
CFD2 | Regular Meeting

04.01.2024 via Zoom 5:30-6:55pm

Attendees

Jon Ashley
Ian Baldwin (Board Member)
Gina Campoli (President)
Paula Davidson (Treasurer)
Christina Finkelstein (Secretary)

Terry Martin
Jamie Milholland (Board Member)
Michele Miller
Kestrel Owens (Board Member)

ABSENT:

Seth Hayden (Board Member)
Renee Rossi (Board Member)
Steve Smith (Systems Operator)

Acronym Guide

DEC	Department of Environmental Conservation
D&K	Dubois & King, consultant engineers for CFD2
RCAP	The Rural Community Assistance Partnership
WL-01	Well polluted with PFAS
WL-04	Well with no detectable levels of PFAS
WL-05	Reference to potential primary source well or its location
WL-06	Reference to potential primary source well or its location
WL-07	Reference to potential primary source well or its location

Agenda

1. Changes/Additions to Agenda
2. Approve minutes from last meeting
3. Project update from D&K
4. Finance/Budget updates
5. Board membership
6. Subcommittees and monthly water checks
7. Other Business

1. Changes/Additions to agenda

None

2. Approve Minutes

MOTION: Paula made a motion to approve the minutes from March 4, 2024. Kestrel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

3. Project update from D&K

Easements

- Gina reported that the easements for WL-06 and WL-07 are complete and recorded.
- Gina added that Sterling College has been paid [\$103,000] for the easement of WL-07.

NEPA Environmental Review

- The Vermont Division of Historic Preservation (VDHP) noted that there is an area (farm road to WL-07) that requires some phase I archaeological testing to verify whether it's a sensitive site.
- D&K obtained a scope of work from an archaeological consultant and is now awaiting VDHP approval of that work. Once D&K gets approval, they will conduct test

pits. Jon added that VDHP approval can take a while and the archaeological consultants get busier once the weather warms up.

Sterling's Act 250

- Jon reported that D&K is working on a minor amendment to Sterling College's Act 250 permit.

Radium Treatment

- WL-06 was previously found to have elevated levels of radium contamination. WL-07 was also found to have radium, but not at elevated levels. WL-06 and WL-07 are believed to share a hydraulic connection or common source. DEC and D&K both support the plan to add a cation exchange system (aka a water softener) to treat the radium in WL-07 in the event the level goes above the maximum contaminant level.

Construction Permit

- D&K submitted one single application to connect both WL-06 and WL-07.

Source Permit

- The source permit was submitted and posted for public comment
- To date, D&K had been relying on the fact that CFD2's maximum daily demand is 32 gallons per minute (GPM). However, the DEC person working with D&K recently changed their approach on how the maximum demand is calculated. Although we have monthly usage, VT rules require daily usage data for a year or more to indicate what the actual demand is. Absent that data, DEC is now requiring the book value, which is based on the total number of users (420 for CFD2) at 60 gallons per user per day. The rules also require a 10% leakage, 10% aging for piping, and 10% growth factors. The resulting book value is 42 GPM.
- In prior conversations between D&K and the DEC, there was consensus that WL-06 should be a back-up source in case of emergency. D&K asked DEC if WL-06 could be permanently disconnected after the physical connection is made to the pump house. In the event WL-07 went offline, CFD2 would need to test WL-06's water quality and assuming the results were normal, WL-06 could be connected in a matter of days or weeks vs. months if there is no physical connection present.
- The DEC will not issue a permit for an emergency back-up well. They will only permit wells that will be in use.
- D&K asked if WL-06 could be relied on to contribute 1 GPM toward the 42 GPM maximum daily demand.

- DEC will not allow WL-06 to be permitted at 1 GPM as part of the 42 GPM maximum daily demand unless the well is continuously used. This would require the water to be treated for radium.
- If WL-06 is run continuously then it would also require ongoing testing and treatment, which would mean more operating costs. The original plan was to connect the pipes for WL-06 but leave it off and have it in place in case of an emergency.
- Jon summarized the two options going forward:
 - Option 1: Push to get both wells permitted, but disconnect WL-06. He warned that DEC has made clear that they are unlikely to approve the disconnection of WL-06. WL-06 will require testing and treatment. Jon added that if we continue to try to get WL-06 permitted and connected, it will take longer to get DEC to approve this option.
 - Option 2: Connect just WL-07 and let WL-06 sit in the field. WL-06 can be used if needed after it is physically connected and permitted. This is the option preferred by DEC.

Cost

- Jon said he is not certain what the total funding package for this project will look like. He knows that the costs to date are covered under the Emergent Contaminant Fund, but last year DEC capped the coverage to \$1 million. He is not sure if the coverage cap includes construction costs or just the sourcing and permitting costs to date.
- Jon added that if CFD2 decides to only connect WL-07 then the construction timeline would be shorter. The cost would also be lower and thus CFD2 would be less likely to hit that \$1M cap. He thinks that there may be a 50% subsidy on anything above the cap, but he needs to verify.

