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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 on Tuesday, September 6th.

The current status of the reservoir is -81.0" (33.25 feet) which equates to 22.0% Full. This is an increase of 0.25 inches.

Forecast

Light rain fell on September 1, 5 and 6. No significant rainfall is anticipated in the next two weeks.

Water Supply

- Over the past 11 days the Water Division has been able to supply the Town with water from the wells exclusively. All wells are online. No reservoir water has been used.
- Fire Chief John Murphy has established a plan for getting water tanker trucks from the Forest Service and MEMA in the event of a fire emergency.
- The Water Division has completed a connection with the Cohasset water system on Summer Street. The connection will be activated if the Reservoir drops to 10%.

Water Usage

- Through the continued efforts of residents and businesses, water usage has dropped from 1,600,000 gallons per day in the first week of August to 1,220,000 gallons per day in the past seven days, a 25% reduction! This is the single biggest factor enabling the Town successfully get through this extraordinary period of drought.
- As requested, local restaurants are not automatically serving water when customers sit down. They do provide water when requested.
- Conservation is working. Helpful water saving tips sent in by fellow residents are posted on the Town's website. Send yours to conservewater@scituatema.gov
- Violations: In the past five days water ban violations occurred on Surfside Road and Central Avenue. One case resulted in a citation and fine. The second case was issued an advisory warning.

Well owners need to be aware that the drought may affect their wells as well as overall groundwater. While the Town cannot regulate the use of private wells without a Bylaw passed at Town Meeting, we urge well owners to exercise caution when using their well water to avoid depleting their supply.

- The Fire Chief has warned that the drought is creating much drier conditions and increases the danger of fires. The Department has issued these advisories:
 - Never leave a cooking grill unattended.
 - If using charcoal, be sure it is thoroughly extinguished after cooking.
 - No fire pit, brush, camp or open cooking fires are allowed.
 - Dispose of cigarettes responsibly.
 - Keep mulch at least 18” away from combustible materials around your home.
 - Fireworks are illegal and can easily ignite a fire.
 - Grilling on boats is not allowed.

Future Resiliency

- Expansion of the Reservoir: The Town is applying for a Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection grant to complete the 60% design and begin the permitting process to raise the level of water in the Reservoir by 18”. This project will add an additional 28 days’ worth of storage capacity in the Reservoir once it is completed. There will be a Warrant Article at the October Special Town Meeting (\$39,000) to provide matching funds for this next step in the project.
- Refurbishment of Wells: The Water Division will refurbish Well #10 (located on Route 123) as soon as they determine that the well can be taken off-line for 5 days. They have developed an accelerated plan to cycle all wells through the refurbishment process.
- Additional Well: The DPW will issue a Request for Proposals to potentially develop the Town-owned well field off of Country Way between Hollet and Captain Peirce. While establishing a new well is a two-four year process, well water is a preferred source because it requires less treatment and generally has a fresher taste.

Outreach and Education

- Last week all residents received instructional water conservation postcards.
- The NSRWA and the School Department will be working together to develop a program on water conservation and what students can do to help.
- Leaky Toilet Tanks: Blue tablets for testing your toilets for a leaking flapper valve are available at the Water Division office located next to the Greenbush Roundabout.
- The Water Division plans to make a presentation at the Senior Center on how to test for leaking toilets and how to install low-flow shower and sink faucet heads. A limited supply of these devices will be available on a first-come basis.
- The Transfer Station is working on a project to sell 55-gallon water barrels to residents. More information will be available in the coming weeks.
- The South Florida Water Management District has developed a useful interactive tool to determine how much water your home appliances and fixtures use. You can check it out at the following link: <http://www.sfwmd.gov/portal/page/portal/xweb> - release 3 water conservation/computer your use calculator