

# Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE  
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Commissioners Meeting  
Water Supply District of Acton  
Meeting Minutes  
August 15, 2011

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The regular bi-monthly meeting was called to order at 7:40 p.m. on Monday, August 15, 2011 at the Acton Water District Office by Mr. Leonard Phillips.

Present: Commissioners Leonard Phillips and Ronald Parenti. District Manager Chris Allen, District Treasurer/Collector Mary Jo Bates, Environmental Manager Matthew Mostoller, District Counselor Mary Bassett, and Commissioners Secretary Lynn Protasowicki. District Moderator Richard O'Brien. WLMAC Representative Paul Malchodi.

## A. Comments from Citizens

Alan R. Dailey, 11 Carriage Drive stated that he noticed no dirty water from Thursday, August 12<sup>th</sup> through today, Monday, August 15<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Allen stated that currently the valve on Carriage Drive at River Street is open, and the valves at Carriage Drive at Pondview, Gioconda and Pondview are closed. This could be the main factor why they have not experienced poor water quality these past few days. Mr. Allen stated that Wright-Pierce did some modeling to determine the effects of closing the valves on Carriage Drive at River Street and Parker Street north of River Street. He informed the Commissioners that based on an extended period simulation under maximum day demands; this configuration creates increased flow on School Street, and reduced flow within the Carriage Drive neighborhood. This flow reversal may cause resuspension of particulates in the School Street main, which may lead to water quality issues on School Street north of Hillcrest Drive. Additionally, this flow configuration increases the flow on River and Parker Streets in a similar magnitude.

Please see notes below under "Old Business: Update on Hydraulic Modeling of 'The Woods' Neighborhood" for further details.

## B. Approval of Minutes from July 25, 2011

Mr. Phillips moved to accept minutes of the meeting held on July 25, 2011 and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. The Commissioners were in favor of approving the minutes as amended.

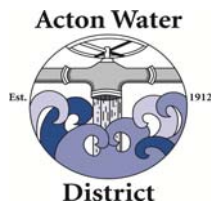
## C. Old Business

### Update & Discussion of Seasonal Water Quality Issues:

- Update on The District's Written Corrective Action Plan (WCAP) Submittal to MassDEP  
Mr. Allen stated that he spoke with Rich Protasowicki of Wright-Pierce today. Mr. Protasowicki informed Mr. Allen that Marielle Stone of the MassDEP apologized in the delay in reviewing the WCAP and that she approved the plan. Ms. Stone asked Mr. Protasowicki about 1,4-dioxane. He stated that 1,4-dioxane was not included in the WCAP as there is no clear direction from the regulators yet. Mr. Allen stated that the 1,4-dioxane issue will need to be worked out with the MassDEP and EPA in relationship to the WR Grace Superfund site.

Mr. Allen informed that Commissioners that Wright-Pierce filed a Project Evaluation Form (PEF) to the MassDEP for possibly funding the construction of the South Acton water treatment plant (WTP) with a low interest loan through the state of Mass State Revolving Fund (SRF) program.

All documents referred to in meeting minutes are available for inspection at the office of Acton Water District, 693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA 01720 (978) 263-9107.



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- Update on Hydraulic Modeling of “The Woods” Neighborhood

Enclosed in tonight’s packet to the Commissioners is a summary of the hydraulic modeling of “The Woods” that was done by Wright-Pierce. Mr. Allen stated that in an attempt to redirect flow through the Woods they closed several valves in the system. The valves that are closed include Russell Road at Craig Road, Fernwood Road at Driftwood Road.

Mr. Allen stated that with the Great Hill Tank offline while its altitude valve was being repaired, water flows south on Hosmer Street during peak demand periods (4 a.m. to 8 a.m. & 6 p.m. to 10 p.m.). This is a deviation from the normal northerly flow path and leads to particulate matter re-suspending and settling in the water mains serving “The Woods” neighborhoods and causing poor water quality. Mr. Allen explained that the water quality complaints that they have been receiving from “The Woods” residents were during the early morning hours. This supports the conclusion that the flow reversal on Hosmer Street is likely contributing to water quality complaints in “The Woods”. Since the Great Hill Tank altitude valve has been repaired, and tank is back in service, complaints in this area have diminished.

### Update and Discussion of Revision of District’s “Rules & Regulations”

Counselor Bassett provided to the Commissioners a revised copy of the District’s Rules & Regulations. Mr. Phillips stated that they should add a comment about “computerized water modeling associated with development when developers submit their concept plan to the Town planning board.” Counselor Bassett will add that to the “Rules & Regulations” and then at the next open meeting on September 12th the “Rules & Regulations” document can be approved and voted on.

