
Special Meeting:
Proctor Drinking Water System and
the Outer District Service Area

July 15, 2010

The Problems

- Proctor's Public Drinking Water System Deficiencies:
 - The System does not comply with certain requirements of the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act and applicable state statutes and rules.
 - Chlorine Disinfection Byproducts in the drinking water have exceeded federal maximum contaminant levels since 2006.
 - Unable to maintain adequate system water pressure during high flows, including fire, in all areas of our Water System.
 - Currently operate under a Temporary Permit, which expires in 2013. We must take action - doing nothing is not an option.
 - **We have more need than we have money!**
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Decision to Transition to Groundwater

- Reasons to go to a groundwater only system:
 - Best long-term solution to the chlorine disinfection byproducts problem.
 - Simplifies operations.
 - More cost-effective solution in the long-term.
 - **Does pose challenge to serve our outer district customers.**
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Process for Addressing the Challenge

- Technical, Financial, and Legal Considerations:
 - Worked with engineers, Pittsford Board of Water Commissioners, and state regulators to develop technical options and associated costs.
 - Worked with state and federal programs and Senator Leahy and Senator Sanders to secure funding for our capital improvements, including a solution for the outer district.
 - 24 V.S.A. § 3410: Vermont law requires water service to outer-district customers so long as “public good and necessity” requires.
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Initial Range of Technical Options

- Collaborative efforts between Proctor and Pittsford yielded an initial list of **16** technical options to address the entire service area or portions thereof.
 - Initial list was developed based on technical merit only – no cost consideration at this stage.
 - There was also no consideration of O&M or ownership responsibilities.
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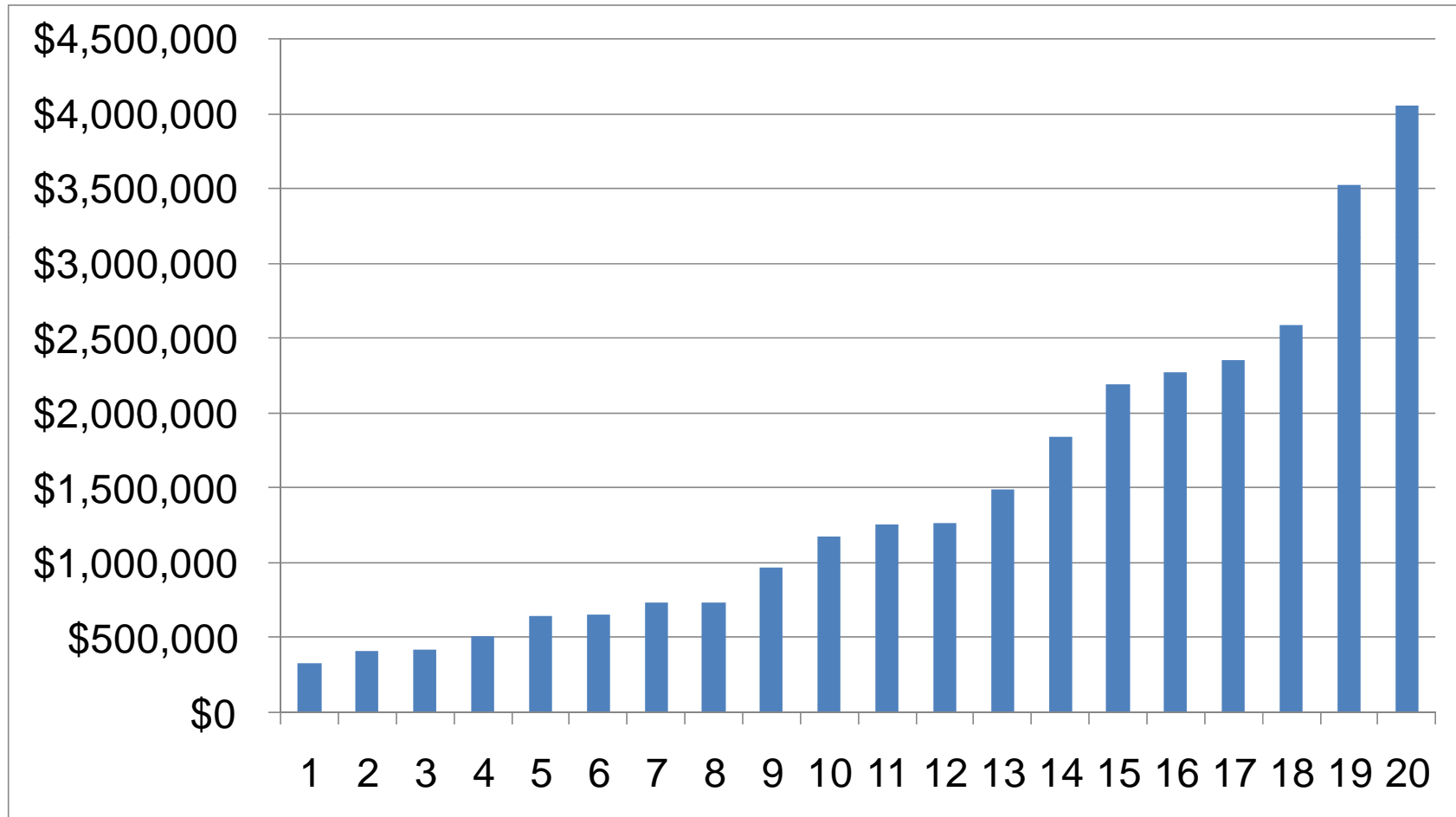
Selecting Options for Further Study

- Proctor Board of Water Commissioners narrowed list to **7** options for further study.
 - Evaluation criteria used:
 - Does the option have any known water quality issues?
 - Does the option have any known water pressure issues?
 - Does the option have any known long-term O&M issues?
 - Further study addressed construction and project costs, O&M, and ownership considerations.
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Options for Further Study

1. Emergency (manual) connection of Proctor and Pittsford water systems at Route 7.
 2. Enhanced (automatic) connection of Proctor and Pittsford systems, with occasional venting.
 3. Manual connection of Proctor and Pittsford systems, plus control valve at Proctor boundary, water storage on Corn Hill Road, and booster pump station with adaptive reuse of transmission main as sleeve for small diameter pipe.
 4. Goodnough loop.
 5. Boosted Proctor groundwater system with adaptive reuse of transmission main as sleeve for small diameter pipe.
 6. Individual wells.
 7. New, single groundwater source in Chittenden.
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Associated Project Costs



Which Options Can We Afford?

- Proctor Board of Water Commissioners has chosen to try and limit total project costs for all necessary water system improvements in order to try and achieve a target user rate of \$400 per year (or 1% of median household income).
 - Given the project costs of the various outer district options and water quality issues present for the less costly scenarios, the Board determined there was no service option for outer district customers that was both affordable and protective of public health.
 - The “public good and necessity” standard of 24 V.S.A. § 3410 requires consideration of the financial impact of continuing service to outer district customers. Board decided that public good and necessity requires discontinuation of service to outer district customers.
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What the Board Intends to Do

- Proctor Board of Water Commissioners is willing to ask Proctor voters as a portion of the upcoming bond vote, to contribute a set amount of money to assist the outer district customers in securing alternate sources of drinking water.
 - The amount of funds will be set once we finalize funding with Rural Development and be voted on as part of the bond vote on August 24, 2010.
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Next Steps

- 14 day public comment period – written comments accepted by Proctor Board of Water Commissioners until July 29, 2010.
 - August 2010: issue pre-bond notification of outer district funding amount and hold bond informational meetings.
 - August 24, 2010: bond vote.
 - ASAP following vote, issue post-bond notification of results.
 - Project construction beginning in 2011 and continuing through 2012.
 - Disconnection in 2012.
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Additional Resources

- State of Vermont, Water Supply Division
Brian Redmond, Formation of Fire District 1-800-823-6500
 - State of Vermont, Wastewater Management Division
Rick Oberkirch, Permit Specialist 802-786-5907
 - Rural Community Assistance Program
Tom Clark, Program Specialist 802-233-0300
 - USDA Rural Development Program
Jim Plouffe, Community Programs Specialist 802-828-6004
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Questions?
