

**WINNIPESAUKEE RIVER BASIN PROGRAM
ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES**

February 16, 2023

Members Present: The meeting was called to order by Wes Anderson (Laconia), chair, at 10:01 am. Donald Perrin (DAS), Sharon McMillin (NHDES), Rene Pelletier (NHDES), Troy Brown (Meredith), Glen Brown (Northfield), Johanna Ames (Tilton), Justin Hanscom (Franklin), and Alicia Jipson (Belmont) were present at that time, either in person or via Zoom. Meghan Theriault (Gilford) was present at 10:11 am.

Minutes: Ray moved, seconded by Justin, to approve the January 19th Advisory Board meeting minutes, as amended. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried. Justin moved, seconded by Glen, to also approve the notes from the January 19th Advisory Board work session. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried.

Citizens Comments for Agenda Items: Wes asked if there were any guests from the member communities, and if they had any questions, comments, or concerns regarding the agenda items. As there were none, he moved on to the next agenda item.

Monthly Summary Report: Sharon discussed the *Monthly Summary Report* for January 2023, which was distributed in the meeting packet ahead of the meeting:

- Solids Handling Process Upgrades (Phase 2) – BC’s task order for design is pending.
- Rate Assessment Formula – This item is discussed below.

Wes asked whether the 60% design work would commence this coming summer. Sharon explained that the fieldwork must be completed first, although she anticipated a summer/fall completion date for the design.

Biennial Budget Discussion: Wes heard the Governor’s speech yesterday and understands that there will be salary increases. He asked Sharon how this will impact the WRBP’s budget. Sharon explained that she understood that the state absorbs the negotiated increase using its rainy-day fund, but she will check to make sure this applied to the WRBP since no definitive answer had yet been provided to programs.

Wes asked whether the state has approved the WRBP’s prioritized needs, as previously discussed at last month’s Advisory Board meeting. Sharon explained that the review is agency-by-agency, and that the WRBP’s list is still in review. She will provide an update as soon as she receives feedback from the state.

Wes asked Sharon if the WRBP is going to secure direct congressional funding. Sharon explained that it was not currently eligible for such direct funding. However, future funding depends on the qualifying criteria for the specific funding source. For example, the WRBP does not qualify for Rural Development funding but does qualify for CWSRF loan funding. Wes was hopeful that Senator Shaheen would help allocate additional funding to New Hampshire. Sharon reminded the member communities that they are also eligible to seek funding independently, and that the WRBP and DES could assist with grant writing. Sharon assured the members that the WRBP actively seeks independent funding whenever it is available and the WRBP is eligible.

Replacement Fund Update: There were no updates.

Rate Assessment Formula Update: Wes announced that the four southern member communities will meet with Underwood after the Advisory Board meeting. Underwood has gathered most of the data which will be required and plans to finalize work in late February or early March.

Review of the Escrow Account: Recently a payment was made to Underwood, which is reflected on the most recent escrow account statement.

Other Business:

Wes indicated that he would draft a letter to DES outlining the CIP subcommittee's work requesting additional budget forecasting for members.

The next Advisory Board meeting will be held on March 16th at 10:00 am in Belmont Mill (4th floor), which is located at 14 Mill Street in Belmont. The meeting adjourned at 10:28 am.

The minutes were prepared by Pro-Temp Staffing.