ConnecticutWater

Water System Advisory Committee Meeting

April 6, 2016 @ 7 pm
Tolland Town Hall

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John McGuire, Mansfield EDC, CHAIR
Meg Reich, Willimantic River Alliance, VICE CHAIR
Greg Padick, Joshua's Trust
Art Hall, Coventry
Diana Perkins, Windham Water Commission
Mary Ellen Kowalewski, CRCOG
Rob Miller, EHHD
Eugene Koss, Tolland Water Commission

ADDITIONAL STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Jason Coite, UConn; David Radka and Dan Meaney, Connecticut Water.

Call to Order: Meeting was called to order by Chairman McGuire at 7:02 pm.

Approval of Minutes of January 6, 2016 Meeting: Minutes were accepted, as revised.

Water Supply Project Status:

a. Construction – Dave Radka provided an update on water main construction activities, including the status of the various pipeline segments. He noted the contractor had resumed work with two crews following a brief winter hiatus, with approximately seventy-four percent of the water main had been installed to date.

b. Communications – Dan Meaney reported on communication around the restart of construction, including web informational updates and e-mail and text communication efforts.

   Jason Coite noted the University will be initiating construction on the meter vault and water main following Commencement. He indicated the work is predominantly off-road and the University does not anticipate any issues in meeting the contract deadline of August 16.

Mansfield Four Corners Project Status:

Chairman McGuire read an update from Linda Painter on the Four Corners sewer district project. In her update, Ms. Painter indicated the public comment period for the EIE closed and the Town and their consultant are reviewing comments and will prepare a draft Record of Decision for DEEP review.

Mansfield Plan of Conservation & Development Update:

Chairman McGuire also read an update from Linda Painter on the municipal Plan of C&D (Mansfield Tomorrow), in which she indicated the land use office continued to work on several amendments to the zoning regulations in advance of an overall rewrite. Sections currently being amended include storm water management and water service connections.

Related Activities in Member Communities/Organizations:

Mary Ellen Kowalewski provided an update on the eastern gateway study. With a planned June 2017 completion date, a consultant has been selected, a technical advisory committee formed, and initial meetings held. Public outreach will be forthcoming.

CT Water Tracking Form:

Mr. Radka distributed an updated WSAC Request for Water Service Review form (Attachment A), revised to reflect the Committee's review of January 6. Mr. Radka also noted that a spreadsheet had been prepared to track all requests for service, and the Lodges at Storrs was the only request received to date. The WSAC reviewed the revised form and discussed the Committee's process for the review of projects, including the capacity of the regional pipeline as it relates to each project individually and cumulatively. There was general agreement the Lodges' quantity (estimated need approximately 50,000 gpd) should not be an issue.

Lead:

CWC representatives distributed a FAQ handout on lead in drinking water (Attachment B) and described the Company's lead and copper testing program and recent outreach to municipalities, and especially schools, following recent high-profile national incidents. In response to questions about private residences, Rob Miller explained new private well testing requirements, mandatory blood lead-level testing for children, and the Eastern Highlands Health District's educational outreach. Mr. Miller confirmed lead issues in children may be water related, but most often are caused by lead paint and/or dust.

Dan Meaney noted CWC had received very few customer calls concerning lead, but felt a link to the EHHD for private well owner information would be a good addition to the Company's website.

Future Meeting Dates and Locations:

July 13, 2016 was confirmed as the next meeting date, with a location TBD. The following meeting date was set as October 5 at 7:00 pm.

Other Business: None.

Public Comment: None.

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm.

Attachment A

Date:_____

Water System Advisory Committee

Request for Water Service Review

Pursuant to the agreement between the Town of Mansfield and the Connecticut Water Company (CWC), requests for water service that involve a water main extension, new use, or modification to an existing use that requires a change in zoning or approval by a local land use commission shall be referred to the Water System Advisory Committee (WSAC) for review.

