if there are modifications that are customer specific. He suggested they agree to disagree and move on.

Director Maher spoke of having communicated with Nathan Lunney, Deputy City Manager, Portsmouth, NH. Mr. Lunney stated they were extremely impressed with GovSense, but what they were seeking was a product that could address the needs of the entire city, including the schools. GovSense does not address school systems. He indicated were they looking to address the city end of things alone, they would have gone with GovSense. They have decided to go with Tyler Technologies, which can address both.

Asked if the question of what would occur should the company go bankrupt was asked of GovSense, Director Maher stated it was, and the response was that the data belongs to MVD; the data is ours and would be transferred to Oracle. Asked if MVD has officially contracted with GovSense, Superintendent Miner stated it has.

REGULAR SESSION

1. Board of Commissioners to discuss Mitchell Woods project and steps moving forward (tentative).

The item was tabled.

Chair Provencher spoke of questions raised at the last meeting concerning succession. He noted Mr. Emery has personally been working with the MVD for over 30 years. Understanding he is looking forward to retirement at some point, the question was raised of a succession plan.

James Emery, CEO, GZA/Emery & Garrett Groundwater Investigations, remarked at some point his work will slow down. At this point, it remains at a 60/hour work week. The reality is that his transition will not happen suddenly. Ryan Allen is involved in every single project, is aware of the location of every well, and works with Superintendent Miner and Business Manager Lavoie nearly weekly on a variety of things.

Ryan and Daniel Tinkham are also very much involved with the EPA and State on this watershed analysis that is going to be what he considers will be the triggering for getting funding if it remains in place when this is completed. The EPA has been kind of disseminated in the last few weeks/months. Some of the players that were there and involved in the watershed assistance planning are no longer there. He believes the initiatives that are in place right now are very important. We have NH DOT and the Town engaged on the salt issue. He commented, although he does not feel comfortable that a lot of progress has been made as there are parties that are contributing salt to these aquifers that are not adhering to some of the things that have been requested or they have stated they would be doing. We can only educate so far and have to get to the point where we have a hammer and mallet that we can bring down. That is part of what is being done with master planning.

To the point concerning succession, he stated his goal is that Ryan will ultimately take over for him. It is his plan to remain involved in this for at least the next year or two to some extent (full time at least through February of this year). He will make sure that Merrimack does not get left behind. That is something that will not happen. He spoke of having not been in front of the Board for the past few months where he had previously been every month. He has tried not to because of the expense involved and wanting to ensure if he has something to say it is meaningful. His transition will be to bring on Ryan in a larger role. Ryan is

already fully engaged and has been involved for over 25 years himself. He added, "if you call me personally, I will respond.".

Asked if Ryan or Dan are involved with the watershed assistance grants through NH DES, Mr. Emery stated Dan is the Project Manager for that and is the direct liaison with the State.

Chair Provencher commented on the desire to schedule a meeting before the salting season begins.

Superintendent Miner noted an email was sent to the New Hampshire Department of Transportation requesting they meet with the Town Council to get the process moving forward.

There is a need to have the report from Emery & Garrett prior to the next meeting. Mr. Emery stated Dan is working on a mass balance report for NH DES. That is a give and take scenario. Superintendent Miner stated they are waiting on the report as well as a meeting of the core group before scheduling a regular salt meeting.

2. Board of Commissioners to hear an update from Keith Pratt and Lynette Carney of Underwood Engineers, Inc., regarding the Wells 4 & 5 PFAS media Pilot Study and Underwood's transition

Chair Provencher stated his understanding that Keith Pratt, Underwood Engineers, Inc., has stepped out of the role of President, and questioned what the transition will look like, e.g., timeframe.

Mr. Pratt stated the transition would not affect MVD. He remains an owner and is not going anywhere. Underwood's mission is to remain a New Hampshire firm. They do internal transitions and are not looking to be bought out despite requests for that. That is not what they are about. There are two new owners and leadership people, Terry Desmarais, Vice President, who has sort of been tagged as the next person to be the principle in charge here and David Mercier, President. David is out of the Concord office and has been with the firm 20-25 years. Mr. Pratt has transferred into the role of Chief Operating Officer.