### Follow-up Discussion on Proposal for AWD’s Centennial Celebration

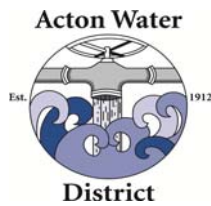
Mr. Allen asked the Commissioners if they had any questions or comments regarding the Centennial Celebration that is being organized. He informed the Commissioners that the organizing committee will be having a meeting tomorrow, Tuesday, August 26<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Parenti stated that he is a bit concerned that the celebration might be going a bit overboard/grandiose. Mr. O’Brien stated that it’s a valid concern and the goal of the celebration is to raise level awareness about what the residents of Acton should know concerning water in the Town. Mr. Phillips stated that the historical publication that will be created will be a good tool to make this awareness happen. He stated that conveying this historic knowledge via the publication is better than handing out fancy gadgets.

The first event will be held on Friday, September 16th. This will be an oral history of the District to support the publication. The next organizing meeting will be held on Tuesday, September 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **D. New Business**

### Regulatory Update Including Discussion of Emerging Manganese Regulation Revision and 1,4-Dioxane, and Future Impacts on Acton Water District

Provided in tonight’s packets to the Commissioners is a Manganese Update that was provided in an email to Mr. Allen from Ms. Jen Pederson, Executive Director of the Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA). The MassDEP is requiring suppliers to take a mandatory baseline sample of manganese at every entry point in their distribution system in the fall 2011. Depending on the results, additional monitoring, including confirmation sampling and/or monitoring within the distribution system may be required. Mr. Mostoller stated that the wells with the highest concentrations of manganese are Christofferson and Whitcomb, which both are currently turned off. The Conant I well and Assabet wells also contribute levels of manganese that could challenge the proposed values. He explained to the Commissioners that in our system, manganese causes more



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of the sediment and staining of fixtures, and is harder to oxidize than iron. Iron causes more of the discoloration and ruined laundry .

Provided in tonight's packet to the Commissioners is a letter with comments from the EPA and MassDEP Bureau of Waste Site Cleanup regarding the 2010 Annual Groundwater Monitoring Program for Operable Unit Three, WR Grace Superfund Site (Acton Plant). Mr. Allen stated that the MassDEP Office of Research and Standards recently changed its drinking water guidelines for 1,4-dioxane from 3 µg/L to 0.3 µg/L based on updated toxicological information provided by EPA's integrated Risk Information System. He stated that MassDEP is requesting that groundwater samples be analyzed for 1,4-dioxane using EPA Method 522 or similar method capable of achieving a reporting limit of 0.3 µg/L or less. Currently this test is not being performed locally and will cost approximately \$200 per sample. The MassDEP is concerned with the presence of 1,4-dioxane in the overburden aquifer because it is discharged to the overburden at concentrations higher than originally detected and because Acton Water District does not currently treat 1,4-dioxane. He informed the Commissioners that MassDEP recommends that five additional monitoring wells be sampled for 1,4-dioxane on an annual basis beginning in August 2011. He explained that MassDEP feels that monitoring these additional wells for 1,4-dioxane will enable better evaluation of the impact of 1,4-dioxane on the overburden aquifer and School Street well field. The on-going testing of AWD production wells is also being discussed by MassDEP. The strategy for this sampling and responsibility therein is to be determined. It is AWD's opinion that this should be shouldered by WR Grace.

## **E. Executive Session**

The Commissioners entered into Executive Session, by a roll call vote, at 8:47 p.m. and ended the Session at 9:30 p.m. They resumed the regular meeting to adjourn at 9:35 p.m. The motion to adjourn was made by Mr. Phillips, seconded by Mr. Parenti and was unanimously approved.

**Executive Session Minutes**  
Commissioners Meeting  
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Executive Session Minutes  
August 15, 2011

The Commissioners voted unanimously by a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session at 9:14 p.m. to discuss pending or contemplated litigation as remaining in open session would prejudice the District position with respect to the matter. In attendance were Commissioners Len Phillips and Ron Parenti, District Manager Chris Allen, Environmental Compliance Manager, Matt Mostoller and District Counsel Mary Bassett.

Attorney Bassett updated the Commissioners on the status of the case, including the decision to file suit in the Land Court if so required. Bassett told the Commissioners that a letter had been sent to Robert Greenough at a P.O. Box address in Acton with a request that he call her to discuss the ownership issues surrounding the Assabet Sand & Gravel property. There was also discussion surrounding the affidavits that will be required from Allen and Mostoller.

Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn the executive session and moved to reconvene in open session at 9:30 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Parenti and on a roll call vote was unanimously approved.