

WLMAC MEETING NOTES OF JULY 26, 2012

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

Guests: Chris Allen, AWD Manager

Note Taker(s): Barry Rosen

Chairperson: Barry Rosen

Called To Order: The chairperson called the meeting to order on July 26, 2012 at 7:04 AM EDT.

New Business:

1. Dispensing with all other business: Mr. Rosen asked the committee if there was still agreement (as per the agenda) to suspend all other business including the approval of the minutes of the last WLMAC meeting (July 17, 2012) during this special WLMAC meeting called to meet with the Acton Water District Manager, Chris Allen. There was unanimous agreement to do this on a voice vote.
2. Question and Answer Discussion With Mr. Chris Allen:
 - 2.1. During their discussions of AWD capacity undertaken at the request of the Commissioners, a number of questions arose which the WLMAC determined could best be answered by a professional of the District.
 - 2.1.1. The members of the WLMAC submitted their initial questions which were then grouped by general topic area by Ms. Eckhardt.
 - 2.1.2. Mr. Rosen was asked to contact Mr. Allen to ascertain a date/time when the team could meet with him to discuss the initial list of questions. The questions were submitted to Mr. Allen ahead of this meeting.
 - 2.2. The WLMAC and Mr. Allen spent the remainder of the meeting discussing the answers to the questions submitted. Mr. Allen also answered additional related questions that were posed and was able to elaborate on answers when requested.
 - 2.3. At the conclusion of the Q & A session, Mr. Allen also provided the WLMAC with copies of some documents (available at the AWD) to assist us in our understanding of some of questions being asked. He also provided a copy of his notes. [Mr. Allen's notes are attached.]

Old Business:

3. There was no old business conducted during this meeting.

Adjournment: On a motion by Mr. Olmstead and seconded by Mr. Malchodi, the meeting was adjourned by a unanimous vote at 8:00 AM ET on July 26, 2012.

Questions from WLMAC for Acton Water District Meeting: 26 July 2012

Overview of Wells:

- Which wells in Acton are now considered to be “under the influence” of surface water?
Christofferson and Kennedy
- Which well(s) in Acton are under “consent orders” for treatment?
Christofferson

Christofferson Well off School Street:

- What are the current problems with the well? **GWUDI, high mineral content, 1,4-Dioxane**
- What are the causes of these problems? **Proximity to Fort Pond Brook, WR Grace plume**
- What must be done to get the Christofferson well (School Street) to be in compliance with the consent order? **Treat the finished water to the SWTR**
- What is the estimated cost to get the well into compliance? **Not calculated. \$12-million for the combined project.**
- What are we proposing that goes beyond this? **Treating all five South Acton sources**
- How much has this well been utilized over the past 5 years? [Number of days running yearly? Number of gallons pumped yearly?] **Approximately 5 MGY on avg**
- When do we place this well into service? What are the conditions? **Infrequently, and dire need for water. With new GWUI classification, Cl2 residual would be too high. Customer complaints would sky rocket due to disinfectant/oxidant reaction with dissolved minerals causing precipitate.**

Assabet Wells

- What are the current problems with the well? **High minerals, 1,4-Dioxane**
- What are the causes of these problems? **Naturally occurring and WR Grace plume.**
- Can we test for additional potential contaminants (such as compounds on the EPA and DEP “under consideration” and under “review” lists) before deciding on solutions to the known problems? **We can test for anything, and our source testing has encompassed some emerging contaminants on these lists. We are involved in this program.**
- Is there any possibility to eliminate the residual “heavy” voc’s that aeration is not relieving? **With Advanced Oxidation, yes. This must be post filtration due to minerals inhibiting transmittance, as this technology uses UV.**
- OPINION: Since we are treating all Assabet wells, should we expend the balance of the Grace fund and reduce the burden on rate payers? Otherwise, added treatments will more than double many water bills. **This has been discussed. Finance Committee does not recommend this option.**

- How much has this well been utilized over the past 5 years? [Number of days running yearly? Number of gallons pumped yearly?] Which one? Assabet 1A~110 MGY, Assabet 2A~50 MGY. Assabet 3 is not currently used. Assabet 1A & 2A generically operate about 330 days per year. They are off-line for rehab usually in the spring.

Proposed Solutions

- Is there any alternative to building all at once? Would it be possible to build the building and required biological first, plan to conduct more thorough testing, and then build the iron/manganese treatment? An incremental approach could end up becoming more expensive. Current pilot testing is very comprehensive.
- Can we run the connector along the town line to make it shorter, and offer the potential to create a usable trail in a very attractive area? This can be looked at. Current land ownership does not support this. Would need legal utility easements. There is also an active MBTA rail to cross.
- Alternatively is there any opportunity to build the connector past the industrial park and potentially sell “untreated” water as a secondary service to any abutters/ industrial customers? Would be a violation of regulation. All water must be treated to meet SDWA primary standards. With the probable primary designation of Manganese, we would exceed that standard in all raw water. Too much liability with no disinfection, considering that it could be used as potable.
- Is there any opportunity to create storage here principally post treatment, but also pre-treatment, we have a storage problem that we are unwilling to face. ? We have over 8 MG of storage currently. An investment in this area would most likely be to replace the Great Hill Tank with a larger tank, probably > 2 MG. This capital improvement has been listed on previous engineered Master Plan updates. Existing storage has not been utilized efficiently. We are in the process, through hydraulic modeling, of optimizing system operations to more integrally use Wampus Hill in our scheme.