Mr. Pratt commented not much of his day-to-day has changed. There have been some 10 people involved with MVD consistently. Three people who were here when they started with Merrimack back in 2006 remain. A lot has happened for the good of Underwood. They now have service groups; water, wastewater, stormwater civil, asset and data management, and construction. The reason he stepped down a little early in his career is because they are trying to ensure a smooth transition. What people don't know about Underwood is there have been 8 internal transitions since 1982. He believes, in the COO role, he may be able to get more into project work.

Commissioner von Schoen commented we have had some projects for which we are waiting on data, however, have not pushed forward as there is the need to reprioritize. Mr. Pratt commented he tracks the action list and believes there to be a few things MVD is waiting on for which information is available but has not yet been shared.

Chair Provencher spoke of back and forth discussion of whether a rate study makes sense at this time, questions on hydraulic model, and maybe some analysis on optimizing when we switch out our lead vessel, PFBA breakthrough; is there any consensus we can see in the charts of breakthrough so that we can get a better handle on that.

Mr. Pratt commented that is a lot of what will come out of the pilot.

Lynette Carney, Project Manager, Underwood Engineers, Inc., stated Blueleaf came in and set up the pilot; loaded all the media, backwashed it, and got everything online. The final startup was done on May 5th.

There are 7 columns with the media. There is the Evoqua you originally started with as a control, acid rinse Calgon at F400 and acid rinsed Norit GAC, and then the last four columns are novel and resins that were tried. Fluoro-sorb is a clay-based media and Lanxess and the CalRes are two different types of resin. Dexsory brought in their own columns (skid mounted pilot they let you borrow; like a corn starched type based media).

Samples were taken during conditioning to look at pH, metals, etc. The basic results were summarized. None were dramatic. There were either slightly increased or slightly depressed pH depending on the media, but there wasn't anything dramatic. There was a little bit of arsenic and a little bit of iron, but not the extremes we saw on the initial startups with the metals and arsenic. Most of the pH results are expected and consistent with what was seen during the start ups of the plants. Particularly with the GAC you have an increase of pH. It went up to maybe high 8s and came down fairly quickly whereas some of the plants out on the seacoast have been around 9.5 and remained high for a lot more bed volumes than have been seen in Merrimack.

Nicholas Baxter, Foreman, has been collecting samples in the first week of each month. They are sent to the EPA for analysis. Only the first 2 sets of data have been received back (April/May samples). There is not a great deal to report on at this point.

In April, only the 25% port was sampled for the resins and novel medias. There was some breakthrough. The reason it is breaking through in those faster than the GAC is because they process more bed volumes. The novel medias and the resins have only 3' of media in them because they are running on three-minute empty bed contact time whereas the GACs have 10' of media because they are running on a ten-minute empty bed contact time. In effect the resins and novel media are running faster because there is less media so more bed volumes are being processed in the same amount of time as the GACs. Although we are getting some breakthrough with the resins and the novel media, it is not because they are breaking through faster/earlier with bed volumes, it is because we are running more bed volumes through those columns first.

Asked if the flow rate is the same for each, she stated the flow rate and loading rate are the same. The GACs are all at 10 minutes and the resins and novel media are all at 3 minutes empty bed contact time. Those are all standardized, but when you are calculating a bed volume it is a ratio of the volume of the media to the flow that you are putting through so you have more than 3 times the media on a GAC than you do on a resin.

Graphs were displayed of the hydraulic performance for each of the contactors. Depicted were hydraulic loading rate (blue line), which is the same on all except the Dexsorb because Dexsorb is on their skid and set things up a bit differently. Ms. Carney remarked it is running at 7 gallons/minute/square foot. It will vary because the operators are adjusting every time they go in. With the operation of it, as headloss changes, the flowrate through the media will change and they have to readjust it back to the initial follow rate each time. We are not seeing much but would expect some variation there.

Headloss through the column is shown (black line) with a dashed line showing best fit for that. Bed volume process is depicted in green, and the bed volumes that would have been processed if running full time (24/7)

(in yellow). It is running at about half time. When it started in March, the plant was running a lot less than it is today. It is anticipated, as we get into the summer, it might have to start running more and the slope of that line may steepen.

Being seen is a little bit more headloss on the Calgon contactor. When getting into the novel medias and resins, those have an extra line (red). Those medias require a pre-filter before the water goes into the column. There is an extra headloss that is being monitored on those.

The Dexsorb skid has two columns. The main column they are sampling 25%, 50%, 75% of the affluent. The Dexsorb has two columns. We can sample raw going in, mid-point between the columns, and then on the affluent of the columns. There are two pre-filters on that one (1 micron and 5 micron).

A chart was shown of the results of the PFOA concentrations as a function of bed volumes treated. The EPA has been asked to provide information on PFBA understanding that is the primary concern (short-chain breakthrough). They are plotting bed volumes at each port. Ultimately, they will plot all the points and will kind of stack on each other for the full scale. What we would be looking at is expecting it to be breaking through at about 30,000 bed volumes through the full column, which is what we usually deal with with the full-sized vessels. They projected it out at when PFOA would break through the four parts per trillion limit. They will do separate graphs for the PFBA. She pulled it out by hand and PFBA for most of the columns was breaking through at about 5.5 at about 15,000. The Dexsorb actually broke through a little earlier. She remarked when we get a little bit further in and are seeing more breakthrough and get the other compounds plotted, those graphs will be something similar.

So far it seems the CalRes seems to be doing pretty well.

What they also did was put the results that they have to date into the same tables they have been tracking; full size vessel. When you see the bed volumes here they are full columned for all the ports. We are starting to get the first breakthroughs of GACs at 5,000 bed volumes. We've got those for all of the columns.

Ms. Carney reiterated she believes things will fill in more as more data is obtained.

Chair Provencher asked, and was told monthly sampling is being done. Staff are pulling the samples and EPA is doing the analysis. They post them in a large Excel sheet from which the data is extrapolated.

Commissioner von Schoen asked for confirmation everyone is agreeing with why we are doing this and with what purpose we are doing it. We started out because we had issues with Evoqua as a supplier and some quality issues with the filtration media as well as customer service issues. Over time, as the PFBA started to become an issue, for him at least, the goal slipped a bit further into how can we find out what can be used for polishing the short chain out of it. For him, the last part is almost more important because we have a pretty decent solution for the GAC itself (main filtration media), but the PFBA is turning into a real problem because it basically contaminates our LAG vessel (before incremental PFAS). He asked if that remains the goal. Ms. Carney responded she believed that to be the goal from the start; to try and find something that is better at short chains that you could either replace a vessel with or could add a 3rd vessel on to polish afterwards.

Kennebunk, Kennebunkport & Wells Water District (KK&W) in Maine is one that was viewed as it was online prior to MVD. Ms. Carney stated they have Evoqua vessels (smaller, 20,000 pound vessels). When

last she spoke with them, they had GAC in the first vessel and were running resin in the second. They are changing out their GAC faster (were expecting 4-5 changeouts of GAC before having to change out the resin).

That is something they talked to the vendors about when initially laying out the pilot and describing what would be used for media, etc. She started asking them if the time is coming, can you just put the media in the vessel you have and put in a LAG vessel as opposed to a polishing vessel, and what that would entail. They are working on that. She has received some responses and most sound like it could be pretty straightforward. They want some kind of support media in the bottom of it above the underdrains and then put a lesser amount (probably 3' of media instead of 10' of GAC). It all depends on what the outcome of the pilot looks like when we get further along.

Commissioner von Schoen commented we have been in limbo with a lot of things for the past year because we needed to get the test counts installed, which took a bit longer, and now we need to wait out the tests. Meanwhile we are burning through GAC filtration media that we really don't want to reuse because it will leach short chains into the water unless we spend another 5 digit amount to replace it just because of the PFBA. He questioned if it would make sense, if coming across another district that may be winging it a bit and having good results, to give it a shot even before having the results. If we wait another year or two to have all of the information we would like to have, we might have run through 4-6 replacement cycles depending on how things pan out with PFBA. From his standpoint he would like to ask that we be creative and don't think we need to wait to have all of our ducks in a row. If there is something promising out there that someone else is doing let's talk about it.

Ms. Carney remarked KK&W is definitely one to go out and try stuff. They have tried a lot of different stuff with their vessels. She can get back in touch with them.

