



Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
P.O. BOX 953
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01720

TELEPHONE (978) 263-9107

FAX (978) 264-0148

WLMAC MEETING NOTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2012

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

Note Taker(s): Paul Malchodi, Barry Rosen

Chairperson: Barry Rosen

Called To Order: The chairperson called the meeting to order on November 13, 2012 at 8:30 PM ET.

New Business:

1. Approval of Minutes of October 10, 2012: On a motion by Mr. Malchodi which was seconded by Mr. Olmstead, the minutes were approved as presented by a unanimous vote.
2. Committee meeting dates for 2013:
 - 2.1. After a brief discussion, the committee decided to schedule the monthly meeting dates on the second Tuesday of each month. Additional meeting dates will be scheduled as needed.
 - 2.2. Mr. Rosen will create a list of meeting dates for 2013 and send them to the committee and to the AWD for posting in the office and on the District web site.

Old Business:

3. Summary of AWD Commissioners Meeting of 11/5 Regarding WLMAC Mission: Mr. Rosen provided the committee with a summary of the discussion on the future mission of the WLMAC with the AWD commissioners. Note that Mr. Stuntz was absent from the meeting.
 - 3.1. The commissioners do not want to duplicate what is already being done. This was stated in the context that Wright-Pierce Engineering is already working on the next master plan which is supposed to contain forward looking strategy. We had suggested that it might make sense for the WLMAC to have some input into the document prior to its completion because it would be relevant to our capacity study.
 - 3.2. There was a suggestion that the committee might be asked to look into solar energy or other possible alternative energy sources. If solar energy, what type of solar should be installed (e.g. tracking, fixed, combination)? Does solar energy make sense for this area of New England for the AWD? Should the AWD just be a landlord for a solar installation similar to the role we play in renting space for antennas? Should a solar energy installation just be used as a backup for other low energy requirements?

- 3.3. Is there value in using AWD water for cooling buildings? This has been used in other countries. The cold water is pumped from the ground, used in help cool buildings and then enters the municipal water system. There is a charge of using this cold water. Mr. Allen expressed some doubt as to whether this concept could be utilized, even if practical.
 - 3.4. The question was asked as to whether an energy efficiency program for the AWD was the right thing to do. Since there is always monetary investment involved, what would be the desired payback time? Would such an investment be able to save the rate payers money?
 - 3.5. There was an emphatic agreement among the commissioners that *revenue* was the largest issue on the table. Their feeling was that anything that could be done to help them increase the District's revenue would be extremely helpful.
 - 3.6. Both commissioners present felt that they would like to continue this discussion with Mr. Stuntz present in addition to Mr. Parenti and Mr. Phillips as there were very important things to be considered. Therefore, this agenda item will be added to the next meeting of the AWD Board of Water Commissioners to be held on Monday, November 19, 2012.
4. Discussion of the Summary:
- 4.1. Mr. Olmstead inquired as to the specific objectives of the AWD planning document that was being prepared by Wright-Pierce Engineering. Mr. Rosen replied that he did not know as he had not seen a document or a purchase order that outlined this during the AWD meeting when the commissioners gave the "OK" to Wright-Pierce to begin work.
 - 4.1.1. Mr. Olmstead thought that these objectives would be a critical piece of information as they would tell about the strategic area(s) to be investigated such as capacity.
 - 4.1.2. He felt that this is an area where the WLMAC can add value to any work that might be done on the planning document.
 - 4.1.3. Ms. Eckhardt explained how the planning done by an architectural firm is somewhat analogous to how the WLMAC would function with part of the strategic plan. She explained that prior to completing a final design, the firm would speak to a number of different groups that might be stakeholders in the project which could include students, teachers, administrators and neighborhood citizens if the project were going to be a school or college building.
 - 4.2. Mr. Malchodi stated that he would like the WLMAC to be involved in the planning process. He feels that just about everything this committee talks about is strategic to the water district.
 - 4.2.1. The membership felt that one of the major benefits of the WLMAC is that an "outside citizen group" is taking a look or a relook at the strategic planning of the District.
 - 4.2.2. This can allow new ideas to be introduced or the questioning necessary to affirm or change ideas in a complex environment.
 - 4.3. The committee agreed with the view expressed by the two commissioners at the 11/5 meeting that *revenue* is and will be a major concern of the District.
 - 4.3.1. It was the sense of the membership that the rapid rise in water cost to the rate payers is going to be an issue.
 - 4.3.2. Some felt that it has already been noticed by a number of rate payers even though the District may not have heard about it at this time. Everyone believed that it will be a big problem for the District in the future. The question on the table was how soon this will occur.

- 4.3.3. Again, the committee felt that this is another strong argument for why the WLMAC should be involved in looking at future strategic direction and decisions for the AWD.
- 4.4. The membership discussed the upcoming meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners scheduled to be held on November 19 at which time the discussion with the WLMAC is to be continued. The members surveyed themselves to determine who would be able to attend this meeting. It appeared that at least three and possibly four would attend. Mr. Rosen is to contact John Cipar to make him aware of the meeting. [He may still be traveling on business.]

Adjournment:

On a motion by Mr. Olmstead and seconded by Mr. Malchodi, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting on November 13, 2012 at 10:00 PM ET.