CFD2 | Regular Meeting

Monday, 03.07.2022 via Zoom 5:30-6:42pm

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Attendees

Farley Brown

Gina Campoli (President)

Nicole Civita (Board Member)

June Cook

Paula Davidson (Treasurer)

Christina Finkelstein (Secretary)

George Hall (Board Member)

Norm Hanson (Board Member)

Jeremy Rathbun (Dubois & King)

Renee Rossi (Board Member)

Steve Smith (Systems Operator)

ABSENT:

Ian Baldwin (Board Member)

Agenda

- Changes/Additions to the Agenda
- Update re new source well
- Update re existing wells / Do Not Drink timeline
- Updates from subcommittees

Changes/Additions to the Agenda

- Gina Campoli **added**:
    - Recording Systems Operator hours
    - Operational status of meters; replacement timeline

Update re New Source Well (Jeremy Rathbun)

- **Current Status:** Establishing a new source well (WL-05) remains an *urgent* situation, but it is no longer an emergency since hydrofracking WL-04 increased its yield and automated blending equipment is now in place [see next page]. As such, CFD2 will work with Dubois & King's hydrogeologist and Jeremy to conduct another thorough review of potential source well sites in the CFD2 area before proceeding with permitting and drilling on the planned site.
    - February 25th - Jeremy hosted a "walk and talk" with Sterling's President, the CFD2 Board, and members of the public to share his knowledge about the area involved with the PFAS contamination. This included a visit to the currently planned site for WL-05, other potential source well sites previously identified by Dubois & King engineers (including one at Sterling College), and the existing wells.
    - March 6th - Lori Collins-Hall (Sterling College President) shared via email that Sterling is unable to support an easement for WL-05 in the area at Sterling previously identified by Dubois & King as a potential site. The state's limitations on land use [i.e., a 40x40 fenced area with limits on the number of livestock] around any new source well would restrict Sterling's ability to operate and develop its [Sustainable Agriculture & Food Systems and Draft Animal Management] programs. Sterling supports investigating other areas on campus that could be a source site.
    - Discussion: Should CFD2 get all water from one known [PFAS-free] area or investigate other potential sites for WL-05 before proceeding with permitting and drilling on the planned site. Can/should WL-05 become a back-up well to WL-04 instead of serving as primary?
        - The higher yield of WL-04 after hydrofracking suggests that CFD2 may get all (or substantially all) the yield it needs from WL-04. Long-term testing and permitting of a final gpm reading still needs to be done.

- If WL-05 is placed in the currently planned site, it will likely affect WL-04's output since the aquifers are linked. We know that WL-04 decreased yield from WL-02 and WL-03.
- If WL-05 is placed in a location away from WL-4, we diversify the source. Moreover, two high yielding wells will give CFD2 more than what it needs on average (currently).
- Comment: Seems prudent to take time to explore other site options again so that WL-05 is not in the same area as WL–04. CFD2 would be more resilient against any yet unknown contaminants or issues by not having two wells in the same area.
- Comment: We need to plan for water demand by considering projected population growth and economic development in the next 20-30 years OR imposing restrictions on the number or type of customers.
- Jeremy suggested Dubois & King consider getting permission from local landowners to test their wells for PFAS. Results could help narrow or expand the radius to explore further or avoid by giving an indication of the PFAS concentration near WL-01 and help to inform whether the PFAS in WL-01 is from a subsurface aquifer contamination or possibly limited to an aquifer contamination during construction of the well.
- Looking at a map of existing private wells in or near the CFD2 service area, Jeremy suggested it may be worth looking into some known high yield wells [to serve as a back-up well] since WL-04 output is now sufficiently high.
- Jeremy proposed that he work with the Dubois & King's hydrogeologist to re-examine all potential options in the area, including private wells and the other two previously identified potential sites.

- **Next Steps/Milestones:**
  - **A Special Meeting will be held on March 21 to review DuBois & King's findings and recommendations re potential new source well sites.**
  - *If we proceed with the planned site for WL-05, remaining necessary steps are (copied from 1.26.2022 minutes):*

        - Submit easement to the State–approximately 30 days to complete the state review
        - The state permit review for the new source includes a 30 public-notice and comment period for nearby property owners re how the project might affect their well. D&K will prepare any responses
        - Obtain permit
        - Drill the well, contingent on weather [contractor already procured]
        - Confirm yield – stress system and pump water for three straight days
        - Personnel onsite for three days to monitor the wells within 2000 feet to ensure no undue influence on their yield
        - Collect battery of water samples for PFAS and other water quality testing
        - Purchase equipment (pumps and connectors)
        - Install equipment [will require a 3-week bidding window to be eligible for federal reimbursement]
    - **Likely timeline for WL-05 to be online: September+**

Update re Existing Wells and Do Not Drink Timeline

- **Current Status:**

  WL-01 continues to provide customers with non-potable water for daily use

  WL–04 remains offline

    - March 3 - Automated blending equipment installed and operating.
    - The blending is currently set to pull water from WL-04 until the water level in the tank drops from 11-½ feet to 9 feet at which point water from WL-01 is added into the well.
    - Steve Smith confirmed that CFD2 customers have consumed about 7-10K gallons of water per day since installation. Jeremy computed that the well has turned over at least twice now so the state will be okay with CDD2 testing for PFAS on the blended water.
    - Q: Can we monitor the water levels remotely? No, not right now, but we could in the future. To do so, additional equipment (costing approximately 2-3K) and a monthly monitoring fee (~$35/month) would be required. If we enable remote monitoring, we will be able to read the data points via a

password protected website. Any changes to the settings will need to be done at the pump house (eliminating risk from a cyber attack).

