

Duluth/North Shore Sanitary District – Board of Managers

Meeting # 150 7:00 A.M July 17, 2012

French River Lutheran Church

Board Members Present: Kevin Bovee, Dean Korri, Scott Smith, Angela Braud
Board Members Absent: Katie Kuettel
Others Present: Mia Thibodeau, Eric Appelwick, Tom Pfeffer, John Fischer, Jerry Kortesmaki, Cathy Kortesmaki, Mary Ann Sironen, Randy Johnson

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:03 am by **K. Bovee**.
2. **Approve Agenda:**
 - I. **Motion** to approve Agenda as amended by **K. Bovee**. **Second** by **A. Braud**. **Motion** passed unanimously.
3. **Meeting Minutes:**
 - I. The minutes of the regular meeting # 149, June 17, 2012, **Motion** to approve the minutes by **S. Smith**. **Second** by **A. Braud**. **Motion** passed unanimously.
4. **Public Comment/Input:**
 - I. **Jerry Kortesmaki**, gravity sewer connection at 5231 North Shore Drive, stated his home experienced water backup in his basement while he was out of town on the evening of 6/19/12, morning of 6/20/12. **J. Kortesmaki** stated the water did not come from outside of the home that he could observe and after further inspection, he suspects water came up through the floor drain at a rapid rate. **E. Appelwick** explained the main lift station servicing Mr. Kortesmaki's home did not experience any high water levels or any scenarios that flow would have backed up from the main sewer line. Furthermore, he explained that other homes in the vicinity did not experience any backups, which would be typical if the main sewer lines are over capacity. **E. Appelwick** suggested that the floor drain leaving the house may have separated at the foundation allowing footing drain water to temporarily backup during the heavy rains. **E. Appelwick** recommended that the pipe leaving the house should be video inspected. **K. Bovee** asked if the water that backed up in the home smelled like sewage. **J. Kortesmaki** stated the water smelled musty but did not smell like sewage. **J. Kortesmaki** asked if the Knife River flow could have affected the amount of flow in the main sewer lines. **E. Appelwick** explained that the Knife River flow was isolated in their storage facility at the time and when it was pumped down, with the help of Knife River's operator, it was done in stages as to not affect D/NSSD. **D. Korri** recommended the operations committee further investigate back flow preventions and potential failures. **C. Kortesmaki** asked if there was any back flow prevention on their sewer line. **E. Appelwick** explained that it is a conventional gravity connection that does not have back flow prevention.
 - II. **Randy Johnson**, low pressure sewer connection at 9510 Congdon Blvd, stated during the rain event on June 19th and 20th he had water in his grinder tank that was higher than the elevation of his house, but it did not back up into the home. **E. Appelwick** stated he has observed properties where the water has been over the incoming pipe in the grinder basin and water backed up in the home. On other properties, the water will come out the top of the grinder before it will back up in the home. **R. Johnson** asked why so many alarms sound when a rain event occurs. **E. Appelwick** stated the alarms activate due to the pumps inability to pump against elevated pressures in the mainline, whether the water was introduced from the home or if it is infiltration of clear water. During the rain event, the main line that is associated with **R. Johnson's** home was over capacity due to clear water entering through other properties. Further inspection of **Mr. Johnson's** property and other properties on the three inch sewer line is scheduled to happen during the next rain event.

