



CITY OF CONCORD

REPORT TO MAYOR AND THE CITY COUNCIL

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

DATE: June 15, 2018

SUBJECT: New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services Leak Detection Grant

Recommendation

Accept this report relative to the merits of the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) Free Leak Detection Grant. Authorize the City Manager to accept the free leak detection grant from NHDES.

Background

In June 2018, the NHDES Water Conservation Program solicited all public water systems to apply for free leak detection surveys. Their goal was to provide municipalities expertise and manpower to proactively find leaks before disasters occur and reduce non-revenue water losses. The City of Concord plans to submit three areas in Concord that would benefit from a thorough survey.

Discussion

The NHDES 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. The areas in particular that will be covered are: the Heights (between I-393 and Chennell Drive), Route 3 Corridor (from Penacook St. to Borough Rd) and the Concord / Penacook Manor (Second St. to Abbott Rd.).

Results from the free leak detection surveys will be reported to the NHDES 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 NHDES will also become a resource for Concord and possibly will assist water conservation efforts in the future.

The US Environmental Protection Agency (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.

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.