- System could alert system operator and Dubois & King of potential problems in real time
- Wold eliminate need to go to the pump house every morning to read water levels
- Jeremy recommends we consider installation of equipment in future. Many small towns/systems do the same

- Q: From whom should we expect an invoice for the blending installation? Champlin Associates. (Jeremy and Steve also praised Don, the technician, for his impressive expertise and patience.)

- **Next Steps/Milestones:**
  - March 9 - Sampled water will be sent for rushed PFAS testing (5-day turnaround); water will also be tested for E. coli and iron. Test results on WL-04 after hydrofracking indicated elevated levels of iron so we want to keep an eye on it.
  - **March 16 - Assuming the blended water comes back <20ppt for PFAS, the Do Not Drink order can be lifted**

Special Projects

- **ANR's Request for Initial Site Investigation of WL–01**
  - Gina shared that Sterling responded to ANR's letter and cited reasons similar to CFD2 for declining to retain the services of a qualified engineer and environmental consultant to undertake the actions specified in ANR's letter of January 18
  - Due to manpower shortages, there will likely be a delay before an investigation by ANR can commence

- **Back-up Generator**
  - Jeremy reported that the generator D&K specified will not be available until December
  - D&K looking at alternatives for contractor review this week

- **Bottled Water**
    - Will likely need one additional load of bottled water to get us through the DND if lifted ~March 16
    - Bottled water accounting to date:
        - Total spent on water: $1507
            - 488 bottles (270 5gs, 218 3gs)
        - Total paid for water bottles deposits: $2928
        - Total credits for returned water bottles: $1794
            - 299 bottles (183 5gs, 116 3gs)
        - **Total deposits to be collected: $1134 (189 bottles)**
            - **87 5-gallon jugs (68% returned to date)**
            - **102 3-gallon jugs (53% returned to date)**
- Six local pick-ups to Vermont Heritage to date. Will likely need one to two additional trips back to the distribution center to delivery empty bottles

Asset Management Plan Subcommittee

- Jeremy reported that he has been working with a D&K colleague to get him up to speed on all the requirements for the Asset Management Plan
- D&K will come to Craftsbury to review any historic data it has in its possession and will also conduct GPS point tracking to confirm existing data/photos

Financial Planning Subcommittee

- Q re how to read one of the budget reports
- Q re how much of the credit line had been drawn to date. Approx. 40K
- Q re bills from Consolidated Communications for us of poles. George Hall confirmed we've received such bills in the past. Uncertainty if there is any duplication with Hardwick Electric poles for the control signals. Paula will reach out to Consolidated to clarify.
- Update re checking in w/ D&K about state reimbursements and handling the paperwork on our end to minimize billable time. Have not heard back. Will reach out again.

ADDED: Recording Systems Operator Hours

- Steve Smith (Systems Operator) confirmed that he has been logging his time for activities outside his normal duties since January 1
- The state may reimburse CFD2 for the additional cost associated with the system operator's time
- Steve is providing his logs to Paula.

ADDED: Operational Status of Meters; Replacement Timeline

- The last inventory of meters and their operational status is at least 12-18m old
- Imperative that we have a comprehensive and up-to-date list of all customers and the operational status of each meter on the CFD2 system
- Plans to repair or replace known issues delayed by PFAS emergency and weather conditions
    - Steve will share the last his records and work to update as soon as feasible
    - Replacement meters cost approx. $160-180 each
- Discussion re status of replaced meter at Strong Farm. Unclear if water consumption is being correctly captured by meter at pump house.
    - Norm will reach out to the Strongs to inquire

Action Items

1. Paula will follow-up with D&K again re how she can minimize any paperwork that D&K needs to do on our behalf (and therefore save on D&K billable time)
2. Nicole to look into any stray water bottles at Sterling
3. Christina will help arrange for Asset Management Plan meeting in Craftsbury
4. Paula will reach out to Consolidated Communications re bill for pole use
5. Steve will share his records/list of the operational status of each CFD2 customer
6. Norm will contact the Strongs re water meter status on farm
7. George will hand-deliver any announcements to customers without email

Next Meeting

A Special Meeting will be held on Monday, March 21, at 5:30 pm.

Agenda:

- Changes/Additions to the Agenda
- Presentation by Dubois & King: findings and recommendations re potential new source well sites

Zoom Log-in:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/7708091571