

Commissioners Meeting
Water Supply District of Acton
693 Massachusetts Avenue
Acton, MA 01720

October 27, 2008

Agenda: Comments from Citizens
 Approve Minutes of October 6, 2008

NEW BUSINESS

Wright-Pierce for Presentation of “Treatability Study”
Update from Finance Committee Meeting
Discussion of Land Availability in Stow

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Kennedy-Marshall Water Treatment Plant Construction
Update on Indian Village Water Main Project
Discussion of “Memorandum of Understanding” Proposal from Town of Acton
Review of Donation Invoice for Charlotte Sagoff Memorial Garden

Minutes of October 27, 2008 Commissioners Meeting

Regular bi-monthly meeting. Present were Commissioners Parenti, Phillips, and Stuntz. Also in attendance were District Manager Chris Allen, Treasurer/Collector Mary J. Bates, District Counsel Mary Bassett, and Environmental Manager Jane Ceraso. The Finance Committee attendees included Charles Bradley, David Butler, and Bill Kingman. Attending tonight’s meeting from Wright-Pierce were Niki Kallergis, Richard Protasowicki, and Peter Quern. Representing ACES was George Johnston and from the WLMAC was Barry Rosen.

The meeting was called to order at 7:35 P.M.

Comments from Citizens

There were no comments from citizens at tonight’s meeting.

Approve Minutes of October 6, 2008

Mr. Stuntz moved to accept the minutes of the meeting held on October 6, 2008 and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. The Commissioners were both in favor of approving the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS

Wright-Pierce for Presentation of “Treatability Study”

Mr. Allen began the discussion by stating that this treatability study has been in the process since last February/March timeframe and mentioned that the funds were re-allocated from those appropriated for the UV study at Christofferson.

Mr. Protasowicki from Wright-Pierce gave a power point presentation which included an evaluation of the well sources based on the Assabet and School Street sources. He gave a quick background consisting of the secondary maximum contaminant level (iron, manganese, and color). Mr. Protasowicki reviewed the graphs that were based on samples taken at the wells between the years 2002-2007. He mentioned that the manganese level was high at the Assabet and Christoferson wells (School Street source) between the years of 2005-2007. Information from the Conant sources showed that Conant 1 was high in iron and manganese from the Whitcomb and Clapp sources, Whitcomb was high in Iron and the manganese level was high in both the Clapp and Whitcomb Wells. The highest problem in color was located at the Clapp and Whitcomb Wells. Mr. Protasowicki said that radon was detected in all groundwater sources; 2,1,4 dioxane was detected at the Assabet III, Assabet 1A, and 2 of the School Street sources. He feels that Assabet and School Street is where the Acton Water District should be looking at for treatment since they have the most manganese and iron problem of all the wells and the most water pumped.

Mr. Quern gave a presentation on the treatment technology for iron and manganese and stated that he doesn't recommend sequestering, as MA DEP will not approve sequestering due to the mineral concentration present. He discussed the removal/filtration options which include ion exchange, high rate filtration, biological filtration, and membrane filtration (currently used at the Kennedy/Marshall Wells). He stated that the report focuses on the Assabet and School Street Wells and said that the Clapp, Whitcomb, and Conant Wells are future considerations. School Street would require construction of a new treatment building, but Assabet could use the existing building with expansion.

The capital cost estimates:

Assabet: \$4,150,000
School Street: \$6,300,000

Combined Facility: \$ 7,725,000
Transmission Main: \$ 2,725,000
Total \$10,450,000

Mr. Protasowicki reviewed other considerations including groundwater rule, surface water treatment rule, and Microscopic Particulate Analysis (MPA) testing that was performed on the School St. and Assabet wells (samples results came back “LOW” for this round of testing). He stated that a second round of MPA testing needs to be done in the spring. Mr. Allen said that the Assabet III Well came back “MODERATE” during the last test in January 2008. This testing will determine if these wells are under the influence of surface water.

The implementation schedule is a three year period from starting the process for each treatment

plant. The Assabet Well would be done first and then work would be started on the School Street Well. Construction will take approximately one and a half years to complete. Mr. Stuntz asked "what would be the increase in cost to go with membrane?" and Mr. Protasowicki responded with a estimate of \$10M compared to the \$4.1 for Assabet.

Update from Finance Committee Meeting

The Finance Committee has agreed to a transfer of \$20,000 from the reserve account to the meter account to continue with the meter upgrade project.

The financial advisor at Uni Bank has recommended that the Acton Water District do short term bonding until February 2009. It was noted that short term financing is for 90 days.

The MTBE settlement check in the amount of \$947,981.27 arrived in the mail today at the Acton Water District. Based on correspondence between District Counsel and the MA Department of Revenue, the settlement funds will be kept in a receipt reserved for appropriation account, similar to the W.R. Grace Account. The Finance Committee has suggested that the Commissioners adopt written guidelines, similar to the Grace guidelines, that direct how the District will appropriate the settlement funds. Mr. Phillips asked if there are any restraints on how this settlement should be used; i.e., water treatment and Mr. Stuntz said that he feels that some of the settlement should be used for things that relate to why the AWD received the settlement.

The Commissioners will create guidelines and this issue will be included as an agenda item at the next Commissioners Meeting.

Discussion of Land Availability in Stow

Mr. Allen included in tonight's package to the Commissioners a memo dated December 4, 2006 from Geosphere Environmental Management, Inc. to Ms. Marilyn Kunelius of Stow which was a report on their findings regarding the ground water resources located at 142 Red Acre Road in Stow. Mr. Allen stated that the AWD was approached by Ms. Kunelius regarding the 50 acres of largely undeveloped land. AWD would pick up about 40 residential services in Stow when connecting to the current distribution system. Mr. Allen and Ms. Ceraso did research into this matter. Mr. Allen stated that this is an old issue that has been brought up and that he just wanted to inform the Commissioners. The Commissioners took no action on the proposal

OLD BUSINESS

Update on Kennedy-Marshall Water Treatment Plant Construction

Mr. Allen gave the Commissioners an update on the Kennedy-Marshall Water Treatment Plant construction and said that as of October 9, 2008 a full building permit was received. He gave an overview of the work in progress which includes the interior and exterior walls are in construction and the electrician is doing on-site work. He stated that the project is a couple of weeks ahead of schedule.

Update on Indian Village Water Main Project

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that the Indian Village Water Main project is almost at a close and the final connections are in the process of being completed. The Highway Department will be paving on Seneca Road this week. He noted that hot top will have an increase in April 2009. Mohawk Drive and Oneida Road will have a settling period before they are paved and the meter upgrades have been included during the process.

Discussion of “Memorandum of Understanding” proposal from Town of Acton

Mr. Allen discussed with the Commissioners the proposed “Memorandum of Understanding” that the AWD received from the Town of Acton and said that a meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 28, 2008 at 3:00 in the Acton Water District conference room with the Town of Acton Manager and Planner. Mr. Allen has several agenda items of his own that he wants to discuss at the meeting. Ms. Bassett said that voter approval would be needed for most of these items and that the Town of Acton needs to be more definite on each item before the AWD can make any decisions. Mr. Rosen from the WLMAC suggested that any land issues be removed from the memorandum and reviewed by the WLMAC. The Acton Water District will not authorize any of these items on the “Memorandum of Understanding” at this meeting.

Review of Donation Invoice for Charlotte Sagoff Memorial Garden

Mr. Allen forwarded an email to the Commissioners that he received from Mary Michelman regarding the Charlotte Sagoff Memorial Garden. The total donation from the Acton Water District is \$1,238.33. Mr. Allen will move forward with this donation.

Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.