

Thomas Barrett - ADEM

From: John Young

Subject: Prichard Consent Order – Quarterly Progress Report

The PWWSB water Consent Order has four steps to achieve compliance. This quarterly progress report addresses the progress made, to date, for each of these steps.

### **Step One**

This step was completed by the March 1, 2024 compliance date. The hydraulic analysis determined that several of the water storage tanks were below the required system gradient and were not operating as intended. The solution was to establish three gradients within the system, eliminate one of the five storage tanks (the Office Standpipe) and ultimately increase the storage volume in the high service zone. This recommendation was submitted and reviewed by ADEM. A contract has been awarded to Hazen and Sawyer for the water storage tank design and bidding. The project includes improving and painting four tanks, demolishing the Office Standpipe, and adding control valves at several interconnections with MAWSS. The project will be advertised for bid in June 2024, with construction beginning in August.

This step also required addressing other items included in ADEM's sanitary survey and EPA's inspection report. A backflow prevention policy and implementation plan were developed and submitted to ADEM for review. During the week of April 22, 2024, letters were sent to all irrigation, commercial and industrial customers requiring that their backflow prevention devices be tested and a form (included in the letter) be returned to PWWSB indicating that the device was functioning properly.

There were also concerns regarding the chlorine residual monitoring within the system. Communities Unlimited has been contract (at no cost) to update several sampling procedures and provide training. To date, sampling and testing appears to be properly performed.

### **Step Two**

This step requires the submittal of an Asset Management Plan by May 31, 2024. This Plan, which will assess the condition of all assets and identify the long-term capital expenditure requirements of the system, will be completed and submitted by the compliance date. The study will also include a feasibility and economic study of source of supply alternatives, including surface water, groundwater and purchased water from MAWSS.

### **Step 3**

This step requires the completion of an Alternative Analysis which recommends the future ownership, governance, structure, operating approach and source of supply for the Prichard/Chickasaw system. Work on this task has started with the identification of several of the options that will be evaluated. Moonshot Mission (a water focused non-profit) will assist the receiver with this evaluation.

#### **Step 4**

Once an alternative is selected in Step 3, a TMF (Technical, Management and Financial) capacity study will be completed to determine what is required to assure the selected alternative is a sustainable utility.

This study will include a Cost of Service/Rate Design study.