

**Executive Director Report by Jim Mueller
June 22, 2022 Board Meeting**

1) Operational Issues

On June 13, 2022 NJDEP staff from the Office of Quality Assurance conducted an on-site lab audit that concluded June 14, 2022. The closing meeting was held the afternoon of June 14th and observations and comments were communicated directly to me and other key lab staff members. Overall the observations were good and the lab received positive recognition by the State in terms of the work being done there. I want to thank all current lab staff for their continuing great efforts.

Maintenance Department Head, Mike Marotta and Director of Engineering Pat Porcaro are successively coordinating with Passaic County on a stormwater drain permit to alleviate chronic flooding at the PVWC crossover valve located on McBride Ave. This new drain is a cost-effective alternative to a costly capital relocation of the crossover valve that had been considered prior. It will also minimize crew mobilizations during rain events that had been required to manually pump out the chamber due to chronic flooding.

The Pumping and Purification departments successfully coordinated on a new SOP to support ongoing testing of electrical equipment to optimize restarting pumping operation to limit flow spikes. This is part of a larger effort to integrate operating procedures across departments. Plant performance has been excellent with no major issues to report.

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)	The top candidate, Otto Garcia accepted the offer and his start date is July 5, 2022.
Director, Laboratory and Water Quality (LWQ)	Interviews concluded – recommendation will be covered in closed session.
Director, Environmental Health and Safety (EHS)	Interviews concluded – recommendation will be covered in closed session.
Director, Information Technology (IT)	Interviews ongoing
Director, Communications and Intergovernmental Coordination (CIC)	Interviews ongoing

As part of the succession planning process I will continue to work 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

Optimal Water Quality Parameters (OWQP) for pH and orthophosphate (corrosion control)

After providing detailed data to the NJDEP and receiving State approval of the amended Water Quality Parameter Sampling plan, it is anticipated that PVWC will be in compliance with pH and orthophosphate requirements for the January – June 2022 compliance period.

EPA’s Health Advisories for PFOA, PFOS, GenX Chemicals, and PFBS (Excerpt from EPA Fact Sheet)
Based on new data and EPA’s draft analyses, the levels at which negative health effects could occur are much lower than previously understood when EPA issued the 2016 health advisories for PFOA and PFOS

– including near zero for certain health effects. These new health advisory levels are below the levels at which analytical methods can measure PFOA and PFOS. The minimum reporting levels for measuring these contaminants are in Table 1. The EPA Science Advisory Board is reviewing EPA’s analyses, and therefore, these interim health advisory levels are subject to change. However, EPA does not anticipate changes that will result in health advisory levels that are greater than the minimum reporting levels.

Summary of the Four Health Advisories	Lifetime Health Advisory Level/Value (parts per trillion or ppt)	Minimum Reporting Level ₁ (ppt)
Chemical		
PFOA	0.004 (Interim)	4
PFOS	0.02 (Interim)	4
GenX Chemicals	10 (Final)	5
PFBS	2,000 (Final)	3

The Executive Director is scheduling a meeting with Purification, Engineering and Laboratory departments to discuss the new EPA findings, review plant performance data and strategize on next steps to assess options while the data is under review by EPA.

4) Delinquent Accounts

The shutoff moratorium was lifted on March 15, 2022 and PVWC has developed a shut-off strategy with a target implementation date of July 11, 2022. The initial listing targeted for shut-off covers 274 accounts totaling over \$3M in delinquencies. Since the moratorium has been lifted 161 payment plans have been entered into over totaling \$340,000.

5) Low Income Household Water Assistance Program (LIHWAP)

The LIHWAP contract was signed by the Executive Director the week ending June 17, 2022 so PVWC is now a participating organization.

6) Communications and Intergovernmental Coordination

a) Public education materials for the lead service program have been developed and meetings are being scheduled with the Mayor’s and key staff of the owner Cities and Prospect Park. The anticipated schedule of meetings is below:

Passaic	July 7, 2022 @ 11:30am
Clifton	July 7, 2022 @ 2:00pm
Prospect Park	July 7, 2022 @ 4:00pm
Paterson	Being Scheduled

- b) 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.
- c) We are developing communication materials to support the roll out of the LIHWAP program and anticipate working closely with the owner cities to increase awareness.