Discussion

- Ian asked if the cost to operate both wells will be double what we pay now. Jon said it will not be double because some tests are done of the water in the pump house, but there will be some testing that will be required of each well. In short, expenses will be more than what we pay now but not double that amount. Jon added that radium treatment would require replenishing the brine, but it's not a significant cost.
- Kestrel asked if WL-07 could be permitted at 42 GPM and have WL-06 permitted on top of that. Jon said DEC would not allow that. We have to meet the maximum daily

demand of 42 GPM through a combination of the two wells. They will not permit WL-07 for more than the 42 GPM despite it yielding far more. They will only permit to meet the maximum daily demand.

- Jamie asked if there was a contributing yield for WL-06 that would satisfy DEC. Jon said he recently heard a number of 8.5+ GPM but he is not sure how that number was derived. Kestrel added that if they were satisfied with that number then couldn't WL-07 make up the rest? Jon suggested that a follow-up meeting with DEC is in order to help answer these questions.
- Gina believes DEC does not want to permit WL-06 because we have sufficient yield from WL-07, but wonders what will happen when someone at DEC does a review in the coming months and asks about the lack of redundancy and resilience in our system.
- Gina emphasized that if we try to connect WL-06 and WL-07 then the project can be significantly delayed and the costs may exceed the maximum reimbursement amount. Jon will investigate what that ceiling is.
- Ian said that the Board does not have enough information to make an informed decision. Gina suggests a meeting with DEC and the infrastructure committee. Jon will help to coordinate.
- If after the meeting the infrastructure committee believes CFD2 should go ahead with both wells then there's no need for a board vote. But if a vote is needed on whether to drop WL-06, a special meeting will be called.

4. Finance/Budget Updates

- Paula noted that not all costs are 100% forgivable by the state because there are caps on some items, like legal fees. There was a lot of back and forth among the lawyers about the easements so we have about \$2400 in legal fees that will not be covered because they are over the allowable limit. She added that it's possible we may still get reimbursed but at the moment these unexpected costs are chipping away at what little savings we have remaining. Gina added that the title certification process was costly because it required one of the lawyers to travel to Craftsbury.
- Paula said that we are also almost at the limit of the loan, approximately 900,000, for this phase. The next phase is for construction. Gina confirmed that we do not need another bond vote.
- Paula reminded everyone that she has to pay the contractors first and then file for reimbursement from the state.

- Quarterly bills were sent to customers recently.

5. Board Membership

MOTION: Gina made a motion to thank Ian Balwin for his three years of service. Paula seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

MOTION: Christina made a motion to nominate Michele Miller to the Board. Kestrel seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

6. Subcommittees and monthly water checks

- Infrastructure: Gina, Jamie, Kestrel, Seth
- Finance: Christina, Michele, Paula, Renee
- Monthly Pump House Water Checks (test pH and record gallons used)

April - Gina (will ask former board members to help cover)

September - Gina (will ask former board members to help cover)

May - Jamie

October - Michele/Christina

June - Renee

November - Matt Moody

July - Christina

December - Kestrel

August - Michele

7. Other Business

- Paula noted that the Board's contracts with her and with Steve are for a term of one-year so they should be renewed. Christina will look for the editable document that had been created by Norm.

Actions Items

- D&K to get archaeological consultant to conduct test pits upon approval of work plan by VDHP
- D&K to file minor amendment to Sterling College's Act 250 permit

- D&K to follow up with DEC to clarify options and requirements for permitting both WL-06 and WL-07 vs only WL-07
- D&K to investigate and report on funding availability and caps for project construction
- Gina will follow-up with Steve re estimated increase in annual operating costs for running both wells vs only WL-07
- Christina will locate an editable copy of contracts between CFD2 and Paula and Steve
- (from 1/8) D&K to submit state wetlands permit
- (from 1/8) D&K to confirm whether a state Stormwater Construction permit is required
- (from 12/4) Gina will follow up with Eli about withdrawing from the class action lawsuit.
- (ongoing) Committee members will continue to reach out to neighbors and customers about the importance of joining the Board.
- (from 11/6) Steve will ask Jon Ashley at the pump house next week about potential causes for the discrepancy between master water meter and total billed usage. If needed, Steve will reach out to the Vermont Rural Water Association.
- (from 10/2) Jon will inquire about the cost of the cation exchange system.
- (from 8/7) Christina will share a summary of the by-law and ordinance review.
- (from 7/10) Jon will send the Board a completed draft of the Asset Management Plan

Upcoming Meetings

A Special Meeting will be held on Monday, April 8th, at 7pm to discuss WL-06 and radium treatment. See email for zoom link (same as the link noted below and on FPF).

The next Regular Meeting will be on **Monday, May 6th, at 5:30pm**. A special meeting will be called if there are developments or other issues that merit full Board deliberations.

A reminder announcement with the Zoom link (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87324152544>) will be posted on Front Porch Forum.

NOTE: The Zoom link (<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87324152544>) and call-in details are the same for all remaining 2024 meetings.

Call in Details:

Meeting ID: 873 2415 2544

One tap mobile

+13092053325,,87324152544# US

+13126266799,,87324152544# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

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+1 646 876 9923 US (New York)

+1 646 931 3860 US

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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

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