

Executive Director Report by Jim Mueller
October 26, 2022
Board Meeting

1) Operational Issues

Planned Plant Shutdown: On the night of **October 4th** the Little Falls Water Plant was shutdown hydraulically to facilitate the following work:

- 1) Link Seal removal/replacement in conduit located within overpass performed by **PVWC Maintenance**.

While the plant is shutdown PVWC Engineering and IT departments performed other needed work during the shutdown in the following areas:

- 2) Chemical building pipe and valve replacement performed by CRJ Contracting under direction of **PVWC Engineering**.
- 3) Abandon damaged fiber optic cable and reroute data performed by **PVWC IT**.
- 4) Replacement of F-AB PLC performed by JMP under direction of **PVWC IT** in collaboration with the **PVWC Purification**.
- 5) Update existing CISCO RTU and Core switches performed by **PVWC IT**.
- 6) Misc. "Low Impact" RTU work performed by JMP under direction of **PVWC IT**.

All work was successfully performed under a coordinated incident command structure and the plant was put back in operation by noon October 5th.

NJDWSC Water Main Break: On Wednesday **October 5th**, PVWC was notified that there was large main break on North Jersey District Water Supply Commission (NJDWSC) 74" water main in Nutley. This break also impacted Newark's water main located near the NJDWSC main break. As a result, PVWC began supply water to Kearny, Cedar Grove, and parts of Montclair and expanded to include parts of Bloomfield. At its peak PVWC was supplying 13MGD of water to these other towns and worked closely throughout the incident to resolve various water pressure issues encountered over time. The extended incident lasted through **October 14th** when NJDWSC had verified the line was back in service and was disinfected. PVWC slowly began scaling back flows to the towns over the next several days as NJDWSC ramped up its flow distribution. PVWC staff in Pumping, Engineering, Distribution, Maintenance and Purification worked tirelessly throughout the extended incident to ensure our baseline PVWC system needs were met while supporting neighboring towns impacted by the break.

2) Organizational Highlights – Succession Planning

New Hires: The following staff have joined PVWC since January 2022. Going forward we will introduce new hires at Board meetings after they have started.

| # | Name | Start Date | # | Name | Start Date |
|----|------------------|------------|----|---------------------|------------|
| 1 | Adam Jacek | 1/10/2022 | 11 | Nicolas DiVirgilio | 5/16/2022 |
| 2 | Alexander Ortiz | 1/3/2022 | 12 | Mark Napolitano | 6/13/2022 |
| 3 | Lance Dreher | 1/10/2022 | 13 | Otto Garcia | 7/5/2022 |
| 4 | James Mueller | 2/7/2022 | 14 | Christopher Polanco | 8/1/2022 |
| 5 | Peter Kania | 1/31/2022 | 15 | Dante Guerriero | 8/1/2022 |
| 6 | Trevis Muckle | 2/14/2022 | 16 | Sherrri Burgess | 7/25/2022 |
| 7 | Corey A. Parker | 4/4/2022 | 17 | Jennifer Loudon | 8/1/2022 |
| 8 | Gabrielle Roman | 3/21/2022 | 18 | Maximo Vasquez | 8/1/2022 |
| 9 | Jimmie Smith | 3/28/2022 | 19 | Niccolle Carroll | 8/15/2022 |
| 10 | Brianna Martinez | 4/11/2022 | 20 | Landy Ducheine | 9/6/2022 |
| | | | 21 | Brandon Fuld | 9/12/2022 |

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 started August 1, 2022. |
| Director, Environmental Health and Safety (EHS) | The top candidate, Brandon Fuld , started September 12, 2022. |
| Director, Information Technology (IT) | The top candidate, Landy Ducheine , started September 6, 2022. |
| Director, Communications and Intergovernmental Coordination (CIC) | Search process is ongoing. |

Distribution: In September Jeff Baig, General Supervisor Water serving as Department Head of Distribution, informed me that he would be retiring imminently. Jeff has served PVWC loyally and performed great things for the company over his 31 years of service. While I wish Jeff well in his future endeavors below is a summary of the plan to cover the needs in Distribution while I look to find a new Department Head for Distribution.

- General Supervisor Water
 - ODHR will post for this position internally and externally to seek qualified candidates
 - Until the vacancy is filled Mike Marotta and Joe Aldighieri will work with existing Distribution staff to monitor payroll, workload distribution and productivity
 - Dominick Ferry and Mark Romain are already under contract for operational support and both will fill a larger role in day-to-day operations including work planning, standard operating procedures and troubleshooting system issues
- Assistant General Supervisor Water
 - ODHR called for a civil service test for this title and are awaiting for that process to start
 - Robert Healey and Steve Sateary will be promoted provisionally into these positions until a list is established – both have 37 years experience with PVWC and are experts on distribution operations
- Water Repairer Supervisor
 - Charlie Mills – promote to permanent Water Repairer Supervisor of meter department
 - Christian Luciano – temporarily assign (TA) to Water Repairer Supervisor due to extensive workload on Franklin Santana
- Laborer – transfer Lee Roy Jones from Maintenance to Distribution, 2nd shift to cover off hour calls and emergencies
 - Post for other Laborer vacancies in various Distribution sections as needed
- Inspector – transfer Gary Robinson to Engineering to work with other inspectors

3) Regulatory Issues

EPA’s Health Advisories for PFOA, PFOS, GenX Chemicals, and PFBS

Post Brook System:

The PVWC temporary treatment system to remove PFOS was commissioned and put into service on August 16, 2022. The temporary treatment system is working and successfully removing PFOS. Initial lab testing shows a PFOS result of 34 ppt (parts per trillion) before treatment (greater than the MCL of 13 ppt). The PFOS result after treatment is less than 1.9 ppt which is below the MCL of 13 ppt. Based on the stellar performance of the facility, PVWC is working with NJDEP to classify the system as a permanent system while a second treatment phase is being designed for manganese removal anticipated to be operational in 2025.

