

A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS OF MANCHESTER WATER DISTRICT

May 26, 2004

SPECIAL MEETING – Chairman Steve Pedersen called a Special Meeting of the Board of Commissioners to order at 5:10 p.m. Present were Chairman Steve Pedersen, Secretary Jim Strode, and Commissioner Kyle Galpin. Staff present included Alan Fletcher, General Manager, and Dennis O'Connell, Operations Supervisor. Others present included Paul Gilligan, P.E., RH2 Engineers, and George Herbison, customer.

- 1.0 **Open Meeting.** Chairman Steve Pedersen explained that the purpose of the meeting was to review a proposed Water Quality Improvement Plan for the southerly service area and to discuss chlorination of the area due to its sampling history.

- 2.0 **Review and Discussion of Water Quality Improvement Plan: Chlorination of the Southerly Service Area.** Staff presented an overview of the water system, pointing out those areas of the system that are currently chlorinated and those that are not. Of particular note is the southerly service area, generally south of Mile Hill Drive, including South Colby, Harper, and Southworth that are served by Wells No. 3, 5, 8, and 9. The District's sampling history since 2000 was illustrated, particularly the south area, which accounted for all of the 14-unsatisfactory samples the District has experienced since 2000. While unsatisfactory samples are not an indication of actual contamination, they are an indicator that something in the system is not working right. Also, that an unsatisfactory sample does not immediately translate into a non-acute violation, as repeat samples in most cases were satisfactory. Possible explanations to unsatisfactory samples are sampling error and sample site conditions; bacterial growth in the piping, known as bio-film; and/or bacterial growth in reservoir tanks as well as tank contamination caused by pollen or other organic matter accumulating. The District's raw water quality (as assessed at the well head) remains excellent, showing no problems whatsoever.

Paul Gilligan, RH2 Engineers, and staff discussed regulatory issues surrounding water quality and the Department of Health's (DOH) interest in detecting various kinds of bacteria and where federal and state regulation dictate how many unsatisfactory samples a system may experience before a regulatory action-level is reached. Once a threshold of 4-non-acute violations occurs in a year's period, system-wide chlorination would be mandated. The District currently has experienced 2 non-acute violations (a 3rd non-acute violation is under DOH review), putting us very close to an action-level and mandatory system-wide disinfection.

Staff reaffirmed the District's primary mission, and commitment, for ensuring an adequate supply of clean safe drinking water. When considering the growing pattern and number of unsatisfactory samples since 2000, staff is convinced that a reasonable course of action is to add a barrier of protection against potential contamination by injecting trace amounts of chlorine into the southerly service area. Such action could prevent further violations and DOH mandates. Chlorine is the most common method of disinfection in Washington State and is recognized as the most efficient and cost effective way to disinfect drinking water. DOH advocates chlorination for disinfection and DOH is supportive of the District's proposal to chlorinate the southerly service area.

The proposed Water Quality Improvement Plan includes:

1. Submitting a written plan to DOH for approval. Also, follow up testing and analysis to further establish base-line water quality.
2. Public notice will be achieved by direct mail to all customers. The notice would be included in the District's annual Consumer Confidence Report to reduce costs. Press releases will be sent to *The PO Independent* and *The Sun*.
3. Equipment installation and calibration using the portable tablet chlorinator. Once chlorination is on-line, staff would perform follow up testing and analysis to monitor system residuals and customer responses.
4. Increase testing and monitoring of the system including Heterotrophic Plate Count (HPC) testing. Also, additional testing to help determine the systems vulnerability to creating any disinfection by-products (DBP), although, DBPs do not typically occur in ground water systems.
5. Regular reports to the Board of Commissioners and DOH regarding water quality and the effectiveness of the Water Quality Improvement Plan.
6. Holding a public forum to provide public education and garner public input.

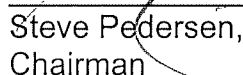
Staff explained their preference in having an on-going program that can be phased in over time thereby allowing time for public notice and education. Observing that any more unsatisfactory tests could put us at an action-level, where DOH would mandate corrective action and time-lines.

The Board discussed how long to chlorinate, noting that an on-going program is preferred and would provide District customers with best protection and a more reliable water system. General time-lines were discussed, with actual chlorination probably beginning within the next few weeks.

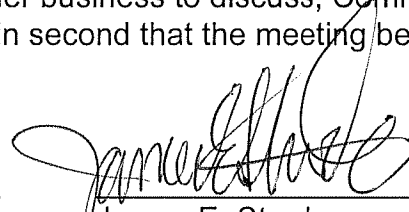
George Herbison, a customer and water quality professional, voiced support for system chlorination and confidence that the District was managing its water quality in a responsible and professional manner.

3.0* **Approval of Water Quality Plan.** Acknowledging the prior discussion and the importance of maintaining an active barrier against potential contamination of the water system, Commissioner Galpin moved to approve the proposed Water Quality Improvement Plan: Chlorination of the Southerly Service Area, which includes the areas of South Colby, Harper, and Southworth. Commissioner Strode seconded. **The motion was unanimously approved.**

4.0 There being no further business to discuss, Commissioner Strode moved and Commissioner Galpin second that the meeting be adjourned at 6:15 p.m. **The motion carried.**



Steve Pedersen,
Chairman



James E. Strode,
Secretary



Kyle D. Galpin,
Commissioner