Commissioner von Schoen commented on what was stated earlier that they are starting to get information from the vessel suppliers. You start to get compatibility confirmation. He asked if there is something that can be done to get more stringent, faster, concrete answers. From a technical standpoint, as the vessel supplier, we are good with them trying, and then we can have the discussion of whether or not we want to try it.

Ms. Carney remarked that is kind of why we started asking the questions. We are seeing the results on the CalRes that look pretty good. Pease out in Portsmouth has switched to CalRes. That is what KK&W is using as well. We talked to them last week and said if we want to do this what do we need to do to put it in these vessels? We gave them the drawings that we have on the vessels so they know exactly what we are dealing with.

Chair Provencher asked if those two districts are doing carbon first with the CalRes as the LAG vessel. Ms. Carney stated Pease has resin first that is their main treatment and then they have a room full of smaller resin vessels and then go into two big GAC vessels for polishing. They started out using a sorbix resin and had some trouble with it with manganese and headloss issues and were having some pressure issues. They ended up switching to the CalRes because it is a macroporous media and can take higher pressures. That was the main reason they switched. KK&W have the Evoqua vessels, started out with a coconut-based carbon and ended up switching out to, the last she spoke with them (some 4-6 months ago), using the GAC in the first vessel and resin in the LAG vessel. Her memory is that they said there were 4-5 changeouts of GAC they

were going to go through before they would have to change the resin out. The resin is a lot more expensive to buy and there are disposal issues.

Chair Provencher spoke of his assumption that their criteria for changing the lead carbon vessel is based on PFOA breakthrough. Ms. Carney stated her belief that is probably the reason. When speaking with them in the past it is pretty much run on regulatory compounds. In the very beginning they had kind of made up their own standard of half of the MCL or something like that before they would change it out. They seem to push it a lot more than you do. They were very big around the mentality of maximizing the use of the media.

Asked how long the pilot is supposed to run, Ms. Carney stated it depends on when the breakthrough occurs. We would like to see breakthrough from the columns. Right now, we are starting to get breakthrough on the 25%. For the resins we had breakthrough on the first round, 25% after a month so we might need to run it four months before we have full breakthrough on the resins. The GAC may take a little longer, but the PFBA started coming through in May so that is only two months before it broke through. Once getting into the summer months she assumes it will be running more and will go faster. She would assume within 6 months we would probably have breakthrough on all the vessels.

There is a little bit of a lag with the EPA in getting the data. It is running a good month before getting the sample results.

Chair Provencher spoke of the importance of gaining perspectives of all of the New England filtration plants on how to optimize. That would be a useful seminar. Ms. Carney commented on the MVD being ahead of the curve, and that kind of data isn't really coming out yet. Chair Provencher remarked he wonders what Hoosic Falls is doing these days. When they visited they were changing on PFBA. They were changing out as soon as the first PFAS broke through the lead vessel. He wonders if that is still the case. He is aware there is a new water source they are going to, and he is uncertain if the treatment plant that was visited is even functional any longer.

Chair Provencher commented, as Commissioner von Schoen was stating, we are trying to preserve the LAG vessel without letting too much run into it because that compromises the LAG vessel when it comes to the lead vessel then it breaks through faster. Where is the point in there that makes the most sense is kind of what we are trying to figure out. Ms. Carney responded she believes it is breaking through within a couple of months. Chair Provencher asked if breakthrough is occurring so quickly because it has already been compromised from previous. Ms. Carney added it has been getting shorter as you go. Those first two are kind of misleading because you have two full vessels of virgin media and then after you start changing it out now you've got reactivated media plus LAG media that has already been loaded with short chains before it even gets to the lead position. It has been decreasing and she is uncertain if it is because of the loading. She is wondering if the reactivation has anything to do with it. Wells 4 and 5 are the ones the with the most data. The time to breakthrough has been going down from 5 months to 4 months to 2 months. She is uncertain if it's because now it is fully loaded before it gets moved to the lead. She is also wondering if there is any impact of the reactivation. You are getting 10-15%. It is slowly getting changed out. You still have a good mass of reactivated material that has been reactivated multiple times.

