

**Safe Water Advisory Group (SWAG) A City Council Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, December 7, 2022 from 6:30 – 8 pm. Pease Water Treatment Facility and via Zoom**

Attending in person: Brian Goetz, co-chair; Councilor Vince Lombardi, Asst. Andrea Amico, co-chair, Elizabeth Barrett (School Board representative succeeding Hope Van Epps), Katrie Hillman, Via Zoom: Rich DiPentima, Hope Van Epps. Staff: Al Pratt, Tim Green, Pease Water Treatment Facility Operations Foreman, Stephanie Seacord (recording secretary)

Co-chair Andrea Amico welcomed SWAG members to the fourth meeting of 2022, introducing Elizabeth Barrett and thanking Hope Van Epps for her service. Hope has agreed to continue working with the Lead Subcommittee.

Full SWAG meeting recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DJ-MUE8Bpls>

Minutes: Brian moved and Katrie seconded the approval of the August minutes. Approved unanimously.

Tour: The main focus of this SWAG meeting was a tour of the Pease Water Treatment Facility. For those unable to attend, a virtual tour is available on the City website: <https://youtu.be/02PMHbC0W7A>

Highlights in addition to a review of the filtering process covered the performance of the filtering media and the schedule for replacement. The City has initiated a pilot project at Pease to compare the performance and cost of 4 different resins and is developing conceptual plans for additional treatment, if necessary, once the EPA provides more information on its PFOA/PFOS guidance.

Water Supply Update: Co-chair, DPW Deputy Director Brian Goetz provided a Water Supply Update for Q3 through November 2022 noting the drought recovery and the ability to continue to meet demand thanks to the surface water supply and the blending of the three well sources available – coupled with conservation efforts and protection of Bellamy Reservoir assets.

Lead Testing (Subcommittee: Hope, Kim, Andrea and NH DHHS Beverly Drouin and Gail Gettens)
Rich DiPentima offered his assistance and 20 years' experience in Manchester Health Department.

There is no lead in the water in the Portsmouth Water System, however, the historic housing stock has the possibility of lead contamination from paint and indoor plumbing fixtures that may contain lead (including lead solder on galvanized pipes.)

City is proposing a \$2500 lead testing program in the FY24 budget – an opt-in program covering 100 samples. Once a lab is under contract with the City for testing the process would be:

- Customer requests a water test for lead
- City Water System confirms they are a Water customer
- Customer is notified and given instructions on taking the sample and lead FAQs
- Sample bottle is retrieved and delivered to the lab.
- Results are reported to the customer and City,
- Follow up by the City on the results to answer questions, retest if needed.

Questions remain: Will the program cover repeat sampling? Multiple sites at the same location?

Commercial/industrial locations? Coordination with School (CTE program), Inspection and Health Departments

Andrea asked the committee to consider these topics for the 2023 meetings:

SWAG Discussion of future meeting topics and goals

Potential SWAG Goals/Topics for 2022/2023:

- Community Drinking Water Forum - **done May 2022**
- Ongoing Legislative updates - **update received April 2022**
- Private well owner outreach in collaboration w/NH DES
- Coakley Landfill update
- Monitor emerging contaminants (potential short chain PFAS in City tap water, run off from artificial turf)
- Work with City staff to establish community resources and education on how to dispose of hazardous and PFAS containing products to prevent additional water contamination in our community
- Work with School department to provide education and engagement with students
- Implement a free lead water testing program in the City
- Legionnaires in water
- Discuss other potential sources of PFAS contamination in the City (car washes, solar panels, artificial turf, etc)

No comments from public. Adjourned at 8:07 pm

DRAFT