



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Earle M. Chesley, P.E., General Services Director

DATE: July 10, 2017

SUBJECT: NH Department of Environmental Services (DES) Leak Detection Grant

Recommendation

Accept this report relative to the merits of the New Hampshire DES Free Leak Detection Grant. Authorize the City Manager to accept the free leak detection grant from NH DES.

Background

In June 2017, the NH DES Water Conservation Program solicited all public water systems to apply for free leak detection surveys. Their goal was to provide municipality's expertise and manpower to proactively find leaks before disasters occur and reduce non-revenue water losses. The City of Concord plans to submit two areas in Concord that would benefit from a thorough survey.

Discussion

The NH DES Free Leak Detection Survey is a resource that will allow over a quarter of the City's miles of water main to be thoroughly and professionally monitored to for leaks using the latest digital technology. Two areas in particular will be covered are: downtown between Penacook St. and Pleasant St. and westerly to the Fort Eddy Road commercial zone and the south end from Pleasant St. to the Bow town line.

Results from the free leak detection surveys will be reported to the NH DES Water Conservation Program to track water conservation efforts throughout the State. This data will also help the City of Concord with the annual water audit and on-going leak detection program. The contractor chosen by NH DES will also become a resource for Concord and possibly will assist water conservation efforts in the future.

The US EPA WaterSense program will also allow Concord to advance conservation to the next level. By utilizing resources, already researched and financed by the EPA, public awareness and outreach will be strengthened. These informational materials and logos will bind the relationship for the city between conservation outreach and what investments the public should purchase to produce water conservation results.

With the promotional partnership, the City will be allowed to reproduce the signature logo and other promotional materials provided increasing brand awareness for all the water system users. A line of communication between both parties will be established to share data and experiences with the WaterSense program.

Both programs are important opportunities for Concord to increase water conservation and continue to validate the existence of Concord's water conservation technician.

NH DES Leak Detection Survey

The following are criteria for the leak detection:

- The water system shall provide the assistance of a Certified Operator, as needed by the leak detection firm, to ensure successful implementation of the survey.
- The water system shall locate and paint all main line valves prior to the leak detection survey.
- The water system shall locate curb stops, as needed by the leak detection firm, to ensure successful implementation of the survey.
- Following receipt of the final report from the leak detection firm, the water system shall prepare a response plan to address all leaks identified during the survey.