

## WMAC Meeting Minutes, September 15, 2016

Attendees: David Crosby - Chair, Mark Altbet, Anne Carney, David Hearne, Lealdon Langley, Rory McGregor – Secretary, Chris Pimentel

Guest: Eric Hooper, Superintendent - Sharon DPW; Nancy Fyler – Sharon Water Conservation Coordinator (staff member at Neponset River Watershed Association)

1. Minutes from the May 19 meeting were approved.
2. Mark Altbet was introduced as a new member to the WMAC.
3. Eric Hooper reviewed the explanation for the State's Water Drought criteria. We have transitioned from Drought Watch to Drought Warning which means no outdoor watering unless essential to sustaining the livelihood associated with the property. Residential use is banned as far as irrigation systems are concerned. Any watering by hose must be done after sun down or before sun up.
4. Dave Hearne: what criteria should the selectmen use to implement restrictions on watering? Dave recommends that we always be more restrictive on watering use compared to the State standard at any given time.
5. WMAC had voted a year ago to implement the water restrictions year round. The selectmen did not take up debate on our recommendation. Eric commented that the announcement of a watering to the public every Spring is positive in terms of reinforcing awareness and enabling water conservation.
6. WMAC voted to put selectmen on notice that the State has changed drought status from Drought Watch to Drought Warning. Although total watering ban is part of the state guidance, WMAC feels that the town has been more restrictive on watering use for the entire summer and that implementation of total watering ban is not needed at this time given our proactive water conservation stance to date. Nonetheless, it is important to encourage the public to continue an aggressive water conservation posture and to take any individual action that will continue to reduce water use.  
  
Fixing leaks, installing water efficient appliances such as washing machines and dish washers, using flow reducers in faucets/showers, and upgrading with low flow toilets are all examples of water conservation practices advocated by the town.
7. Nancy Fyler requested that water conservation policy for private wells in Sharon be a subject for future discussion by WMAC.
8. MWRA emergency connection via Norwood could provide up to 1 million gallons of water per day to Sharon. Meeting between Sharon and Norwood town officials took place last week to review details related to the connection. Water feed line from Norwood requires that we remove and replace existing AC pipe that is old. \$210/foot is cost; up to \$1 million will be spent for 2400 feet of new pipe. New pump station is \$700K. Total construction is \$1.7 million. Additional money would be needed for Norwood's expenses related to supplying water. Environmental Partners is doing the design work.
9. MS4 Permit: storm water planning. David Crosby said that we may need town legal counsel to decide if Sharon water rate payers can finance this type of activity. Blake Martin from Weston & Sampson is working on identification and prioritization of potential sites. Peter O'Kane is coordinating the overall town effort.

10. Water level in Lake Massapoag: storm drains dump water downstream of flume house at outlet to lake. Why has lake level been so low this summer?

11. Issues for discussion at next month's meeting: Water billing rate discussion; need to make recommendation to selectmen on rate increase for implementation in January 2017; Eric will distribute the breakdown of revenue per user consumption group. Status of tank painting. Lead pipe removal program.

12. The next meeting will be Thursday October 20th at 7:30 pm at the Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor