

To City of Belfast Planning Board Public Hearing 9/23/19 Re: Nordic

Significance of Water in our lives, in our community, and on our planet is why through all eras of Homosapien life it has held a primary & sacred position in our lives. Civilizations & great cities have been built and fallen because of abundance or lack of water. The average adult body composition is 65%water, infants 75%, while our major organs(brain,heart, & lungs average 70-80%). Our ability to function hinges on water. If one goes out on outdoor adventures water availability can make/break the journey. Water is equally important in our ability to exist-grow food-clean-it feeds our environment allowing trees,plants to exist, ponds,streams,rivers other bodies of water to stabilize our temperatures. Astronauts looking at Earth have dub it "the Blue Planet" because 75% of it is water.

Now let's look at Nordic's Water proposal intention consumption of Our Water Resources. I say "ours" because all of us who pay taxes, own a business, or live here will be impacted for generations. Additionally, I'm assuming that I'm correct in saying that this proposal is 'unprecedented in it's amount' for daily constant usage.

(1,200 gallons of freshwater per minute)

"also compared to "filling an Olympic size pool every 2.5hrs"

Coming from 4 sources

1. local groundwater wells on property
2. Lower Little River 55acre Reservoir
3. Belfast Water District Municipal Supply
4. 4,000gall/minute of seawater from Belfast Bay

Coming from 4 sources means all sources risk assorted & unknown impacts. But we do know that drawing in, using and then discharging this massive volume (not to mention quality) is again "Unprecedented".

I'm not going to get into each individual impact because I want to impress upon the Planning Board, our City government and our community that Nordic's proposal to consume 1,200 gallons of freshwater per minute, 24-7 X 12 for how many years(?) is more than significant. It's way out of balance, unrealistic and unfair *for any one entity* to churn through that significant a resource on 4 levels that We ALL rely upon. It would be different if it was 1 or 2 aspects of our water resources but it's all 4!

I would hope that the Planning Board could see that is not good planning for the future of our community to give one (International) business an elephant share of Water resources. The request seems unreasonable and inappropriate in it's size particularly in the face of Climate Change environmental variables. The impact that it could have on the rest of the community both as individual families but also to potential businesses for years to come cannot be underestimated.

Thank you for all your work on this Overly Large Request

All the Best

Belinda Pendleton  
121 Searsport Ave.  
Belfast, Me. 04915



**Re: Planning Board Comment 9/23/19**

Wayne Marshall

Mon 9/23/2019 3:33 PM

To: Robyn Duffy &lt;robynd10@yahoo.com&gt;

Ms. Duffy

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board for tonight's meeting.

Wayne

Wayne Marshall, Director  
Code and Planning  
City of Belfast  
131 Church St  
Belfast, ME 04915  
(207) 338-1417 x 125  
wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org

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**From:** Robyn Duffy <robynd10@yahoo.com>**Sent:** Monday, September 23, 2019 3:01 PM**To:** Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>; Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>; Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>**Subject:** Planning Board Comment 9/23/19

Dear Planning Board,

My comment is in regard to the water usage by NAF to be discussed on 9/23/19.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) recently released a report that said, "The 2019 Northern Hemisphere meteorological summer (June through August) was the hottest in the 140-year climate record." All over the earth people are literally running out of fresh water to drink. According to the BBC, "only 3% of the earth's surface water is fresh water. Over one billion people lack access to water and another 2.7 billion find it scarce for at least one month of the year. A 2014 survey of the world's 500 largest cities estimates that one in four are in a situation of water stress". According to a report from the weather channel published in June 2019 the following five cities in the United States could run out of water in the near future: El Paso, Texas, Phoenix, AZ, Los Angeles, CA, Miami, FL, and Atlanta, GA. And finally, the World Bank report warns us that climate migration will worsen due to sea level rise, extreme weather events, and drought and water scarcity. In our very own state of Maine, landowners for the first time in their lives experienced their wells running dry in 2016.

How can the city of Belfast ignore everything that is going on around us? Just because we may have an abundance of fresh water now, that is no guarantee for the future. Even if we do have surplus amounts of water for years to come do we really want to give it away so fish can be raised in tanks for the wealthy? I could see if there was a farm cooperative needing water to grow food for our community but the blatant waste of water that Nordic Aqua Farms will use for it's "sustainable" product is unacceptable. Just because we have water, does that mean we are going to waste it? While children go without drinking water does Belfast really want to go down in history as being a community that gave it's water

to a big corporation, whose only service was to feed rich, entitled, white, Americans salmon? Even if our aquifers remain strong are we prepared to tell other Maine residents (who may not be so lucky), "Sorry, we can't help you out with water because it's all going to the fish factory"?

Water is a fragile resource. One that must be managed very carefully. Yes, this company may help temporarily with taxes and jobs but we need to be thinking on a much larger scale. Not just for now (which is what we are accustomed to) but for years into the future. I don't have all the answers but I am sure this community could come up with a better solution than Nordic Aquafarms.

Thank you - Robyn Duffy (homeowner and year round resident)  
Belfast, ME

## Re: Nordic Aquafarms, comments on fresh water extraction proposal

Public Hearing

Mon 9/23/2019 3:34 PM

To: Kathryn Shagas <kathryn@kshagasdesign.com>

Ms. Shagas

I have received your comment and will provide such to the Planning Board for tonight's meeting.

Wayne

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**From:** Kathryn Shagas <kathryn@kshagasdesign.com>

**Sent:** Monday, September 23, 2019 3:17 PM

**To:** Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

**Subject:** Re: Nordic Aquafarms, comments on fresh water extraction proposal

To the Planning Board:

I am a resident of Belfast and am writing with concern about the amount and types of fresh water that Nordic AquaFarms proposes to use for its land based factory. As you know, the Gulf of Maine and all world-wide bodies of water are experiencing an ecological crisis, with worldwide water shortages expected to increase dramatically within the next few years.

I strongly believe that all of our local sources of fresh water should be protected and saved for the public use and future generations. It seems very nearsighted to handover precious natural resources to any company for their own profit instead of protecting fresh water for the benefit of our community. In this case the company is a speculative foreign corporation that is making grand promises but has no track record, and is also facing serious issues in its native country of Norway.

Thanks for your hard work and your due diligence on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Shagas  
Belfast

## Nordic Aqua Farm Permit comments

Chad Mills <cmillz@yahoo.com>

Sun 9/22/2019 8:24 PM

To: Wayne Marshall <wmarshall@cityofbelfast.org>

Dear Planning Board,

First of all, thank you for your time and careful consideration of these important issues.

I would like you to consider what our community would be like if we could not supply water to our people. In the wake of the United Nations Climate Action Summit we need to be thinking carefully about our choices today. We cannot get this wrong. Our water is a resource that should be carefully managed for our community, not sold to the highest bidder.

I have three questions that I would ask you to think about:

1. How are we holding this corporation accountable if they use more water than they have proposed?
2. What happens if the hydrogeologists are wrong and because of our changing climate this proposed fresh water harvest will change our community forever?
3. What do you need more, salmon or water?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Chad Mills.  
Belfast homeowner.

**Re: NAF**

Public Hearing

Mon 9/23/2019 10:49 AM

To: Amanda Cooney <holistichealingsmbs@gmail.com>

Ms. Cooney

I have received your email and will provide such to the Planning Board for tonight's meeting.

Wayne

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**From:** Amanda Cooney <holistichealingsmbs@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Monday, September 23, 2019 8:26 AM

**To:** Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

**Subject:** NAF

I am just learning about the other NAF going up in Bucksport as well, this is madness! Between Belfast and Bucksport our town water will be depleted in seconds. How is this a thing?! Isn't there a smart minded person on the board that would've put an end to this before it even started? Or is the entire board money hungry? Maine is better than this. Please don't give me a solid reason to move back to my home state. I came to Maine to escape this corporate BS and it seems to have seeped its way up here. You're going to loose your community...

Amanda Cooney  
INHC, RYT-200  
[holistichealingsmbs@gmail.com](mailto:holistichealingsmbs@gmail.com)

**Re: 9/23 Planning Board meeting comments fresh water**

schlueter.eric@gmail.com

Mon 9/23/2019 7:57 AM

To: Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

Hi Wayne,

That's terrific to know, I thought I recalled reading about that from the Belfast Water District early on. I wasn't sure if it was really true with NAF being such a water dependent industry. I hope there is the same protection for any home owners well that might be adversely effected? I think I heard/read that NAF would be responsible to fix water loss for wells a certain distance from the site and wells further away may have to make their own case if they have well water issues? Is that true? If it is true how would those distances be figured out, based on what seems to me a complex underground water supply? I image you have a busy day so if you can't reply today I understand. I will unfortunately miss the first hour or so of tonight's meeting.

Thank you,

Erica

P.S. By any chance did you check my math on the gallons of water....?

On Sep 20, 2019, at 4:24 PM, Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org> wrote:

Erica

I have received your comment by email and will provide such to the Planning Board.

In reading your email, I do note that the Public Utility Commission's regulation of the Belfast Water District requires that the District provide water from their system to residential customers over any industrial use. Industrial uses are quite low on the ranking of customer service if there ever was an issue with the amount of water service available through the District.

Wayne

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**From:** schlueter.eric@gmail.com <schlueter.eric@gmail.com>

**Sent:** Friday, September 20, 2019 4:13 PM

**To:** Public Hearing <public@cityofbelfast.org>

**Subject:** 9/23 Planning Board meeting comments fresh water

Dear Members of the Planning Board,

I imagine you have all done some sort of math to get your brains around the amount of fresh water Nordic Aquafarm (NAF) would use if it's proposed facility gets built. In trying to get my brain around how much fresh water NAF plans to use I called the Belfast Water District to find out how much water I use. 8,976 gallons of water is the quarterly base allotment of water that comes with the base quarterly fee for having water delivered to my house from the Belfast Water District. I have never gone over 8,976 gallons in a 3 month period so if I understand, and if I did not do bad math, I do not use in 3 months the amount of water NAF would use in 8 minutes. Or if there are 8,000 people in Belfast and each of them did use 8,976 gallons of water in 3 months (90 days) that's 7,180,800 gallons of water, NAF would use that much water in just 42 days.

If water is the new oil and is also life, at this point in history is NAF projected water consumption the best use of fresh water for the people of Belfast, the State of Maine, the world and the future? Is fixing the Belfast Water Districts aging infrastructure without raising rates, *maybe* lowering property taxes, and creating a handful of jobs for people who can't find an affordable place to live in Belfast worth the amount of water to be drawn and flushed through fish tanks then flushed into Belfast's harbor?

Maybe it's really too late to do anything to save natural resources and the environment from climate change and so why not accelerate using everything up while we can? I don't know why I care about a future world I may not live long enough to see, that my non-existent offspring won't inhabit, but I do. I picture a dystopian future with people trying to eat money because that's the only greens that are left.

If the facility is built I hope the Planning Board will put in provisions/conditions to guarantee 100% priority to the peoples right to fresh water over that of NAF.

When you have children being applauded and getting credited for getting solar panels on their school in Deer Isle Maine and a Swedish teenager is one of the most out spoken humans on Earth on climate change, and children are walking out of schools around the world as a protest to what's not being done about climate change it makes me wonder where the adults are. I am an adult, I hope you consider my thoughts on this so children of the future don't have to step up because we let them down now by selling their water supply so cheaply.

Thank you for your time and thoughtfulness in this complicated process.

Erica Schlueter  
Belfast