

## Lost Lake Sewer Committee Minutes

July 18, 2013

Present: Dr. Horowitz, Board of Health; Thomas D. Orcutt, Water/Sewer Superintendent; John G. Petropoulos, Selectman;

Guests: Eileen Pannetier and Jessica Cajigas of Comprehensive Environmental Incorporated

### New Business

- I. Mr. Petropoulos noted that he had hoped to have candidates for the open position on the Committee available to meet with the Committee tonight but that schedules would not allow. He asked the Committee if they would prefer to meet the candidates in order to provide feedback to the Board. Ms. Horowitz indicated that she did not believe that it was the Committee's place to make such a recommendation. Mr. Orcutt indicated that he had read the background of one of the candidate's credentials and that he had met the other candidate (Mr. Garger) and needed no further information. Mr. Petropoulos indicated that he would like to meet the candidates and that it was common for groups to make a recommendation to the Board for open positions. He stated that he hoped that he could arrange to have candidates meet the Committee prior to the Board of Selectmen making an appointment.
- II. Representatives Eileen Pannetier and Jessica Cajigas of Comprehensive Environmental Incorporated (CEI) were in attendance to present an update on the progress of testing to date and to discuss options for additional testing that would provide additional data to the Committee.
  - i. Current testing status:
  - b. Trying to get Lake water testing scheduled. The testing will involve 3 components and will attempt to replicate the locations tested in the '89 test to the greatest extent possible.
    - i. Pore Water test (21) which will take samples from roughly 2 to 3 feet below the bottom (below sediment layer).
    - ii. Sediment test (4) which will take samples from sediment.
    - iii. Surface water (6) which will take samples from 2 to 3 feet below the water surface.
  - c. Began testing 6 private well samples collected last week. Well locations were selected by attempting to replicate the private well sampling that was done in the '89 study in order to provide some measure of consistency. Mr. Orcutt accompanied Ms. Cajigas during the sampling.
- III. Ms Pannetier was asked to describe Pore Water testing. She described the sampling process and its history. She indicated that it was included in the current scope of work

because it was part of the Woodard and Curran (W&C) proposal which they (CEI) were asked to replicate. Ms. Pannetier indicated that it is a relatively uncommon test and that CEI was not familiar with it. She noted that its value was uncertain. Results could be confounding especially as a one time test rather than as a series of samples collected over time. She indicated that the results could be backed up with a volumetric desktop analysis that would model the results against environmental changes that have occurred since the '89 tests.

Ms. Pannetier indicated that the advocate of Pour Water testing "it gives you the contribution of septic systems". Ms Pannetier noted that in '89 Pore Water tests were done once and surface and sediment testing was done over time. In fact the '89 study was one of many such studies conducted throughout the state.

IV. CEI reviewed their proposal for additional testing which totaled \$58,890 and broke down into 2 general areas with 2 additional line items:

- i. Desktop modeling of existing data
- ii. Testing of ground and surface water along Martin's Pond Brook up stream past the proposed Sewer District. Ms. Pannetier indicated that 50% of the contaminants and the volume coming into the Lake come from the Brook. The Committee spent considerable time reviewing this testing proposal. Indeed this test had been requested of W&C by Mr. Petropoulos prior to the town '11 Fall Town Meeting but was determined by W&C to not be useful at the time. The Committee was satisfied that the proposed testing would yield valuable results on the contribution of various sources along Martin's Pond Brook to the contaminants that ultimately are measured at the junction of the Brook and the Pond.

This testing will use piezometers which will be placed in the soil to collect water samples and levels over time. They will use data loggers to provide minute by minute data which will help to smooth out events that might confound manually collected data. Piezometers will also help to determine how the actual watershed works in terms of water flow. Piezometers should be installed as soon as possible in order to take advantage of the seasonal changes in groundwater that are about to take place. CEI indicated that roughly 50% of the water coming in to the lake came through Martin's Pond Brook. Mr. Orcutt noted that the DEP had been doing work measuring the quality of Martin's Pond Brook and that the outcome of their work indicated that the water quality had improved since the last testing. This change had an impact on the Town's ability to access State funds for Storm Water Management (Check this with Tom and Michelle).

- iii. Reviewing the Watershed. (CEI felt that the watershed as currently delineated may be inaccurate). Mr. Orcutt indicated that he would redraw the Watershed and submit to CEI for approval. This line item (roughly \$1900) would be removed from the scope of work)
- iv. Report write up and presentation at Town Meeting. Mr. Petropoulos pointed out that the current scope of work included report write up and presentation at

Town Meeting. Ms. Pannetier indicated that CEI would adjust this line item to reflect the overlap (roughly \$7,600).

- V. CEI indicated their interest in checking the water tests from recent Real Estate transactions. This would provide nitrate and bacteria data from home sales. They were also interested in seeing failed septic data as well as failed well data. Some discussion ensued on how to access this data. It was agreed that some amount of failed well data had already been collected by W&C. Mr. Orcutt was to find that available data and make it available to CEI
- VI. Mr. Petropoulos asked the Committee how they would like to proceed. Mr. Orcutt and Ms. Horwitz were prepared to vote on the proposed additional scope of work. Mr. Petropoulos asked if the Committee would be comfortable deliberating the proposal without CEI present. The Committee agreed. CEI was thanked for their report and the time that they took to describe their proposal. They left the meeting. Mr. Petropoulos indicated that he was in favor of much of the testing but that this was a lot of money to spend and that he would prefer to hear from Mr. Prager prior to making the commitment. Ms. Horwitz indicated that she wanted to proceed immediately, citing the need to move forward due to seasonal groundwater changes. Mr. Orcutt agreed with Ms. Horwitz.
- VII. Ms. Horwitz made a motion to: “Approve the proposal by CEI for additional scope of services minus task #3 (redefining the watershed) pending the availability of sufficient funds. Tasks # 1 and 2 can be deferred should scope need to be reduced.” Mr. Orcutt seconded the motion. The motion carried with 2 in favor (Orcutt and Horwitz) and one abstained (Petropoulos). Mr. Petropoulos clarified his abstention as feeling that a vote of this size should not proceed without input from Mr. Prager.
- VIII. Ms. Horwitz indicated that the hour was late and asked to defer review of the last 2 meeting minutes to the next session.
- IX. The Committee approved W&C spending for 1/13/13 through 5/13/13 but wanted a revised invoice for 5/18/13 through 6/28/13 to reflect deductions for costs associated with internal W&C personnel changes.
- X. The next meeting was scheduled for August 1. The meeting with the Board of Health was scheduled for August 5.

### **Action Items**

- I. Redraw the Watershed and provide to CEI for review: Mr. Orcutt
- II. Provide well and septic failure data to CEI: Mr. Orcutt
- III. Request that additional ‘known obligations’ information is provided on the regular budget report: Mr. Petropoulos
- IV. Provide signed authorizations to pay W&C for the 1/13/13 to 5/13/13 invoice to the Town Manager: Mr. Orcutt
- V. Indicate a need for revised invoice for 5/18/13 to 6/28/13: Mr. Petropoulos
- VI. Request Town Manager to negotiate additional services with CEI consistent with the motion made by Ms. Horwitz.