Project:

Name: _____

Location: _____

Description: _____

_____

Referral to WSAC:

☐ Project referred by Mansfield Department of Planning and Development

Basis for Referral:

☐ Water main extension

☐ Requires local land use commission approval for:

☐ Rezoning ☐ Site Plan ☐ Special Permit ☐ Subdivision ☐ Other

Requested timeframe for WSAC review: _____

WSAC has reviewed and has the following comments:

☐ Town Planner confirmed consistency with Mansfield Plan of C&D as required by permit

☐ Any Concerns or Recommendations for Source Protection Measures

☐ Any Recommended Best Management Practices Related to Water Use for project

☐ Any Recommended Water Conservation Measures for Project

☐ Other

Date: _____

Chair: _____

☐ Recommend

☐ More Information Needed

Attachment B

ConnecticutWater

Frequently Asked Questions About Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water has been in the news recently with the situation going on in Flint, Michigan. The specifics in the Flint case are unique and we want to assure you that we do not have similar circumstances in our systems at Connecticut Water.

Connecticut Water conducts extensive water quality testing at our sources and within our distribution system. We have not detected lead in any of our sources of supplies or distribution system. We fully comply with the EPA requirements regarding sampling for lead in drinking water and have provided documentation to State health officials to demonstrate our results. We are confident in the water quality that we provide our customers.

Q. What happened in Flint, Michigan?

A. The situation in Flint was triggered when they changed their water supply source to one with significantly different water chemistry characteristics without corresponding measures to provide for corrosion control designed to maintain the conditions of their pipe system. It appears it was further compounded when there was not a timely response to customer inquiries and response to water quality test results.

Q. How do we know there are not similar water quality issues in Connecticut Water's systems?

A. Regular water quality testing is done in all of our water systems and continues to show that the water delivered to our customers is in compliance with state and federal drinking water standards and is safe to drink. Ongoing sampling is done for a host of water quality standards, with more than 170,000 samples tested annually at state certified laboratories. Our water quality testing data is regularly reviewed for potential changes or trends and any customer water quality complaint is escalated to professionals in our water quality team.

Q. Where can customers review water quality test results for their system?

A. Water quality reports are made available annually to all of our customers and are on our website at www.ctwater.com >Customers > Water Quality Report.

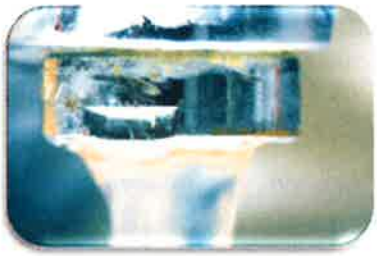
Q. What is done specifically to protect our water sources?

A. Connecticut Water has an extensive program of water quality protection that includes land ownership, watershed inspections, and source water quality monitoring. These programs are overseen by the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health. Further, Connecticut is the only state that prevents water bodies that have sewer treatment plant discharges, or receive other waste discharges, from being used as drinking water supply sources.

Q. **What is done specifically to protect customers from lead in water?**

A. In addition to limiting our supplies to quality sources with source protection measures, we also have a comprehensive approach to lead control in our water systems. This approach includes sampling and chemical addition in our treatment and distribution systems for corrosion control to maintain water quality and protect our customers from the potential for lead to enter their drinking water. We have a program in place, as required under Federal law, to minimize the potential for lead to enter your drinking water.

Q. **How does lead get into the water in a customer's home?**



A. Lead typically enters drinking water as a result of corrosion, or wearing away, of materials in household plumbing containing lead. These materials include lead-based solder that in the past had been used to join copper pipe, brass and chrome-plated brass faucets, and in some cases, the service line that connects your house to the water main, if the pipe is made of lead.

Q. **What has been done to limit the risks of lead in household plumbing?**

A. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater that 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials to 8.0%, however the internal plumbing in older homes may still contain lead piping.

In homes where there is still lead in internal plumbing and fixtures, under certain pH conditions, lead may dissolve into the drinking water after it has sat in the internal plumbing for some time. As such, sampling under our lead and copper program intentionally focuses on homes with older plumbing and samples are taken with the first water drawn from the tap in the morning.

Q. **What does the company do if they detect lead in a customer's water?**

A. We monitor for lead from customer's homes to confirm that the chemical treatment processes remain effective. In instances where the lead in a customer's home is above the action level set by Federal Standards (0.15 part per billion), we notify the customer right away. If 10% or more of the samples collected from a public water system are above the Federal Standards we notify all customers within the service area.

If you are concerned about lead in your internal plumbing,

go to http://nepis.epa.gov/Exe/ZyPDF.cgi?Dockey=20001R4V.txt

to learn some steps you can take to reduce your risk of consuming lead from drinking water.