Hydrant Usage

Each owner city and most retail cities have existing ordinances that prohibit hydrant usage by unauthorized people. PVWC staff and city staff are the only exceptions. We have caught a contractor on the hydrants and suspect many more of utilizing hydrants to support street paving work and other water intensive construction activities. PVWC strongly suspects that wide-spread unauthorized access to hydrants and misuse has led to numerous discolored water issues as well as a summertime spike in water main breaks. Awareness of the detrimental impacts of hydrant use and enforcement of existing ordinances prohibiting such use is imperative to protect the integrity of the existing distribution system and our customers.

Lead service Line Replacement Status:

The contract with Pacific Construction (Contract 22-B-8) started in July 2022 and the contract with CDM-Smith for CM and service line inspections began in the Spring. The overall program is estimated at \$36M and we have received 77% principal forgiveness (\$27M) from the NJ I-Bank. Work has begun in Prospect Park and Passaic – work will start imminently in Paterson and Clifton. An overall status on replacements is summarized below and will be updated monthly.

| Lead Service Line Tracking Summary | | | | | |
|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|---------------|
| | CLIFTON | PASSAIC | PATERSON | PROSPECT PARK | TOTAL |
| Replacements | | | | | |
| Contract 22-B-8 | 1,844 | 1,142 | 3,686 | 89 | 6,761 |
| <i>Replaced Lead Service Lines</i> | - | 6 | - | 75 | 81 |
| <i>Completed Pavement Restoration</i> | - | - | - | 3 | 3 |
| <i>Pending Pavement Restoration</i> | - | 1 | - | 10 | 11 |
| <i>Completed Lawn Restoration</i> | - | - | - | 17 | 17 |
| <i>Pending Lawn Restoration</i> | - | 6 | - | 51 | 57 |
| NON LEAD | 18,189 | 5,867 | 17,911 | 907 | 42,874 |
| Total | 23,315 | 8,839 | 24,704 | 1,165 | 58,023 |

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. Since the moratorium has been lifted 161 payment plans have been entered into totaling over \$340,000.

We began shutoffs of non-residential accounts on 8/22/22. Through 9/2/22 we collected \$132,600 from delinquent accounts either through full payment or agreement to payment plans. Due to discolored

water issues in several zones in Clifton from 8/26/22 to 9/12/22, Distribution staff were diverted from shutoffs to hydrant flushing. On October 4, 2022 non-residential shutoffs resumed with an additional \$30,000 collected through 10/13/22 either as lump sum payments or through payment plans.

The Executive Director will work with Mike Marotta (until a new Dept Head is selected for Distribution) and other staff to develop and execute a shut-off strategy to facilitate recovery of delinquent payments.

A summary of current delinquent accounts (**including current and 30-60 day balances of \$2.1M on already delinquent accounts**) by type is shown below:

| Retail System - Delinquent Account Summary | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Account Type | \$ | % \$ | # Accounts | % Accounts | \$/Account |
| Residential | \$ 7,056,851 | 50% | 7,726 | 78% | \$ 913.39 |
| Small Commercial-< 2' | \$ 3,339,468 | 24% | 1,591 | 16% | \$ 2,098.97 |
| Fireline | \$ 1,900,992 | 14% | 243 | 2% | \$ 7,823.01 |
| Commercial-up to 6" mtr | \$ 955,052 | 7% | 257 | 3% | \$ 3,716.15 |
| Industrial- 6" & above | \$ 717,663 | 5% | 67 | 1% | \$ 10,711.38 |
| Municipal | \$ 63,828 | 0.5% | 38 | 0.4% | \$ 1,679.69 |
| Total | \$ 14,033,855 | 100% | 9,922 | 100% | \$ 1,414.42 |

5) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

We have been communicating regularly with the NJ Department of Community Affairs and to date they have provided \$22,057 of payments for 36 customers. We will continue to work with the State and owner cities to get the word out locally about this opportunity.

6) Communications and Intergovernmental Coordination

- a) Mayoral quarterly status meetings have been scheduled including key staff of each owner city and other retail cities. Our first meetings occurred this month per the schedule below. The meeting agenda covered the lead service line replacement program status, unauthorized hydrant access/misuse, LIHWAP and shutoffs.
 - a. Clifton 10/11/22
 - b. Passaic 10/18/22
 - c. Prospect Park 10/24/22
 - d. Paterson 10/25/22
- b) A press event is planned for Nov 3rd or 4th to kick-off the lead service line replacement program for the owner cities. All Commissioners will be invited. Other invited guests will be the Mayors, Congressman Pascrell, Asm. Schaer, NJDEP Commissioner LaTourette among speakers
- c) 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.