Vice Chair Clement commented that she does not think there will be a magical solution. She believes they owe it to themselves to let the pilot study run until we are breaking through every column and have all the data we can. Then if they wanted to say, based on what comes out of the pilot study, the GAC is still doing okay then maybe we want to say for this year we are going to do something crazy and will have a few more

changeouts, and say what if we don't fill the LAG vessel, what if we just swap them over at the lead breakthrough, does that buy us more time? Before we start ditching whole units, let's look at the data we have from our GAC units. The Calgon might be a great solution, but the cost of buying fresh media and then disposing of media is not something to sneeze at. Then maybe it might be okay can we dial our systems in more and change the way we are swapping tanks, would that buy us more time? Being at the beginning end of it we want as much information as possible so that we can take in all the information, maybe tweak some things to see what it does because media is not cheap and disposal of media will not be cheap. It may get to the point where we want to take one vessel and put resin or something in it. She does not want to start throwing media away.

Superintendent Miner commented he believes we could do one plant at a time; new media and they will store our media. We could have say 4 and 5 with the new media and resin, whatever media we pull out of 4 and 5 we can use for replacement media at say 7 and 8 until that is used up. Then we go with the new media there, etc.

Vice Chair Clement reiterated the resins will have to be looked at very carefully because there is going to be a cost for disposal.

Chair Provencher remarked the geometry of the vessel affects the resin differently than the carbon. We're stuck with these vessels we have. Is there a way we could use those vessels if we use a resin instead of a carbon media? He is uncertain if all of those resins would say the same thing.

Ms. Carney remarked that is what she is trying to find out, and most so far (heard back from 3) are coming back with yes we could put it in those vessels. She needs to dig into the details of that further. That is one of the questions; is it going to affect the performance at all?

Commissioner von Schoen spoke of the desire to understand who is driving the process. Right now, we are waiting for the data, but he is also seeing other districts taking a chance and maybe learning something from it sooner than we are right now. We are very strategic about it and he wants to base his decisions on data but if there are hot facts coming out of other districts how do we ensure that they are being brought to the management of the MVD and to the Board and not being found out as part of a half hour conversation?

Mr. Pratt responded our scope says we will get you that information it just may not be in the timeframe that you wanted. We would probably need some direction from you, from a policy point of view, that you want some information or some direction sooner than the outcome of this 5-6 month pilot. You will get that. The answers you are asking for are coming out of the pilot. It is just our normal scope would say we would get that to you in 5-6 months. Maybe that is too long for you and so we probably need to have some direction if you want something in the interim.

Commissioner von Schoen stated appreciation for his comments, and added somewhere in the room between the Board, MVD management and our consultants there has to be a technology driver, someone that is proactively sniffing out what is going on in other districts and countries with other suppliers. He does not know who that is. Traditionally it has been all three together whenever we meet. We no longer meet monthly with our engineers. He is uncertain if MVD is still having the same temperature on the boiler that it used to have when going through these PFAS filtration projects when there was a really high rate of communication and updates.

Every time we have filtration media saturated with PFBA before we have it saturated with any of the other ones, we are losing money or we take the risk and let it leach through for a while, which we have kind of committed to try to avoid even if unregulated and short chains have a much higher tolerance in the advisory levels. He is uncertain if he fully understands who owns saying I'm running with this and making sure MVD is kept up to date all the time with new information and opportunities to consider.

It might be that it is a discussion between Superintendent Miner and Mr. Pratt to define the roles. If that means someone needs more capacity or funds to be that watchdog okay.

Mr. Pratt suggested there may be a need to have a discussion of risk/reward, e.g., what risk we want to take in terms of dollars and cents and timing. From there, doing the scope together and getting an engineering task together is the easy part. We want to understand what the Board and district would want to do. It is a good discussion.

Ms. Carney suggested another thing they can do is dive into this more purposefully in anticipation of the pilot results coming out. There are plants that are up and running and she tries to keep her fingers on what they are doing as best she can. She does not have an active project that she is researching it for. Do we want to be intentional about it; dig into some of the operating plants and get some more information from them?

