

## WLMAC MEETING NOTES OF MARCH 13, 2012

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

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

**Chairperson:** Barry Rosen

**Called To Order:** The chairperson called the meeting to order on March 13, 2012 at 8:15 PM EDT.

### **New Business:**

1. Approval of Minutes: Mr. Olmstead moved and Mr. Malchodi seconded a motion to accept the minutes of February 13, 2012 as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.
2. Summary of Board of Water Commissioners Meeting of March 5, 2012:
  - 2.1. A resident of School Street spoke to the commissioners about the poor water quality that exists in his neighborhood. Specifically, the water is discolored and looks like light tea right now but has appeared even darker at other times. Chris and the commissioners spoke about the problems that they are having with water discoloration particularly in that area. Some of the problem is from the actual well water but a great deal of it comes from the reactions occurring between the chemicals in the water such as fluoride and chlorine, and the water supply pipes. Chris offered to send a crew to the customer's home and attempt to flush the water pipes by allowing water to free flow through the pipes by removing the water meter. This has helped in some instances. A flush of the supply pipes in his area is scheduled every year which also should improve the situation.
  - 2.2. Rich Protasowiki of Wright-Pierce answered commissioners' questions about his company's proposal to perform the 2012 AWD Master Plan. The commissioners said that they were not happy with the previous master plan. They want this one to look at the AWD infrastructure for a period of about ten years. Rich promised that it would and that they would be happy with this new iteration.
  - 2.3. The District decided to postpone any further discussion on the water abatement request from the homeowner at 253D School Street until he contacted the AWD and/or appeared at another meeting. To prevent this issue from dragging on forever, the commissioners decided to ask the homeowner for his decision on the options before him by April 1, 2012. After this time, interest would begin accruing on the unpaid water bill.
  - 2.4. Richard O'Brien was not able to attend the meeting but the commissioners were shown the pamphlet that had been prepared for the AWD Centennial celebration. The TV meteorologist that was to speak during the celebration day (5/5/2012) will not be able to attend because another meteorologist at the TV station is

pregnant and he will likely need to be available. The District will utilize local resources to speak.

- 2.5. Grace has offered the AWD a good sized amount of potassium permanganate as a donation. Matt inspected the material which seems to be in excellent condition. The District uses this chemical at the North Acton treatment plant and the staff recommends that the District accept the donation. The commissioners voted unanimously to accept the chemical donation from W. R. Grace.
- 2.6. Everyone was reminded that the annual AWD meeting will be held at the Acton Public Safety Facility and *not* at the public library as in the past.

### **Old Business:**

3. Update on candidates for the open WLMAC position:
  - 3.1. In speaking with Chris at the AWD meeting, he explained that he heard from a new Acton resident (believed to be a chemical engineer) who was interested in serving his new community. He expressed interest in learning more about the WLMAC. Chris wrote back to him and so far has not received a reply.
  - 3.2. Barry heard back from Ann Sussman. She has decided to withdraw her name at this time as she felt that there were too many things involving water that required attention. She did not feel that she would be able to have an impact as a member of the WLMAC.
4. AWD Capacity study outline revision:
  - 4.1. Mr. Rosen handed-out a straw man discussion outline to the committee that was based upon the memo which had been discussed at the previous meeting. [A copy is attached to the minutes.]
  - 4.2. After some discussion of the outline, the WLMAC members decided to use it as the new basis for the actual simplified study.
  - 4.3. Mr. Malchodi stated that he could use more time to think about the outline and perhaps suggest some changes to the order of the topics. Others in the committee had similar feelings and asked if we could delay further discussion and adopting a final outline.
  - 4.4. Mr. Olmstead suggested that we impose a relatively short timeframe for review and suggestions on ourselves.
  - 4.5. *Action Item: The membership will continue to review and make suggestions to the "straw man outline" sending any suggested changes to Mr. Rosen and copying the entire membership. DUE DATE: TUESDAY, MARCH 20, 2012 by the close of business.*
  - 4.6. Mr. Malchodi stated that he was interested in obtaining more information on outline topic #1 and intended to contact Matt Mostoller to find a way to obtain District historical water usage information.

- 4.7. Mr. Malchodi also mentioned that he was interested in topic #2 also and had already begun some rough draft writing on this topic. He handed-out some printed copies the approximately page and a quarter draft to the members as we might be able to provide some thoughts on the direction, and utilize it in our discussion and finalizing the District Capacity Study outline.
5. Meeting Dates: After polling the membership, it was agreed that the next WLMAC meeting would take place on the scheduled date of Tuesday, April 10, 2012 beginning at 8:00 PM EDT at the AWD HQ building.

**Adjournment:**

On a motion made by Mr. Olmstead and seconded by Mr. Malchodi, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 PM ET on March 13, 2012 by a unanimous vote.

# Acton Water District Capacity Study

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1. Historical water usage in the Town of Acton. Include some data which demonstrates the sudden increase in usage (spikes) caused by outdoor irrigation particularly in hot weather. This should show some of the town's peak demand periods.
2. Effect(s) that very high water usage has or could have on Acton with respect to water pressure, having sufficient water for emergency needs and safety.
3. Can we expect the town's water usage to increase, decrease or remain the same? What variables will affect the answer to this question?
4. What are the known quality issues with Acton's water?
5. Water treatment in Acton.
  - a. How and where water is currently treated in Acton?
  - b. What are the plans for future water treatment in Acton?
  - c. Are there any effects on capacity from various treatment modalities or plants?
6. Current or future water deficits in Acton.
  - a. What is the ability or difficulty in meeting current peak demands?
  - b. What is the ability or difficulty in meeting future peak demands?
  - c. What is the ability or difficulty in meeting current water quality expectation (both consumer and/or legal)?
  - d. What is the ability or difficulty in meeting future water quality expectation (both consumer and/or legal)?
7. Possible Solutions.
  - a. What are some possible solutions to preserve or increase quantity?
    - i. Raise pumping limits?
    - ii. Increase the number of wells?
    - iii. Obtain water from sources outside the Town of Acton? E.g. Regionalizing with neighboring towns? MWRA? Can any of this be done on a part-time basis such as purchasing "outside" water only during peak periods of usage? Mutual well development projects with our neighbors?
    - iv. Increase the amount of water storage in Acton.
  - b. What are some possible solutions to preserve or increase quality?
    - i. Update existing plants?
    - ii. Build new treatment plants?
    - iii. Combine/redesign new or existing plants?
    - iv. Phased replacement of aging infrastructure to eliminate portions that are chemically and/or physically breaking down?
    - v. Obtain water from outside sources that already meet or exceed quality standards and expectations.
8. Costs?