

**Commissioners Meeting
Water Supply District of Acton
Meeting Minutes
March 5, 2012**

The regular bi-monthly meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. on Monday, March 5, 2012 at the Acton Water District Office by Mr. Leonard Phillips.

Present: Commissioners Leonard Phillips (Chairman), Stephen Stuntz, and Ronald Parenti. Also, District Manager, Chris Allen; District Treasurer/Collector, Mary Jo Bates and District Counselor Mary Bassett. Finance Committee Members: David Butler and Bill Guthlein, Barry Rosen representing both WLMAC & WRAC and Rich Protasowicki of Wright-Pierce was also in attendance.

Comments from Citizens

Mr. Ed Leonard of 234 School Street complained about the water quality in South Acton. He stated that he has consistent color issues with the water. He indicated that he has discolored water on 4 out of 7 days each week. This has been an ongoing problem.

Mr. Phillips explained that velocity and direction changes have a significant impact on the water quality in South Acton. Our engineers, Wright-Pierce, are using advanced modeling techniques to understand the problem. Mr. Allen explained that there is a very high mineral content in the South Acton water sources. Until there is treatment in South Acton, that unfiltered water is being pumped into the system. High iron and manganese concentrations are causing the color issues, which is exacerbated by demand changes. A filtration pilot will begin in South Acton in April. This is the first step towards the construction of a treatment plant, currently targeted to be in service in September 2014. Mr. Phillips agreed that the only solution will be treatment at the source. Mr. Allen also explained that flushing is done in South Acton annually in an attempt to mitigate the problem. The disinfecting chemicals that are added to the system cause the dissolved iron and manganese ions to oxidize and precipitate. Mr. Stuntz encouraged Mr. Leonard to attend the Annual Meeting on March 21 at the Public Safety Facility and vote for the additional funding for the pilot. Mr. Allen recommended that the service line be flushed to see if that would improve the water quality for the short term. Mr. Allen will schedule with the homeowner.

Approval of Minutes from February 13 Meeting

Mr. Phillips moved to amend minutes of the meeting held on February 13, 2012 and Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion.

NEW BUSINESS

Rich Protasowicki of Wright Pierce for 2012 Master Plan Update.

Mr. Stuntz had expressed some concerns about the scope of the 2012 Master Plan update. Mr. Protasowicki indicated that this will be usable as a planning document for the future. It will include a 10 year capital improvement plan. He presented copies of the Master Plans that Wright-Pierce has recently completed to show the increased scope compared to our previous plan. This plan will assist with the prioritization of projects and will made recommendations of improvements to the system. It will be an asset management tool. Mr. Phillips asked if water use projections will address build-out saturation based on the Zoning Bylaw. Mr. Protasowicki said they will gather information and make recommendations on demand management.

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.

OLD BUSINESS

Update on water bill abatement request from homeowner of 253D School Street

Mr. Parenti asked about the interest being charged on that account. Mr. Allen indicated that the account is still interest exempt, awaiting a decision from the homeowner. The Commissioners agreed that Mr. Allen should contact the homeowner and let him know that interest will begin to be charged to that account on April 1.

Update and discussion of activities planned for the Centennial Celebration

Mr. Allen explained that presentations have been made to the Lions Club and the Rotary Club about the AWD Centennial Celebration. Brochures have been printed and they are being distributed. There will be an open house on May 5. It will begin at the Library at 10:00 am with a roundtable discussion of relevant water uses. We will also present the Award for the Steward of Acton Water. We will then move on to the North Acton Water Treatment Plant for lunch, tours and displays.

Acceptance of chemical donation

Mr. Allen explained that the operator of the groundwater treatment systems at the W.R. Grace site (de maximis, inc.) have offered the District surplus water treatment chemicals. Due to a change in process at the landfill area treatment system, they no longer need approximately 500 pounds of potassium permanganate. The chemical is in ten factory sealed buckets and meets both the NSF and AWWA specifications for the potassium permanganate currently being used at the North Acton Water Treatment Plant and has an approximate value of \$1,500. Mr. Phillips made a motion to accept the donation. It was seconded by Mr. Stuntz and was unanimously approved.

Annual Meeting: March 21, 2012

Mr. Allen reminded all that the location of the Annual Meeting is at the Public Safety Facility on March 21, 2012.

Mr. Parenti commented on the website. He was looking for something and was pleased to see it was right on the home page.

Mr. Rosen reminded the Commissioners that there is still a vacancy on the WLMAC. No applicants have come forward at this time.

Mr. Phillips moved to adjourn the meeting and Mr. Parenti seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 8:56 p.m.