Commissioner von Schoen commented his point is how involved should the Board be. The expectation is clear towards staff and consultants; we want to try and find a solution to avoid having to replace GAC because of PFBA. That is not a regulated contaminate and that is a real problem in comparison to the regulated ones for us right now because it contaminates the media way before the regulated contaminates do. We want to try to get that answer as soon as possible so we stop wasting money on premature changeout of GAC or accept the fact that we leach PFBA, as unregulated as it is, to the consumer. That is his personal position. That would be his question, how do we get that answer in a timely fashion without having to wait for some long drawn out tests if other districts are potentially making experiences upon which we could bank.

Chair Provencher commented that if deciding to try to do something different he would like to see estimates based on breakthrough time, cost of changeout, disposal of media. If anything is going to cost more than we are spending now, his barometer is he does not want to see another rate increase unless we absolutely need something.

Superintendent Miner commented it has been stated already we are ahead of the curve and we are kind of at this point where we need to wait for the pilot study to be completed. Hopefully, there is something that we have chosen for media that will take care of the short chains and maybe work better on the regulated compounds.

Chair Provencher commented maybe by switching to a different media and doing the same thing we are doing now will allow us to extend the lifespan. We originally started looking at this as building additions onto all of our buildings for some additional vessels for polishing vessels. That comes with a significant cost.

Commissioner von Schoen reiterated his point is when he hears that we are slowly getting information about media compatibility with our vessels for example he does not want to wait until we have the test column

results and then need to go through another half a year of clarification. He does not want to wait for sequential steps. He wants to go be a bit more concurrent if we can.

Chair Provencher remarked Ms. Carney has indicated she is asking some of these questions to the vendors. She is looking at what the next question is going to be before the pilot test is done to try to get a jump on it.

Vice Chair Clement remarked he feels like when we change media because of the short chain breakthroughs we are wasting the media. She does not look at it that way, she looks at it as the Town said hey we don't want PFOAs in our water, great this is a solution to that that we have designed, permitted, installed. Could we make it better, yes. Is it broken right now, no not really, it is doing what it needs to do? We might need to change timings a bit and if we need to put another changeout in our budget to make it what we want it to be then that is something else.

She feels throwing things in vessels without data is more of a risk of losing money than we currently have systems that exist and are functioning the way they are designed whatever the timeframe be. She commented when she first starting on the Board there was discussion of 11 month changeouts. We all know that even though the vendors said that it is not what the reality is. Because we are on the forefront of this technology vendors say lots of things. What they really are in reality is completely different.

Superintendent Miner remarked if we could capture those short chains we probably would be closer to something dramatic. Vice Chair Clement commented, as a resident of Merrimack, she wouldn't feel good if we said we're going to take a quarter of a million dollars this year and put different technology in each vessel and see what sticks. That makes her nervous.

Commission von Schoen responded he was not saying that at all. He was saying take advantage of experiences that some other water districts are perhaps having already.

Vice Chair Clement added she does not feel as though there is any magical solution that we don't know about. It is all about tweaking things for your facility. Everybody is at the point where they are throwing darts at a wall in their own way and own budgets.

Chair Provencher commented that part of the problem is the perfluoro acids that are the problems to remove more than the sulfonates and we are PFBA. It's PFOA and these acidified PFAS that is the hardest to move and that is what we are stuck with.

Business Manager Lavoie commented it is also a different water quality. It may not necessarily work the same way for us as it would for someone else.

Chair Provencher responded it is good that we are doing the pilot because we do have chlorides in our water more than a lot of other water systems and those do affect resins. We certainly have to go through and do what we are doing with the pilot test.

Vice Chair Clement added the pilot testing is also great because we get to the end of this and say these two resins did really good, this type of resin might work really well for us, then we may say okay now let's fill the columns with all of the competitors of this type of resin, maybe we could even dilute it more before we look at something like resins where we cannot recycle it. It is going to be purchasing truckloads of it and then it is going to go to a landfill.

Chair Provencher commented he always goes back to look at the presentation that was done for the warrant articles and the goal that was presented was to have non-detect in the drinking water of all PFAS. That was definitely stated, what the customers heard and why he thinks we are shooting for that goal still because that was the goal. It is hard, we are not doing it all the time on PFBA, but PFBA seems to be the major culprit hat is coming through first. He is uncertain there is another water district out there that is trying to get non-detect of all. It was mentioned that KK&W is doing changeouts based on regulated compounds.

