

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

7:00 PM

REMOTE PARTICIPATION

Topic

Call to order 7:04pm

Attendees:

Emily Simmer
Freya Schlegel
Becky Malamut
Bruce Arbonies
Kevin Finney
Joanne Wykoff

Andrew Goodrich
Paul Bartkiewicz
Adam Bisol

Susan Dipesa

Water system updates

Becky read Sean Anderson's email:

- Reservoir is -59.5" down or 38.84% (60.32 MG in reservoir)
- Drought Status same – moderate.
- Average weekly use 11/9-11/15 from TP = 475,000 gallons per day, down slightly even with some flushing taking place.
 - o Average previous week from TP = 522,000 per day.
- Rainfall as recorded at TP = 0.73 inches over last seven days.
- TTHM's – Samples taken on November 7th came back very good and we are currently in no violation for TTHM's. We have lowered chlorine levels slightly, cleaned both storage tanks, started pumping well 17A into Tack Factory Pond, and have performed some targeted flushing. This along with lower demand has helped lower the TTHM's.
- Tack Factory Pond is + ¾" spilling over into the reservoir which is great news too.
- Update on Well 17A greensand filter plant – completion goal is 12/2021

Water conservation outreach strategy

Freya asked about starting up the rain barrel program again.

- Becky explained the logistical and DPW staffing issues we had last time
- Joanne – Boy scouts have an area where they sell the trees and they pick them up. Could we use that area for the rain barrels?
- Becky - Possibly partner with NSRWA on their program
- Andrew – spoke to DPW about this, major issue was storage. Suggested creating a two-day "event" where we do all of the deliveries in one fell swoop. There's also space on Beaver Dam, before Tilden, where we could store the barrels

Private well policy proposal

Becky briefly reviewed Town Counsel's comments on our initial proposal and the model bylaw provided on Mass.gov

- Andrew thinks we need to be ready by late January if we want to get on the April Town Meeting warrant

Freya asked if we have a map of aquifers to support (or not) the proposal. Becky to dig further into NSRWA and state claims that private wells should be considered as dipping into the same supply as public drinking water.

Paul B reminded us about Mark's statements from last meeting (that wells have minor impact on the aquifer) and that including private wells would impact golf courses (Widows Walk, Country Club, Hatherly)

- He's a member of the Scituate Economic Commission
- How would we include commercial facilities? Need to understand how golf courses use the water, etc

Bruce – We have some flexibility. Maybe we treat private well owners differently, ie. only include them in the irrigation restriction when we get to a certain level of either infrastructure issues or drought.

Emily asked about Toll Brothers and their irrigation well.

Water offset policy proposal

Bruce presented a list of mitigation measures / impact statement for applicants

- Becky suggested he add low water landscaping
- Jacqueline – we should use gpd and not bedrooms
- Freya asked about buildout and rebate programs

No update on Tighe & Bond Master Plan

Paul mentioned that some towns have relationships with local hardware stores to implement rebate program.

Create WRC committees

Outdoor water use restriction – Kevin, Freya, Joanne

Water offsets – Becky and Bruce

Conservation outreach strategy – Jackie and Emily

Paul asked about providing a copy of any pertinent docs before meetings so public can comment. Becky to reach out TA / BOS to figure out how to do this.

Approve October minutes

No comments

Becky made a motion to accept the minutes circulated via email. Joanne seconded. All in favor via roll call vote

Recent correspondence

Update on 673 First Parish – neighbor has decided to put their property on the market, which removes access to Lincoln’s parcel – it’s not longer connected to the other conservation land and they’re not going to parcel it out all the way to the road

- CPC rep also said you can’t put a well on land purchased with CPC money
- Becky to ask if the town land next to it has been tested as a potential water supply – what’s the difference of 100 yards? And when was it explored as a potential reservoir site?

Open discussion

Next meeting – Dec 16 at 7pm

Adjourn