



# Water Supply District of Acton

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## WLMAC MEETING NOTES OF JANUARY 8, 2013

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

**Note Taker(s):** Barry Rosen

**Chairperson:** Barry Rosen

**Called To Order:** The chairperson called the meeting to order at 8:55 PM. [Two members of the committee were delayed so the meeting commencement was delayed.]

### New Business:

#### 1. Approval of Minutes:

- 1.1. On a motion made by Mr. Olmstead and seconded by Ms. Eckhardt, the minutes of December 11, 2012 were approved unanimously.
- 1.2. On a motion made by Mr. Olmstead and seconded by Ms. Eckhardt, the amended minutes of November 13, 2012 were approved unanimously.

#### 2. Possible Agenda Items for the Board of Water Commissioners: The committee spent several minutes discussing any pertinent business that may be critical to take-up with the AWD Board of Water Commissioners at their next meeting which is scheduled for January 14, 2013 at 7:30 PM ET. It was decided that two immediate mission critical issues need to be addressed.

- 2.1. Remote participation: Mr. Ciparø's business for the immediate future will frequently have him working at Kirtland AFB (NM). In order to have the advantage and expertise of Mr. Ciparø's participation on those occasions when he cannot be present at a WLMAC meeting due to this circumstance, it would be necessary for him to participate remotely in a way allowed by the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law. This can easily be done utilizing a "call-in" to a speaker-phone located in the AWD HQ conference room where the meetings are held or by using a two-way laptop video call utilizing Google or Skype through the Internet. In either case, all parties can hear each other and/or hear and see each other in the case of video. The meeting would still take place in the AWD HQ with a quorum present and any votes would be by roll call. This satisfies the requirements of the OML. Remote participation in committee meetings, which would be limited to committee members only, requires authorization from the AWD Commissioners, which we will request at their meeting on 14 January 2013.
- 2.2. LRP Review Time: Only recently was the WLMAC able to obtain a single hard copy of the 2013 draft LRP for review and comment as requested by the Board of Water Commissioners. An electronic copy could not be provided. Mr. Malchodi volunteered to create electronic files (PDFs) from the single copy obtained by the WLMAC by scanning each individual page. This would permit simultaneous review by the committee's members which would reduce the time necessary for reading, discussion and reporting to the Board. During our discussion, it

was clear that the committee would not be prepared to fully comment on the draft LRP at the next meeting of the Board (January 14, 2013). Therefore, the decision was made to present our progress to the Board and present our proposed timeline for commenting back to them on the LRP draft document. The consensus of the WLMAC was that we should attempt to report to the Board on January 28, 2013.

2.3. *Action Item: Mr. Rosen will request two time slots for the WLMAC to present issues 2.1 and 2.2 at the Board of Water Commissioners' meeting to be held on January 14, 2013 at 7:30 PM EST. Ms. Eckhardt and Mr. Malchodi will present for the WLMAC at that meeting.*

3. **Additional WLMAC Meeting:** In light of the previous discussions, the membership decided to hold another WLMAC meeting on Thursday, January 17, 2013 at the AWD HQ beginning at 8:00 PM. If possible, John Cipar would be a remote participant pending the Board approving remote participation. Mr. Rosen will prepare and distribute an agenda to be posted at the AWD and on the District web site for this incremental meeting.

### **Old Business:**

3. **Discussion of the draft 2013 LRP being written by Wright-Pierce:** As the WLMAC has had very limited time to begin reviewing the PDF files created by Mr. Malchodi from the single hard copy document provided to us by Mr. Allen, the committee could only begin its discussion of the document. It will continue its discussion at the next (1/17/2013) WLMAC meeting.

*Action Item: Each member of the team is to complete their reading of the draft 2013 LRP. They are then to send their notes to the WLMAC distribution list for group discussion at the 1/17 meeting. As per the OML, there should be no discussion, written or oral, about the LRP until the next meeting. Sending the notes is to save time and to help facilitate the interaction at the meeting.*

4. **Some comments made by members after the preliminary review:**

- 4.1. It did not appear that the LRP looked at a number of possible "outside the box or outside the water district" solutions. Most of the work seemed to look at additional wells within the District as water sources. Some members noted that the LRP pointed-out that the DEP based the withdrawal limits on the town's population. Therefore, additional sources within the town would not likely lead to an increase in the allowable withdrawal.

- 4.2. There was a brief mention within the LRP of obtaining additional water from the MWRA. The sense of the WLMAC was that more time needs to be spent on examining the MWRA as a possible primary and/or secondary source of water. As more and more water purity requirements are imposed on our water system, AWD water plants and water plant upgrades will become increasingly expensive to build and operate. We need to understand the point at which it becomes less expensive to purchase some or all water of the required quality rather than attempting to manufacture it. The committee felt that some future projections of water purity requirements (what will we be required to remove or protect against) should be discussed within the LRP.

- 4.3. The WLMAC decided to spend time considering the MWRA as Mr. Olmstead had obtained some new information from his MWRA contact.

- 4.3.1. The AWD would not be able to connect to the MWRA in Bedford. Bedford connects to the MWRA pipeline in Lexington, which Mr. Olmstead was told, no longer has any additional capacity.
- 4.3.2. The Town of Maynard has expressed interest to the MWRA about connecting.
- 4.3.3. It appears that Acton would have to run a pipe southward to connect to the MWRA. A connection to an MWRA supply line may be possible in Framingham, Marlborough, Southborough or Northborough or another town in that general region.
- 4.3.4. At a rough construction estimate of \$1M per mile of pipeline, it might cost between \$14M to \$18M to reach a connection point. This could be about the cost of a water treatment plant. If there were collaboration between multiple towns, this could reduce the pipeline construction and other related connection expenses to the AWD substantially.
- 4.3.5. MWRA processed water is tested for most of the common pharmaceuticals that could be regulated in the future, by a lab. None have been found. The stated reasons are that their water supplies are very well protected and that the ozone treatment provided (at the John Carroll plant located at the juncture of Northborough, Marlborough and Southborough) would destroy most of them.
- 4.3.6. The MWRA also makes loans to member water suppliers using MWRA water to improve their water delivery infrastructure at a 0% interest rate for up to 10 years.
- 4.4. The cost of operating our existing plants should be explored within the LRP said Mr. Malchodi. The cost of operation of both existing and new plants could be significant ó particularly the costs that would be incurred with full time plant operators.

**Adjournment:**

On a motion made by Mr. Olmstead and seconded by Ms. Eckhardt, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting on January 8, 2013 at 10:35 PM EST.