Ms. Carney remarked we have run into that since day 1 whether talking to a vendor or another system, they are all focused on the regulated compounds. We struggled with that from the beginning trying to get information from anyone about short chains because nobody has looked into them for the most part.

Chair Provencher commented the health advisories on the short chains, you don't know how good those are. It is prudent to be conservative until the science catches up if it ever does. Getting everyone else's opinion on what they are doing, if they are not looking at it the same way we are he is uncertain how applicable it will be.

Ms. Carney remarked with EPA pushing the issue, short chains are certainly a lot more visible now than they were when we started. She wonders now that there are more plants operating maybe as Commissioner von Schoen suggested do we start calling some of these other plants that obviously don't have the experience you have but see if there is anyone that may be focused on short chains and if they have done anything. The hard part is gaining data. You can call or meet with someone and get the gist of what they are doing but getting the hard data is another thing. Maybe it's worth asking around.

Ms. Carney asked if they should get together with Superintendent Miner to brainstorm around the scope and what to do concurrently with the pilot? Mr. Pratt suggested perhaps he and Ms. Carney do some brainstorming on digesting this conversation and bring it back to Superintendent Miner. Chair Provencher remarked if there is a scope of work in there bring it to us and we will kick it around to see if it makes sense.

3. Board of Commissioners to authorize Superintendent Ron Miner to execute the Large Public Water System (PWS) Lead Service Line Inventory Grant documents to accept funds in the amount of $60,000

Business Manager Lavoie stated they applied for and received a $60,000 grant that can be used towards identifying the material service lines.

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER CLEMENT TO ENTER INTO A LARGE PUBLIC WATER SYSTEM LEAD SERVICE LINE INVENTORY GRANT AGREEMENT WITH THE NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES AND AUTHORIZE SUPERINTENDENT, RONALD MINER, JR., TO EXECUTE ANY DOCUMENTS WHICH MAY BE NECESSARY TO EFFECTUATE SAID GRANT AGREEMENT
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALLEN

A Viva Voce Roll Call Vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Erin Clement, Scott Sabens, Dan Allen, Wolfram von Schoen, Don Provencher
5
Nay: 0

MOTION CARRIED

4. Superintendent's Report

Water Quality:

Maintenance:

- Treatment Facilities

  - Security Cameras have been ordered and should start to be installed at the end of July and beginning of August.

  - Carbon Activated Corp. brought back the re-generated media to Wells 2&9 Treatment Facility on 6/10 and then went over to 4&5 to remove the media for regeneration. The media is due back on 6/24.

  - Pilot sampling was done at 4&5 on 6/3/25.

- Distribution

  - Flushing of the water mains in the regular pressure zone is complete. The high pressure zone is scheduled to be completed in the fall.

  - Now that flushing is completed, distribution will be working on hydrant maintenance, operating and repairing if needed this season.

Administrative:

- PFAS Watermain Extensions (MVD)

  - Gerard/Mullikin Rd - The NHDES has accepted our request to award the contract for the PFAS water main extension, and the notice of award went out on June 12th to Granese & Sons Inc. We are still working on the details for the preconstruction meeting and neighborhood informational meeting.

  - Farmer & Mason Rd. project
    - Approved by NHDES (Friday, May 23rd)
    - Advertisement for bids went out on Wednesday, June 4th.
    - Prebid meeting Tuesday, June 17th at 10:00 a.m.
    - Receive questions by 4:00 p.m. on Wednesday, June 25th (Thursday deadline)
    - Addenda will be submitted by Wednesday, July 2nd
    - Submit to NHDES at least 5 days prior to bid open for review and approval
    - Bid opening on Thursday, July 10th at 2:00 p.m. (bids due at 2:00 p.m.)

- PFAS Watermain/Entrance Extensions (Saint-Gobain Performance Plastics)
    - All work is complete.

- We had our CISA walk through on May 29th. The report was received this past Friday and once reviewed we can get it out to the Board and plan for a work session.

