**WRC Minutes**

**7/31/2018**

**Attendees**

Martha Cook

Deb Smith-Mooney

Shirley Young

Kevin Cafferty

Dick Green

Karen Canfield by phone

**Water Update – Kevin Cafferty**

* Reservoir is at -21.5”
  + Dropped 21 inches in July
  + Triggers sheet shows that we have 115 days of supply left, but apparently that’s based on winter flows and usage
  + Next trigger is when reservoir drops to -4 (which is 36 below)
  + Kevin doesn’t think we need to send out a conservation email or anything like that yet, just wants the numbers from Weston & Sampson to know how much we need in the reservoir to sustain us
  + Brown water calls are way down
  + People need to know how to flush their hot water heaters, etc so they don’t have to replace hot water heaters, dishwashers, etc
* Avg 1.91 mgd for July
* Lower pressure valve approved for Humarock (so leaks will leak less, haven’t been able to find some of them)
* Sean spoke with Matt from Acton, got some feedback re: fees but nothing about what to change
* Smart meters about 2/3 done, will take another 10 years at the current rate to complete
* Still planning green sand filter for Tack Factory Pond, which would allow them to bring that well back on line and account for new developments, but they cost $7-8 million per filter
* He followed up, re: no boating signs for reservoir. He seems to want them, just not sure if the appropriate staff member has ordered them from highway dept
* System-wide water study - Proposal is not final yet. New plan is for engineer to come in and talk to Planning Board to review their ideas

*Brown Water Meeting Update – Karen Canfield*

Karen suggested we make Aug 13 a joint meeting

* Kevin meeting with consultants this Friday to review presentation, topics, etc
* Plan is presentation and Q&A
* Deb brought up the idea of having people submit questions beforehand to reduce redundancies
* Benefit of the joint meeting is that our mission is to advise Water Commissioners, so it makes sense that they would rely on us for things like this water summit
* We need to post agenda if we plan to be there officially

*Reservoir Project Update – Becky Malamut*

Abutter’s property on the market (436 CJ Cushing Hwy), what are we going to do?

* We can write a letter to Board of Selectmen, CC: Jim and Kevin, tell them we’re interested in purchasing it and why
* Seems to be an unbuildable lot, would it even be worth the Town buying it if no one else can buy it?
* Town would likely pay assessed value, which Kevin thinks would be closer to 225K
* Tom Cook presented to Kevin, Jim, et all this morning, Becky to check back in with Jim now that he knows more about the project
* Becky to continue working with Tom Cook, BOH and broker to make sure the septic system is upgraded to meet new reservoir specs

**Recent Correspondence - Dick Green**

* Property on Old Oaken Bucket, 20 acres
* He projects 1.5mgd as outflow, use MWRA to determine cost / value of that water
* Town will determine an assessed value
* Kevin thinks there was a concern about pesticides from cranberry bogs getting into the reservoir, which is why they diverted it some time ago
* What would one need to know to determine if a piece of property is viable as a potential water supply source?
  + Town would send a Geologist who specializes in water wells would evaluate property and possibly put in test wells
  + That would cost $75-100K, according to Dick. We would ask BOS for that money
* He brought this to town in 2005, Weston & Sampson determined land not viable for wells
* There was then more testing and a report submitted in 2010 (Higgins)
* WRC to read and review and let Kevin know what we think at the next meeting
* Kevin to read and pass on to his colleagues as well
* We could purchase the land for protection and the Town could use the land for a well in the future
* Any purchase of land needs to go through Town Meeting, whether it’s CPC funding, State SRF Funds, or a purchase with funds from a department
* Dick brought this to Maura Curran a few years ago, she brought it back to BOS and Town Administrator, he then received an email that said they weren’t interested. Becky to follow-up for more details.

**Water Offsets**

Becky mentioned giving single family builders a break and setting the exemption at 3+ units

Martha and Shirley are both on the side of charging everyone because you just don’t know

Deb feels strongly that we should not charge smaller builders

Deb made a great point, you better make sure my water’s clean before you charge me to use it

WRC to review Acton plan to figure out which, if any credits they would want to implement

**New Initiatives**

*School Fields*

* Becky shared concerns about all of the wells that are dug instead of hooking up to town water
* According to Martha, in-ground irrigation uses significantly more water than hoses and sprinklers
* Becky to call BOH - How many new irrigation wells have been permitted in the last 2 years? How does that compare to the previous 2 years?
* Town needs to be a better example to residents
* Martha to draft list / letter to share with other boards or committees, we can send to Karen as she prepares for Summit

**Approve Minutes**

May – Becky moved to approve, Deb seconded. Shirley agreed, Martha abstained

June– Becky moved to approve, Deb seconded. Martha agreed, Shirley abstained

**Open Disucssion**

Next meeting Tues, Aug 28 7:15pm

**Adjourn 10:05pm**