

## WLMAC MEETING NOTES OF MAY 10, 2011

**Present:** John Cipar, Paul Malchodi, Chuck Olmstead, Barry Rosen

**Guest Presenter:** Richard O'Brien, AWD Moderator

**Chairperson:** Barry Rosen

**Called To Order:** The chairperson called the meeting to order on 10 May 2011 at 8:10 PM EDT.

### New Business:

1. As Mr. O'Brien had asked to speak to the WLMAC, the Committee felt that to respect the guest speaker's time, it would move the rest of its agenda to follow Mr. O'Brien's presentation.
2. Richard O'Brien: Ideas for the AWD Annual Meeting & AWD 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration.
  - 2.1. Dick noted that most AWD Annual meetings have low ratepayer attendance. We find ourselves talking mostly to ourselves. He also noted that having low attendance is not good since that means many of the ratepayers are not current in what is taking place at the water district.
  - 2.2. He feels that it is important for the ratepayers to be kept abreast and involved with the issues that are confronting the water district. In the near future, we will need the support of the voters to approve bond issues that will fund improvements to the quality of the water and the infrastructure.
  - 2.3. We need to make the annual meeting an event with a reason for people to attend.
  - 2.4. One idea is to expand the meeting and have a well known keynote speaker that will draw a larger audience.
  - 2.5. Mr. O'Brien has already contacted WCVB (Mike Wankum) to ask if he would consider being a guest speaker. He is very involved in water issues and said that he would be willing to be a keynote speaker and possibly do some teaching.
  - 2.6. Dick has begun the formation of a 100th year anniversary committee which he expects will meet every other week.
  - 2.7. He is proposing to change the next annual meeting to a Sunday afternoon (March 18, 2012 at 2:00 PM) in an effort to make the meeting more of a family event.
  - 2.8. He would like to make the 100th year anniversary celebration a six month long series of events with numerous activities involving many groups including some of our largest ratepayers, the American Water Works Association and the Community Education program.
  - 2.9. Mr. O'Brien would also like a history of the water district to be compiled and published. John, Chuck and Paul explained that a pretty good summary of the

water district's history had already been written and was included as part of the WLMAC's report to the district commissioners. It is available on the District's web site for download.

- 2.10. There was some discussion between Mr. O'Brien and members of the WLMAC concerning his proposals and the types of events that seem to draw residents of Acton to town meetings. All agreed that it was very important to involve many of the young people of Acton in water district events.
3. The approval of the minutes of March 8, 2011 and the minutes of April 12, 2011 were postponed until the next meeting of the WLMAC. One of the note takers for each of these meetings was not present this evening and the notes taken will serve as the appendix to the minutes documenting the changes to the work in progress.
4. Summary of Board of Water Commissioners meeting of May 2, 2011. John Cipar and Barry Rosen provided the WLMAC with a brief summary of the highlights of this meeting.
  - 4.1. Assabet Sand and Gravel encroachment: the Massachusetts DEP sent an inspector to visit the site in question. So far, there has been no movement or removal of material and equipment from the encroachment area. The sense expressed at the meeting was that the business owner seems to be stalling for time. A few people stated that they believed that this situation will require adjudication.
  - 4.2. The community update for the W.R. Grace/EPA Superfund site has been set for May 18, 2011 at the Acton public library at 7:00 PM. Grace has outsourced the treatment to be provided at the site and it is believed that this company will be present at the community update.
  - 4.3. The water district is currently updating and revising its *Rules and Regulations*. A few examples were provided during the meeting.

### **Old Business:**

5. Continuing discussion on Capacity table of contents: Due to the lateness of the hour and that the WLMAC did not have a current copy of the revised table of contents, the committee decided to continue this item to the next meeting of the WLMAC. The committee asked Barry Rosen to check with Greta to see if a weekend meeting of the WLMAC (one time only) would be helpful. If so, Barry will survey the WLMAC to ascertain the best possible date for us to meet.
6. NEXT MEETING: The next regular meeting of the WLMAC will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2011 at 8:00 PM at the Acton Water District headquarters building.

### **Adjournment:**

On a motion made by Chuck Olmstead and seconded by John Cipar, the meeting was adjourned at 9:25 PM by a unanimous vote.