Asked about the bid documents on the water line extensions; specifically, if there is a duration of construction that is being estimated, Superintendent Miner responded there is a tighter schedule for the Gerard/Mullikin Road project. Business Manager Lavoie remarked it takes a certain number of days to do the project. One of the bidders requested that we have a drop dead date so that they could fit it into their schedule. Underwood put a drop dead date for substantial completion to accommodate more bidders.

Asked if this is work we are trying to get done prior to the winter months, Superintendent Miner stated originally the discussion was a September start date. He is now looking at an August start date.

5. Board of Commissioners to review the minutes from the May 19, 2025, regular BOC meeting.

Board of Commissioners Meeting . . . . . May 19, 2025

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SABENS TO ACCEPT, AS WRITTEN
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER ALLEN

A Viva Voce Roll Call Vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Erin Clement, Scott Sabens, Dan Allen, Wolfram von Schoen, Don Provencher
5
Nay: 0
MOTION CARRIED

6. Board of Commissioners to review Action Items from previous meetings and those to be added from this meeting.

The Commission reviewed the Action Items. New dates were added to several of the items.

Salt Mitigation Committee

Superintendent Miner stated they needed a letter from the Town , MVD put that together on MVD letterhead. The NH DOT wanted it on Town letterhead. His understanding is they then came back and said before it was actually official they wished for another meeting to be certain the Town Council would understand exactly what they were getting. The desire is for this to occur sooner than later. It is his hope it will get on an agenda and then the signs can be moved and hopefully the Town can get some signs out as well to get the message out.

Solar Power

Asked if there is the desire for additional focus on this, Business Manager Lavoie responded there is information, it is simply a matter of putting it together to compare and clarify options. Information can likely be available for the next meeting.

Mitchell Woods Power Supply

Commissioner von Schoen stated he had a call with Peter. We understand that we can invert to 3 phase from a single phase but obviously that is limited in amperage because you still only have one feeding it in the first place. What he asked him to verify was is that potentially inverted three-phase sufficient enough to supply whatever well capacity we have intended. We don't want to end up bringing the power there and realizing it is not enough to feed the pump to reach the sought after capacity.

Chair Provencher commented he asked Mr. Pratt if we know the horsepower of the pump we would use at Mitchell Woods. Once you know that then you know the amperage and horsepower requirements. Mr. Pratt probably needs to go back to his electrical engineer to confirm that, which he would prefer he do.

Hydraulic Model – Unaccounted for Water

The distribution hydraulic model discussed at the 11-18-24 meeting resulted in a request for clarification of one of the items; "Figure 4, water age map (wells 4&5), on the west end of town there are purple points surrounded by yellow points, which indicates that there is water in the lines that is younger than the surrounding areas but no fresh supply where that purple area is." The question was asked of how that is explained in the model.

Superintendent Miner will follow-up.

7. Old Business

During the last meeting, there was discussion around the warrant article to raise and appropriate $800,000 for the Equipment and Facilities Capital Reserve and a request for a policy to be drafted identifying the purpose for and amount of funds to be set aside.

Business Manager Lavoie stated a template is available. The matter can be on the agenda for the July meeting.

8. New Business

Chair Provencher spoke of the Emery & Garrett report titled "Water Level, Water Temperature, and Estimated Chloride Concentrations Interim Monitoring Report All Well Fields". The report showed Monitoring Well #3 (near Dunkin Donuts) with an estimated 1,100 chloride level. It went from 300 to 1,100 from March to May. Superintendent Miner stated he believed that to be the one that was originally discussed having dropped down and came back up. It was noted to be historically high.

There was a comment about high pressure air being injected into the wrong water pipes for Wells 4 and 5 that is affecting the conductivity meter. He asked for that to be looked into.

Well 6 we are detecting chloride estimated at 500-640 in March and April from the conductivity dataloggers. That might be a concern about considering well 6 as a viable option at those levels.

9. Questions from the Public/Press – None

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION BY COMMISSIONER SABENS TO ADJOURN
MOTION SECONDED BY COMMISSIONER VON SCHOEN

A Viva Voce Roll Call Vote was taken, which resulted as follows:

Yea: Erin Clement, Scott Sabens, Dan Allen, Wolfram von Schoen, Don Provencher
5
Nay: 0
MOTION CARRIED

The June 16, 2025, meeting of the Board of Commissioners was adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan, Recording Secretary