



Water Supply District of Acton

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WLMAC MEETING NOTES OF AUGUST 20, 2013

Documents: Any documents utilized during this meeting are either included in these minutes and/or can be examined at the District offices during regular business hours.

Present: John Cipar, Paul Malchodi, Barry Rosen, John Sonner (Acton Selectmen Representative)

Note Taker(s): Barry Rosen, Paul Malchodi

Chairperson: Barry Rosen

Called To Order: The chairperson called the meeting to order on August 20, 2013 at 8:20 PM EDT. A quorum was present.

New Business:

1. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by Mr. Malchodi and seconded by Mr. Cipar, the minutes of July 9, 2013 were approved by a unanimous vote.
2. **Date/Time of Next Meeting:** The chairperson surveyed the committee to determine if the next scheduled meeting date of the WLMAC was acceptable to those present. The next meeting date of the WLMAC will be on September 10, 2013 at 8:00 PM which is the evening after the next Board of Water Commissioners meeting.
3. **WLMAC Membership Status:** Ms. Eckhardt tendered her resignation from the WLMAC in an email written to Mr. O'Brien (the AWD Moderator who appointed her) due to her imminent move out of the Acton Water District. The move makes her ineligible to serve. This leaves a vacancy on the WLMAC. However, as Mr. Cipar and Mr. Rosen learned at the last meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners, Commissioner Stunz placed an agenda item to discuss the WLMAC. Mr. Stunz was not present at the meeting and therefore the commissioners elected to postpone the discussion of the WLMAC until their next meeting on September 9, 2013, as they stated they did not know enough about the agenda item. The committee decided not to discuss the vacancy further until the intentions of the Board are clear.

Old Business:

4. **Update on AWD LRP Availability:**

- 4.1. Mr. Malchodi expects to have an answer for the WLMAC as to when an electronic copy or some other copy of the final document will be available to the WLMAC by our next meeting so that the WLMAC can make any additional comments to the Board of Water Commissioners as it was asked to do.

- 4.2. There was some discussion as to whether the AWD LRP would be available in hard copy only or whether the final version will also be available as an electronic file.
- 4.3. Mr. Sonner told the WLMAC that he hoped the final document would be available to the public on the AWD web site.
- 4.4. Mr. Rosen noted that at a previous meeting, Mr. Mostoller explained that he didn't know if the LRP would be available electronically but that some of the maps and diagrams were of very large dimensions and would not be easy to view on a computer screen.
- 4.5. Mr. Malchodi stated that he did not believe that this was an important issue because even if these particular tables, maps and diagrams were left out of an electronic copy, it would make little difference to the public's understanding of the LRP.
5. AWD Articles for Periodical Publication: The WLMAC continued its discussion of this topic from the previous meeting.
 - 5.1. Mr. Cipar explained that any articles that we write must be "readable" by the general public. After some discussion, the group felt that our first report to the commissioners may have been too technical for the general public and may have contained too much detail. While the commissioners were the intended audience, the public may have had little interest in reading such a document. The newspaper articles that we wrote for publication by "The Beacon" newspaper may have also been written at a higher level than the general public will read.
 - 5.2. Mr. Cipar and the committee summarized what was needed:
 - 5.2.1. Articles should be short - no more than 500 words.
 - 5.2.2. They should be written in a "USA Today" style. Simple to read. Not too high of a reading level. Perhaps target at a sixth grade reading level.
 - 5.2.3. Charts and other graphics can be helpful to the public's understanding. They capture attention for the rest of the article.
 - 5.2.4. Focus attention on one or two major points. It may be necessary to oversimplify.
 - 5.3. With W.R. Grace asking to be "released" from any further clean-up action, the interest in having a pure water supply may be rekindled. The public's interest in reading articles about water may increase.
 - 5.4. Mr. Sonner suggested that we approach "The Beacon" with a series of articles (already written) and offer them the right of first refusal. They now recognize that they do have competition from other hard copy and electronic publications. We should offer the articles to other publications if "The Beacon" does not agree to publish the series.
 - 5.5. The consensus of the committee is to prepare a series of 7-8 articles for publication - one article to be published each week.
 - 5.6. The model would be an "all or nothing" for the articles which are to be published in consecutive editions of the periodical.
6. Action Items For The Next Meeting:
 - 6.1. Based upon the attached lists, each member of the WLMAC is to send Mr. Malchodi, a proposed sequence of articles.
 - 6.2. Mr. Malchodi will prepare an outline of each of the articles which will be discussed by the membership at the next meeting (9/10) of the WLMAC. He will also combine the two lists.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Mr. Cipar which was seconded by Mr. Malchodi, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 PM on August 20, 2013.

The attached lists were utilized during the course of this meeting and are made part of the minutes of this meeting.

Water Articles

A series of 500 word max articles, usa today/people magazine style, 2 or 3 point, not too much depth, one or 3 graphics.

1-Summary- why tell the story again, every 10 years, (new residents, new circumstances) what is the primary message (1- water source protection, 2-conservation, 3-Cost, 4- long term sustainability, long range planning.)

2- condensed: what are we, why, history, how we got here,

3- Cost- what are the key elements of district costs and why the rate structure is what it is, how does it compare.

4- Water availability- how much, where, how we get it, reasons to use it wisely, sustainable yield, current and future regulatory environment.

5- source protection- what do we do, what should individuals do, what are homeowners and businesses responsible for, historic contamination, current situation, future situation. Plans for the long term.

6- long range planning ó how AWD plans for the long term in terms of each major element of the system: sources, protection, access, treatment, distribution, cost planning, town growth.

7- summary- rehash the major points.

AWD Articles Ideas

- 1) Water Rates: How is our water bill calculated? What are the inclining block rates that the commissioners implemented in September 2002? Why is this done?
- 2) Leak Detection: How it saves water. What can be done in one's home to detect leaks? What does the AWD do to detect and repair leaks?
- 3) Summer Water Use: Why are there summer water use restrictions? What can happen if all property owners ran a lawn sprinkler at the same time (using 3-5 gallons/minute).
- 4) Does Acton have enough water? We can look at this from a number of perspectives including the amount of rainfall (how much is captured), the amount of water that can be produced by running all of our wells at the same time, the limitations on our well use (including safe withdrawals) and the amount of water we are permitted to withdraw daily (DEP permitted).
- 5) AWD's water treatment plants: Information on the current treatments for each of the well sites that are in use. Why is there a need to change technologies? What are the new technologies that are being utilized in Acton?
- 6) Flushing: Why do we flush the infrastructure? Why does it often cause discoloration of the water? How often must we do it? What are the benefits? What should a customer do when their area of town will be flushed?
- 7) Weather: Does weather affect our water supply? How? What are the benefits/deficits? We might even discuss potential behavioral changes that can take place.
- 8) The cost of water: What is affecting the cost of our water? How will this change in the future and why? We should discuss infrastructure replacement/renewal as well as the WTP's if we choose this topic.