- III. **J. Fischer** stated he has been working on lobbying for more funds for D/NSSD for six years, but has not had any success yet.
 - IV. **M. Sironen** discussed NTS locating sewer lines for well locations. **E. Appelwick** stated that NTS located the lines for the Minnesota Department of Health. **M. Sironen** had several discussions with residents where the sewer line was located and asked that NTS let her know if any inspections happen in the future so residents can be E-mailed.
5. **Communications/Correspondence:**
K. Bovee received a letter dated July 6, 2012 from WLSSD regarding budget information. WLSSD's budget meeting is scheduled for September 10 at 4:00 P.M.
6. **Treasurer's Report: Scott Smith**
Payment Of Bills:
- I. **S. Smith** discussed bill back invoices. The Scenic Café has a bill back for cleaning sewer lines due to grease buildup. The Gardenwood has a bill back for services provided in relation to inflow and infiltration (I/I). 2401 Old North Shore Road bill back is being held until the video can be reviewed and the site is visited. **Motion** to bill back the Scenic Café and Gardenwood as recommended by **S. Smith**. **Second** by **D. Korri**. **Motion** passed unanimously. **M. Thibodeau** commented on the electrical repair at the Gardenwood. The District repaired the electrical conduit. Per the ordinance, the District is to notify the homeowner to fix the damage, if not repaired; the District has the right to fix the damage or fine daily. District waived the right to fine daily. The conduit fix was considered an emergency and was repaired by the District. **D. Korri** stated the restaurants should hire the contractors to clean the lines because the District is currently subsidizing the cleaning. **M. Thibodeau** to further research. **S. Smith** requested **M. Thibodeau** to research penalties for non-payment on delinquent bills.
 - II. **Motion** to pay bills as presented by **S. Smith** for \$46,244.91. **Second** by **D. Korri**. **Motion** passed unanimously.
 - III. **S. Smith** stated Knife River Larson Sanitary District is delinquent by the amount of \$16,344.80.
 - IV. **S. Smith** stated the \$423,962.37 payment to the PFA is due prior to next month's meeting. **Motion** by **S. Smith** to authorize payment to the PFA in the amount of \$423,962.37. **Second** by **A. Braud**. **Motion** passed unanimously.
7. **Legal Issues: Fryberger, Mia Thibodeau**
- I. **M. Thibodeau** stated she was contacted by Nancy Johnson of the PFA to submit a summary of costs that occurred to District property during the recent rain events. Seventy-five percent of the costs may be covered by FEMA and twenty-five percent may be covered by the state.
8. **Engineer's Report: Ayres and Associates, Tom Pfeffer**
- I. **T. Pfeffer** stated Ayres Associates performed on site inspection visits with Sandra Beck, Minnesota Department of Health (MDH) on July 10th. Eight properties were visited and the summary report states three sites meet the set back requirements and are compliant by the MDH. Two sites are within one and a half feet from compliance, MDH is looking into the possibility of granting variances to meet compliance. The final three sites setbacks are too close so action is required. Ayres Associates is waiting for a response from MDH before any action is taken. Ayres Associates will conduct further documentation of the properties by means of survey and drawings.
 - II. **T. Pfeffer** discussed the D/NSSD residential pumps near Knife River that are not able to properly pump effluent when Knife River is draining their retention tank. **E. Appelwick**

stated the pumps are dead heading against the increased pressures in the main line. **E. Appelwick** stated two long term options; the first is looking at increasing or changing the pumps that are affected. Another option is to program the Knife River retention tank to pump for two hours and stand idle for forty-five minutes, continue this cycle until normal conditions are sustained. **T. Pfeffer** will further investigate.

III. **T. Pfeffer** stated the base CAD drawing is now up-to-date. The individual maps are in a different coordinate system. New individual maps will be in the same coordinate system as the base map.

9. **Operations Committee: Dean Korri**

I. **D. Korri** reported on the increased flows due to the rain event. The Operations Committee will be meeting in August to discuss budget items.

10. **Operations Report: NTS, Eric Appelwick**

I. **E. Appelwick** stated 9638 Condgon Blvd. had an electrical conduit that leaked ground water during rain events. The conduit has been sealed by Electric Builders. The sewer line also was video inspected and presented evidence of I/I, however it is difficult to determine the source on the video.

II. **E. Appelwick** reported on the flow diagrams as they had to be adjusted from 0.35 MGD to 0.65 MGD to account for the increased flows experience during the June rain event.

III. **E. Appelwick** stated restaurant sampling was completed in the month of June. **E. Appelwick** stated sampling twice a year appears to be sufficient for documentation of the restaurants.

IV. **E. Appelwick** suspects the I/I at several homes is coming from the piping between the district connection and the piping exiting the home. **D. Korri** to address I/I concerns at the operations meeting.

V. **S. Smith** discussed the costs associated with Nachbar's property if a new connection is to take place. The connection cost, minus equipment and installation, is \$5,490 in 2012. **S. Smith** to draft a letter to the property owner.

11. **New Business: None.**

12. **Old Business: None.**

13. **Other: None.**

14. **Adjourn: Motion** to adjourn meeting by **K. Bovee**. **Second** by **A. Braud**. **Motion** passed unanimously at 8:52 A.M.

Minutes Approved by:


Chair

Date


Secretary

Date

Next Meeting Date: The next meeting will be held at 7:00 am at French River Lutheran Church on August 21, 2012.