



# Water Supply District of Acton

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## WLMAC MEETING NOTES OF JANUARY 22, 2013

**Present:** Greta Eckhardt, Charles Olmstead, Paul Malchodi, Barry Rosen

**Guest(s):** Selectman John Sonner (liaison to WLMAC)

**Note Taker(s):** Paul Malchodi, Barry Rosen

**Chairperson:** Barry Rosen

**Called To Order:** The chairperson called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM ET on January 22, 2013.

### **New Business:**

1. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion made by Mr. Olmstead and seconded by Mr. Malchodi, the minutes of January 17, 2013 were accepted as presented by a unanimous vote.
2. **Consideration of February 12, 2013 Meeting Date Change:** After several minutes of discussion concerning potential absences from the meeting and school vacation periods, the committee decided to move the meeting originally scheduled for Tuesday, 2/12 to THURSDAY, February 7, 2013 beginning at 8:00 PM. *Note that this is one week earlier than the regular meeting schedule.*
3. **Additional Business:** Items that did not appear on the published agenda.
  - 3.1. Ms. Eckhardt asked the committee whether it would be a conflict or otherwise interfere with WLMAC business if she were to raise an issue with the Board of Water Commissioners at some future date. The sense of the WLMAC was that any member could address the Board as a private citizen at any time and this was not in conflict with the business of the WLMAC as long as it was clear that the issue raised was not WLMAC business.
  - 3.2. Mr. Olmstead wanted us to note that the information that he has thus far regarding running pipes to the MWRA indicates that the MWRA costs per mile differ substantially from the costs used by Acton. He noted that differences in pipe diameter may account for this discrepancy. *Action Item: Mr. Olmstead will try to provide the WLMAC with the MWRA's costs of installing medium diameter pipeline.*

### **Old Business:**

4. **Continuation of the discussion reviewing and making recommendations to improve the draft 2013 AWD LRP:** There was lively discussion concerning the content and quality of the draft LRP which was being reviewed by the committee. In general, it was the sense of the WLMAC that this report was performed to satisfy the statutory requirements of the Water Supply District of Acton

but missed the mark on producing and analyzing strategic solutions for the District. Some comments from members:

- 4.1. Mr. Olmstead found that the report did not fairly analyze the available alternatives that were listed within the report. Mr. Olmstead felt that the "prohibitively expensive" dismissal of further consideration of a connection to the MWRA for part or all of Acton's water was inappropriate. He believes that this must be remedied prior to the final report.
- 4.2. Mr. Malchodi:
  - 4.2.1. Emphasized that no staffing costs are contained with the report.
  - 4.2.2. There is an inadequate discussion of water storage.
  - 4.2.3. There is no mention of employee or community safety. Maybe there doesn't need to be.
  - 4.2.4. The water main improvements budgets don't tie together. They seem to be scattered in various places within the LRP.
- 4.3. Ms. Eckhardt:
  - 4.3.1. Treatment plants have more than just capital costs associated with them.
  - 4.3.2. Couldn't there have been an investigation of using non-potable water as a method of conserving expensive treated water?
  - 4.3.3. There is a potential impact of currently unregulated materials such as pharmaceuticals and personal care products that may, in time, become regulated. Some of them are listed in the draft LRP but there is nothing further.
- 4.4. Mr. Rosen:
  - 4.4.1. The document needs a much better storage analysis. He does not agree with the report's premise that Acton has "excess" water storage.
  - 4.4.2. Besides stating that connection to the MWRA is "prohibitively expensive," there is no analysis to prove that point. The expenses of a connection need to be compared to something to have real meaning. They also need to be analyzed in the context of both current and likely future water quality regulations.
  - 4.4.3. He did not see a good study of the TCO of our current and future WTP's. This is necessary context to make proper cost/benefit analyses of the various solutions presented.
5. Recommendations To Improve The 2013 AWD LRP: The committee decided that it would not critique the entire report as written. During the meeting with the Board, we would provide some background context and answer questions. However, our primary mission of this review is to provide some recommendations that could be implemented by the author to improve the final LRP product and make it a more useful planning tool for the District. After contributing to the list, Ms. Eckhardt excused herself from the remainder of the meeting which consisted of the final preparation of the list. The WLMAC edited its thinking down to five priorities:
  - 5.1. Provide a comprehensive presentation of total cost annually over the next 20 years including the manpower, operation, maintenance, materials and debt service; assuming that all recommendations are implemented.
  - 5.2. Provide a more thorough analysis, including capital and operating costs, of potential alternatives to the recommendations presented. This should include the potential to purchase water

from surrounding towns and/or the MWRA as an alternate to the proposed new treatment plants and well development plans.

- 5.3. Provide a detailed cost analysis of the potential to generate significant reductions in water usage and its associated treatment costs, through such means as conservation improvement and unaccounted for water reduction.
- 5.4. Provide greater depth of discussion of potential future water treatment requirements including the costs associated with these.
- 5.5. Provide complete recommended storage and distribution improvements in one section with the total costs in one place. Provide these on a level loaded basis.

**Adjournment:**

On a motion by Mr. Olmstead which was seconded by Mr. Malchodi, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:40 PM ET on January 22, 2013.