

**Executive Director Report by Jim Mueller
July 27, 2022 Board Meeting**

1) Operational Issues

Led by Bob Lorfink in the Pumping Department, PVWC's contractor, Siemens, completed the inspection, testing, calibration, and maintenance of the electrical systems at the following Remote Pump Stations.

1. Botany Pump Station
2. Lodi Pump Station
3. Prospect Park Pump Station
4. New Street Pump Station
5. Lincoln Park Pump Station
6. Burhans Avenue Pump Station
7. Great Falls Pump Station
8. Great Notch Pump Station

Issues such as failed circuit breakers and/or motor problems with equipment were addressed immediately. Longer term repair work will be identified in the contractors final inspection report and follow-up work will be scheduled as needed. This project is the first testing work at these sites for the past 12 years.

Lisa Bresemann in the Purchasing Department is working to transition the department from paper to paperless, beginning with the business registration certificates for each vendor, in addition to all newly executed contracts.

2) Organizational Highlights – Succession Planning

The Director positions approved by the Board in February and March 2022 are all posted with the current status provided in the table below.

| Position | Status |
|---|---|
| Director, Organizational Development and Human Resources (ODHR) | The top candidate, Otto Garcia started July 5, 2022. |
| Director, Laboratory and Water Quality (LWQ) | The top candidate Jennifer Loudon will start August 1, 2022. |
| Director, Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) | The top candidate has accepted the offer and is in the process of going through the pre-employment process. |
| Director, Information Technology (IT) | Interviews concluded – recommendation will be covered in closed session. |
| Director, Communications and Intergovernmental Coordination (CIC) | Search process is ongoing. |

As part of the succession planning process I will continue to work with Department Heads to identify key assistant roles to create a deep bench of talent that can be developed over time to make PVWC more robust and address current organizational gaps.

3) Regulatory Issues

EPA's Health Advisories for PFOA, PFOS, GenX Chemicals, and PFBS (Excerpt from EPA Fact Sheet)
Based on new data and EPA's draft analyses, the levels at which negative health effects could occur are much lower than previously understood when EPA issued the 2016 health advisories for PFOA and PFOS

– including near zero for certain health effects. These new health advisory levels are below the levels at which analytical methods can measure PFOA and PFOS. The minimum reporting levels for measuring these contaminants are in Table 1. The EPA Science Advisory Board is reviewing EPA’s analyses, and therefore, these interim health advisory levels are subject to change. However, EPA does not anticipate changes that will result in health advisory levels that are greater than the minimum reporting levels.

| Summary of the Four Health Advisories | Lifetime Health Advisory Level/Value (parts per trillion or ppt) | Minimum Reporting Level ₁ (ppt) |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|
| Chemical | | |
| PFOA | 0.004 (Interim) | 4 |
| PFOS | 0.02 (Interim) | 4 |
| GenX Chemicals | 10 (Final) | 5 |
| PFBS | 2,000 (Final) | 3 |

The Executive Director and operational and lab staff met and reviewed data on these chemicals in terms of existing treatment performance. Additional coordination meetings were held with other NJ water providers to discuss implications and strategies. The preliminary conclusion from the data review and discussions are that meeting any future limits based on the proposed health advisories would require major treatment upgrades. We are continuing to track the issue and work with other providers and professional organizations like AWWA to strategize on solutions.

4) Delinquent Accounts

The shutoff moratorium was lifted on March 15, 2022 and since that time PVWC has signed on as part of the Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (status details are provided in the section below). PVWC has developed a shut-off strategy targeting non-residential accounts first since the LIHWAP program is just rolling out. We are working with the owner cities on messaging to the non-residential entities in regards to starting shut-offs. Since the moratorium has been lifted 161 payment plans have been entered into totaling over \$340,000.

5) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

The State has received our LIHWAP membership agreement and a coordination call is scheduled for July 28th to walk through program logistics and roll out.

6) Communications and Intergovernmental Coordination

a) Meetings were held with the Mayor’s and key staff of the owner Cities and Prospect Park on the dates listed below.

- Passaic July 7, 2022 @ 11:30am
- Clifton July 7, 2022 @ 2:00pm
- Paterson July 14, 2022 @ 11:30am
- Prospect Park July 14, 2022 @ 4:00pm

The program logistics were reviewed including funding, timelines and coordination needed from the cities. It was well received and we are following up on more detailed meetings to work through program details including communications, permitting and mobilization strategies.

b) We continue to communicate with the communities regarding the lifting of the shut-off moratorium including notes on monthly and quarterly bills, notes on delinquent notices, postcards sent to all postal patrons, bill stuffers and website/social media communications.