

**REGULAR MONTHLY MEETING  
NEW MINAS WATER & SEWER COMMISSION**

**WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2002  
7:00 P.M.**

**In Attendance:** Chairman Marvin Messom  
Bob Horne  
Ted Nicholson  
Rod MacInnis  
  
Les Barrett  
Village Commission  
  
Peter Pothier  
Water/Sewer System Operator

**Special Guests:** Alan Benninger  
Facilities Coordinator  
Nova Scotia Environment & Labour  
  
Holly MacIntosh  
  
Adrian Fuller  
Inspector Specialist  
Nova Scotia Environment & Labour

**Absent:** H. Heidi Foshay Kimball, Solicitor  
  
Doug Seamone, P. Eng.  
Hiltz & Seamone Company Limited  
  
James Redmond

**Call to Order:** Chairman Messom called the meeting to order at 7 o'clock p.m.

**Alan J. Benninger – Facilities Coordinator –  
Nova Scotia Environment & Labour Re Certification and Water Regulations**

Mr. Benninger explained his background is in water and wastewater treatment in Ontario. He was involved in Walkerton on a technical services role. He came to Nova Scotia in April as a facilities coordinator with Nova Scotia Environment & Labour. His role is to provide assistance to operators in many ways concerning operations and certification.

He has been trying to travel around the Province to be available to assist in identifying training needs and certification issues. He identified problems with municipal water sources such as boil orders, disease outbreaks and public inquiries. To date \$22 million has been paid out to Walkerton residents with an expected cost of \$100 million.

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Mr. Benninger talked about the risk of liability as we must reduce risks where possible, and we reduce risks with good preventative maintenance. Operations staff are trained to know how to provide, test and monitor safe water. In the case of Walkerton they eliminated the chance of error by installing alarm systems and this is industry driven.

Insurance companies are behind this industry change as well. Utilities must lower their risk with a due diligent approach to operations or insurance companies will not provide insurance. Errors can be reduced by continuous chlorine monitoring, lessening the chance for challenge. A chlorine monitoring system is approximately \$3,500 per unit.

Mr. Benninger went on to talk about certification and setting up basic operating procedures to follow. An operator should be certified and the regulations state on-site supervision.

Rod MacInnis questioned how our system rated with other facilities to which Mr. Benninger replied that his role was to meet with operators about operations and certification. However, we do have chemical addition at both towers and he would recommend a duplexing chlorinator with an auto switchover as well as a chlorine residual monitoring unit. Based on the site visit Mr. Benninger indicated a chlorine residual above 0.2 mg/l should be maintained throughout the system; a back-up of process operations data maintained and as well facility compliance issues and a due diligent approach in water treatment and delivery.

Mr. Benninger and Ms. MacIntosh left the meeting at this time.

**Approval of Minutes:**

**Regular Monthly Meeting June 26, 2002**

**ON MOTION OF BOB HORNE AND TED NICHOLSON SUBJECT MINUTES  
BE APPROVED AS CIRCULATED. MOTION CARRIED.**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:**

**Update – A & W – Small Claims Court**

The Secretary-Treasurer indicated that Mr. Whalen's claim of \$800 reimbursement of his water bill for the September 30, 2001 billing was denied.

**Update – Water Arrears – Edna Mutch**

The Secretary-Treasurer pointed out that following the June meeting a letter was forwarded to Mrs. Mutch informing her that her water service would be disconnected if payment was not received within 10 days and Mrs. Mutch paid her account in full before the 10-day period expired.

**Quarterly and Annual Water Testing**

Peter Pothier informed the Commission that samples are ready to be forwarded to Philip Analytical tomorrow.

**Sand and Fat Traps**

Inspections of sand and fat traps will be carried out within the next week or two.

**Hiring Additional Manpower – Water Utility**

Chairman Messom explained that the recommendation from the June meeting was taken to the July Village Commission meeting and he moved a motion as substitute Chairman in the absence of Ted Nicholson. As this motion was invalid it is necessary to schedule another meeting of the Village Commission when all Commission members can be in attendance to deal with this issue.

Peter Pothier noted he plans to take August 1 off and questioned what he should do for a back-up that day. It was suggested that he have a certified operator such as Roscoe Cook or Stan Hancock on site.

**ROD MACINNIS MOVED A QUALIFIED OPERATOR BE ON SITE AUGUST 1 TO SUPERVISE GERARD HAMILTON IN PETER POTHIER'S ABSENCE. SECONDED BY BOB HORNE. MOTION CARRIED.**

**Water/Sewer System Operator's Report**

Peter Pothier noted G & M Management serviced all of the well meters and some meters were reading as low as 70 per cent.

Mr. Pothier was instructed to make a written recommendation to the Commission regarding calibration of well meters.

Peter Pothier indicated he inquired about chlorine residuals and Bob Rowe replied that 0.2 mg/l is the minimum requirement for chlorine residuals. Mr. Rowe said in order to maintain 0.2 mg/l at all times it makes sense to have the residuals routinely higher, say at 0.3 mg/l free chlorine at the ends of the system to give you something to come and go on as chlorine demand in the system may vary slightly from time to time. As long as you are not exceeding 4.0 mg/l then you are in compliance.

Mr. Pothier commented he can comply with the guidelines but the office will receive a lot of calls relating to the smell and taste of the water.

The Secretary-Treasurer was instructed to prepare a notice concerning the presence of chlorine in the system.

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE:**

**ON MOTION OF TED NICHOLSON AND BOB HORNE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE UP TO AND INCLUDING JULY 25, 2002 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$26,713.10 BE APPROVED. MOTION CARRIED.**

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**Date of Next Meeting:**

Wednesday, August 28, 2002 at 7:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

**APPROVED**

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**CHAIRMAN**

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**SECRETARY-TREASURER**