

Water Pollution Control Authority 2022-2023

I would like to thank our outgoing Chairman Rich Ramondetta for his many years of service and his leadership in running the WPCA. We would also like to thank Ken Russell for his many years of service as a Board Member. Their departure left two open positions; we finally filled them by the end of Summer. I would like to thank Abe Krist for his help in identifying one of the candidates. The two positions were filled by Angelo Chrysoulakis and Andrew Stifel.

As we entered our thirteenth year of operation, we were faced with a lot of operational issues we needed to address.

In June we ordered two (2) control panels, one to replace the panel on Stanhope. The second panel we ordered will serve as backup for either Boat Basin or our Central Station. The Stanhope panel was replaced in October and the backup panel was delivered in January. The cost for the panels (\$20,000.00) was paid out of our reserve account.

During the month of June, we experienced a reduction of our outgoing flow from our Central pumping station. Our flow was reduced from 240 gpm's (gallons per minute) to 140 gpm's. Our pressure in the pipes also increased, which is attributed to some resistance in our line. Entering July we had our outgoing sewer line pumped from our Central pumping station. After we uploaded 5,000 gallons of fluid our contractor found a large clot from the line. Our flow increased back to our normal flow. In September we again had a decrease in gpm's. We pumped out another 5,000 gallons and our flow increased back to normal. All went well until January and February when our flow decreased to 120 gpm's. A plan was put in place to pump out our entire one and a half mile (1 ½) line of 12,680 gallons on March 10. The line was pumped in three sections along with pumping and cleaning out our wet well. To date our gallons per minute and pressure in out lines are back to normal. Our board members will continue to monitor daily flows.

We had a pump failure at our Stanhope station in August and discovered the root cause of the pump failure was due to a resident who had flushed a sanitary or diaper into our system. The pump was replaced immediately with a new pump we had in storage. We were able to have the pump rebuilt at a cost of \$ 5,000.00 not including labor. The cost of a new pump is \$ 9,500.00. It is important we follow our **DO NOT FLUSH GUIDELINES**. The Board decided from the failure at the Stanhope station to create a spreadsheet to identify which homes feed each station with either a grinder pump or are gravity flow. Our Board member Angelo took on the project and went through our As-Builds and Old Lyme property map. This project was completed in October.

On November 10th, I received a phone call from our Evoqua Account Manager, stating Corporate is evaluating every operation that is not profitable and POW is one of those operations. The result will be a substantial increase, or they will no longer be able to service us. WPCA signed a two year(2) agreement on December 15, 2020. We received notification on December 15, Evoqua will not provide us with a Full-Service Contract, due to economic changes, chemical increase, trucking cost and their decision not to sustain smaller accounts. It was agreed Evoqua would keep the equipment in place until the Bioxide ran out. We immediately notified East Lyme of Evoqua's decision. Evoqua also provides services to EL and Waterford. We scheduled a meeting for December 29, 2022 with East Lyme WPCA. Present at the meeting from POW was Angelo Chrysoulakis, Bud Phelps, and myself. We proposed three (3) options to EL in our dosing to them. All three options were not viable to EL, basically

controlling our dosing and keeping our H2S levels between 0 and 5 ppm's was our responsibility. I immediately started to look for companies that could provide computerized pumps, dosing skid, control panel and our 1,000-gallon double wall tank. During January we met with three vendors who could provide us with the pumps, dosing skid and tank, excluding the control panel. The vendors gave us a timeline of 8-12 weeks or up to 6 months for the equipment. A vendor in Massachusetts could provide us with the pumps and dosing skid around 8 weeks and a company in Florida could build a control panel in approximately 8 weeks. The tank would take 16 plus weeks, this would take too long.

We had a special meeting on January 24, 2023, to approve the allocation of \$ 30,000 for the equipment. The money for the purchase would be funded from our reserve fund.

I contacted our Evoqua Acct Mgr. and EL were contacted with the length of time for the tank. Evoqua was experiencing the same time frame. In February Evoqua made an agreement to let us keep the tank and provide us the H2S monitoring. I signed a one-year (1) contract with Evoqua starting March 31, 2023 for the Bioxide and H2S monitor.

During February and March, Angelo spent countless hours documenting, and blue printing all the connections from the Bioxide tank to the dosing skid. Tracing all the electrical wires from the control panel to the pumps. Angelo also created a program to control our pumps remotely along with a communication feed from Rockwell. Angelo, with his technical ability, saved us thousands of dollars. Many thanks to Angelo.

Our Bioxide dosing will be completed during the week of April 24, 2023.

During the month of January our community experienced higher than normal water table due to storm surges and high tides. With the majority of our seasonal and snowbirds gone for the winter, we usually generate a daily flow rate between 7-8k gallons per day. After the first week of January and through the last week, we experienced daily flow rates up to 35K gallons per day. These rates are the same level we have during the summer season. The only scenario to this high volume is that water is entering our closed system through homeowners use of sump pumps or funneling their gutter flow into our lines. This added volume creates unexpected costs to us. Any homeowner who is illegally discharging into our system must stop immediately. If we find the homeowners who continue this practice they will be subject to reimbursing the WPCA for the added cost of Bioxide and Sewer expense to EL.

I would like to thank our Board members Angelo Chrysoulakis, Andrew Stifel, Dick Hrinak, Bill Griffin, Bud Phelps, our Treasurer Helen Francis, Secretary Joan Lanzo, for their dedication in attending meetings and handling assigned tasks. We would like to thank our part-time technicians Rick Fascarelli, and Tom Cretens for handling WPCA issues.

I am hoping everyone will be able to enjoy a safe and trouble-free summer at our special place as we enter through our underpass.

Thank you,

Will Szeszakow

Chairman

Point O' Woods-WPCA