

Wayland Wastewater Management District Commission

FY 2016 Annual Report –Final v3

The Wayland Wastewater Management District Commission (WWMDC) operates a sewer system that serves business and residential properties along Route 20 from Route 27 to the Town Center development. Wastewater discharged into the system flows to a treatment plant located on Town-owned property within the Town Center development. The treated wastewater is discharged to the Sudbury River.

Wastewater Treatment Facility: The contract for daily operation of the Wayland Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) came due for re-bidding in August. The request for proposal issued by the WWMDC drew only one response, from Whitewater—the current plant operator. The contract was renewed with Whitewater for a one-year term, with an option for two one-year renewals.

The WWTF continued to operate with no significant operational issues in Fiscal Year 2016. There was no detected infiltration of groundwater into the WWMDC system in FY2016. While the plant did continue to experience an elevated number of operational alarms related to tank levels within the plant, the number of calls declined in comparison to FY2015. In an annual review meeting with Whitewater, the plant operator, the WWMDC reiterated the need to take remedial action to address repeat problems quickly so as to reduce the number and cost of emergency calls.

Discharge Permits and System Usage: The WWTF continues to operate under permits issued jointly by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The permits allow discharge of an annualized average limit of 52,000 gallons per day (GPD) into the Sudbury River. An application for renewal submitted on time in June 2013 seeks an increase in discharge capacity to 80,000 GPD. As of June 2016, the application remains pending with the EPA.

In FY2016, the average discharge from the plant rose to approximately 25,730 GPD, up about 15% from 22,430 GPD in FY2015. Growth in flow resulted from the continued completion and occupancy of commercial and residential buildings in the Town Center development. Flow is expected to continue to increase as the final planned buildings at the Town Center development are completed and occupied, although the average flow is expected to remain well below the current permitted limits.

Title 5 Allocations for Connected Users: Following the sale of the Town Center Development by Twenty Wayland LLC, the WWMDC undertook a review of Town Center Title 5 design flow allocations to determine if the flows assigned during the development's planning phase were still correct for the businesses that currently occupy the completed buildings. Due to the absence of a defined process for reviewing user allocations as well as a lack of clarity over jurisdictional responsibilities of the WWMDC, the Board of Health and the Building Department, no immediate action was taken. The WWMDC is working to revise its policies to provide for periodic reviews of assigned design flows, and ensuring that Title 5 standards are applied equitably to all connected users.

Available Capacity: The WWMDC identified 820 GPD of design flow available to be assigned to a user for a one-time cost, which would be based on the per gallon rate used to calculate betterment allocations. The owner of the Whole Food Plaza and the Town Library both expressed interest in purchasing this capacity. Eventually the design flow capacity was offered to the Library at a cost of \$56,000. An article to fund the purchase was included in the Annual Town Meeting warrant and approved by voters. As of the end of FY2016, the WWMDC and the Board of Selectmen had not yet set a date to complete the transfer agreement and payment.

Administration and Finances: Income for FY2016 was \$1,271,768. Of this amount \$504,268 represented betterment and interest payments, plus a \$500,671 contribution from the Town of Wayland as a “Payment in Lieu of Betterment” based on its share of usage of the WWTF. Operating income was \$257,233, and operating expenses were \$206,727.

The WWMDC developed a budget for FY2017 of \$743,412. This includes \$265,940 operating income and expenses, and \$477,472 capital expenses (bond and interest payments).

The Commission’s undesignated fund balance at the end of FY2016 was \$1,303,231, of which \$911,583 represents money collected to pay off the outstanding construction bonds and interest. At the end of FY 2016, the outstanding balance on the WTTF bonds was \$4,767,285.

The WWMDC voted to engage the Abrahams Group to review its financial management practices and to develop and automate standard monthly reporting. Additionally, the Abrahams Group was asked to evaluate the sufficiency of funds available to pay off bonds, to model a cash flow analysis over the lives of the bonds, as well as to examine the disposition of bond proceeds to quantify any leftover uncommitted funds.

Commission Membership and Staffing: The Wastewater Management District Commission operated with full membership for all of FY2016: Fred Knight, Chair; Sam Potter; and Rick Greene. In July 2015, Jane Capasso was hired as the WWMDC’s part-time Account Specialist; over the course of FY2016, Jane succeeded in resolving a backlog of administrative issues, improve communications with other town departments, and bringing greater order to the Board’s financial reporting.

In the Spring of 2016, Town Administrator Nan Balmer met with the WWMDC to explore ideas for hiring a part-time Executive Administrator (estimated at 20% FTE) to manage day to day technical issues related to system operations. This proposal is still under review. Discussions were also held about potentially combining WWMDC operations with Wayland’s Water Enterprise Fund.