

**Executive Director Report by Jim Mueller
May 25, 2022 Board Meeting**

1) Operational Issues

On Friday May 20, there was a water main break on the 51” main located near the intersection of Lower Notch Road and Lackawanna Ave in Woodland Park. Crews responded immediately from Distribution, Maintenance, Purification, Pumping and Engineering and coordinated an effective response to isolate the leaking section thereby eliminating the leak and redirect flow to minimize system impacts. Our contractor Montana Construction worked throughout the weekend supported by PVWC engineering and operations staff and the main was put back into service on Monday afternoon, May 23.

On Saturday, May 21, 2022, at 4:11pm Woodland Park Mayor Keith Kazmark notified me that the Woodland Park Police Department received a report of a juvenile missing in the Great Notch Reservoir. Woodland Park first responders, as well as NJ State Police, Passaic County Sheriff’s Department and Fire Departments from Paterson, Clifton, Wayne, Totowa and Hawthorne and PVWC staff responded. A search was conducted until nightfall and continued early this morning at 8:30 am.

Sunday May 22nd, at approximately 10:00 am, Passaic County Sheriff’s Department divers located the body of the 15-year-old Paterson resident. The investigation into what led to this tragic incident will continue in the coming days. Out of respect and privacy of the family we will not be releasing the name of the individual.

The Passaic Valley Water Commission family sends its deepest condolences to the family of the teenager. We thank all first responders who worked diligently and tirelessly during this tragic incident.

2) Organizational Highlights – Succession Planning

The Director positions approved by the Board in February and March 2022 are all posted with the current status provided in the table below.

Position	Status
Director, Organizational Development and Human Resources (ODHR)	Interviews Concluded – Recommendation to be Covered in Closed Session
Director, Laboratory and Water Quality (LWQ)	Interviews initiated
Director, Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)	Interviews initiated
Director, Information Technology (IT)	Interviews initiated
Director, Communications and Intergovernmental Coordination (CIC)	Interviews initiated

As part of the succession planning process I will be working with Department Heads to identify key assistant roles to create a deep bench of talent that can be developed over time to make PVWC more robust and address current organizational gaps.

3) Regulatory Issues

As reported last month, PVWC received an Official Notice of Non-Compliance (NONC) on March 16, 2022. The NONC stated that PVWC violated the Optimal Water Quality Parameters (OWQP) for pH and orthophosphate (corrosion control) 54 days out of the 6-month compliance period from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

Current Compliance Period Issues

During the current compliance period of January 2022 to June 2022 there may have been total

excursions for pH and orthophosphate reported due to the sampling issues described previously. We will be discussing this with the State in more detail.

4) Delinquent Accounts

The shutoff moratorium was lifted on March 15, 2022 and we continue to develop a shut-off strategy and assess an accounting strategy to not charge interest for accounts during the blackout period of the moratorium.

5) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

We are still assessing the feasibility of participating in the LIHWAP program to provide up to \$1500 of subsidies for delinquent accounts for eligible households. A determination will be made shortly.

6) Communications and Intergovernmental Coordination

Over the last month we have begun coordinating with Passaic County regarding the upcoming lead service line program including strategies to streamline permitting and coordinate with road paving plans. In addition, we have begun to develop public education materials for the program as a whole and will initiate coordination with the owner cities and Prospect Park over the next month.

We continue to communicate with the communities regarding the lifting of the shut-off moratorium including notes on monthly and quarterly bills, notes on delinquent notices, postcards sent to all postal patrons, bill stuffers and website/social media communications.