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****Please note that this update and all future updates will contain new information and does not repeat information already provided in previous updates****

The Drought Management Crisis Team met August 30 and addressed a multitude of items. John Clarkeson, Chair of the Water Resource Committee and Paul Donlan, Director of Finance and Administration for the School Department are recent additions to our workgroup.

Forecast

Resident meteorologist Tim Kelly informs us that no appreciable rainfall is anticipated in the next week. There is a 60/40 chance of some rain for Sunday. A number of tropical storms are also being watched. These storms are typically helpful because they supply good rain without harmful winds. Be aware that most trees root systems are stressed due to the drought, so they are vulnerable to high winds. Please take some time to check out any susceptible branches or limbs.

Supply

- As of Friday, August 19 we have been able to supply the Town with water from the wells exclusively and have not tapped the reservoir for any water. Well 17A has come back on line and is producing 170,000 more gallons per day (gpd) now that it's been refurbished.
- The Fire Chief is working with MEMA on providing a water tanker to be staged at a convenient location for use in an emergency by the Towns of Cohasset, Hingham, Norwell and Scituate. The Town is also looking at leasing two 9,000 gallon water tankers to have in Town for fire suppression should the reservoir get to 10%.
- We have received inquiries as to why the Town does not reduce the flow or pressure in the pipes to conserve water. This is not possible because the pressure needs to remain at a certain level to insure public safety.

Demand

- Through the good efforts of residents and businesses, demand has been reduced so that our needs are currently being met by the wells. Conservation is helping and if it is sustained we will not have to use the reservoir.
- The latest daily average of water usage is 1,260,000 gallons per day. 930,000 gallons are generated directly to the water system by the wells and 330,000 gallons are generated from the Water Treatment Plant that is being supplied by well 17A.
- The Harbormaster is installing low flow shower heads in the two maritime buildings.
- Phase 3 of the water replacement project will continue with the new pipes being left dry for now. Typically, the pipes are flushed with chlorine and water immediately after being installed. We can do this later once the water is stabilized.
- Conservation is working! Water conservation is the single best thing we as a town can do to meet the statewide drought. In the winter, our average daily use of water is 63 gallons per person per day. If we can all conserve water, say five gallons per person per day, we have a good chance of getting through this extraordinary period of drought. Helpful water

tips sent in by you are posted on the Town's website. Send yours to conserwater@scituatema.gov

Dredging of Reservoir. Next week we are issuing a Request for Proposal to dredge the reservoir. The cost is not known at this time nor do we know if it is feasible given the structure of the reservoir (the reservoir is lined with a layer of peat that keeps the water from leaking through to the gravel and sand below it). People have asked why the tree stumps can't be removed or the bottom of the reservoir dug out when it is so low. There are two concerns: (1) we can't put machinery in the public water supply because of concerns of fuel and hydraulic oil contamination and (2) pulling stumps may penetrate the peat layer and cause the reservoir to leak. Any work on the reservoir will require proper engineering and permitting from numerous state and federal agencies and we are proceeding cautiously.

- Expansion of Reservoir. We have been studying the potential for raising the water level in the reservoir since before the current statewide drought. Over the past couple of years we have obtained DEP grants to complete a feasibility study and do the preliminary engineering on the project to raise the height of the reservoir by 18". We have engaged an engineering firm to do the final design and obtain permits to complete this project. If the Town decides to go forward with this project, related articles will be on the warrant for the April 2017 town meeting.
- Refurbishment of Wells. Wells lose capacity each year and need to be refurbished. The Water Department is developing an accelerated plan of cycling the wells through the refurbishment process.
- Additional Wells. The Town owns a potential well field off of Country Way between Hollett and Captain Peirce. We are exploring the cost and feasibility of drilling a new well in this area to meet future demand. Establishing a new well field is a multi-year process. Water from wells is a preferred route because this water requires less treatment and generally has a fresher taste.

Outreach and Education

- All residents will receive instructional water conservation postcards on Thursday and Friday of this week.
- The September COA newsletter has a special insert on water information and conservation tips to assist our seniors.
- The Town is working with NSRWA and the School Department to inform students about water conservation and what they can do to help.
- Each fall we get water abatement requests for summer residents who discover a leaky pipe after they have left. Please check to make sure your faucet is not dripping or toilet running before you leave. If applicable, turn the water main off.
- Leaky Toilet Tanks. We are working on making blue table tests available for residents at the Water Department. This simple test will tell you if you have a leaky toilet tank flap valve. The Council on Aging will have blue tablets available for our seniors early next week.

- Enforcement. The Town continues to strictly enforce the total water ban. In the last week multiple violations have been written in the all areas of town.