

WMAC Meeting Minutes – July 21, 2022

Attendees: David Crosby – Chair, David Brookfield, Anne Carney, David Hearne, Lealdon Langley, Robert (Rory) McGregor – Secretary

Guests: Eric Hooper, Superintendent - Sharon DPW,

1. WMAC minutes for zoom meeting held on June 16th were approved.
2. US Congressional representative Jake Auchincloss visited with personnel from Sharon Town government at Well #4 to discuss the PFAS removal system that has been installed and the broader national issue of future Maximum Control Limits, testing technology, and alternative mitigation strategies. Hanna Switekowski, chair of Select Board, and Fred Turkington coordinated the visit. Eric Hooper and Bobby Fisher represented the Water Department; David Crosby and Rory McGregor represented WMAC. Delegates from other town committees also participated.

A new booster pump had recently been installed at Well #4 to increase throughput capacity at the PFAS filtration system from 500K GPD to 1 million GPD, which is the maximum authorized pumping rate for Well #4. The trailer housing the 3 PFAS filtration tanks was accessible to all for inspection of the system setup. A canister of the resin filter material was available for all to personally observe the sand-like feel and appearance of the small resin beads.

Rep Auchincloss raised the issue of Israel's effort to use reverse osmosis for desalination in their country and suggested that the USA should consider this mitigation approach for PFAS removal. Eric pointed out that the energy requirement for the reverse osmosis process is too great to make this approach viable at present. Use of solar for electricity generation in Israel is the solution to this cost component.

3. Eric Hooper conducted tours of Sharon's water system infrastructure for Select Board, WMAC, Finance Committee, Capital Outlay Committee, Standing Building Committee on July 9, 10 and 16. Tour stops included the Water Department Headquarters building at the Sharon Train Station (Providence Side), nearby Well #4, Well #2 on Moose Hill Parkway, the MWRA Emergency Connection pump station building on Tiot Street and the new Massapoag Ave Water Tank with its 300K gallon capacity. Overall response from those who attended was extremely positive. Eric will schedule additional tours in the Fall for those who were unable to attend this time.

4. Design work for the capital improvement project to provide a permanent PFAS treatment facility for Wells #4, #2, #3 (optional), including removal of other chemicals like Fe, Mn, and Nitrates, is ongoing. MWRA has recently solicited towns to join their water supply program as regular customers without having to pay the customary joining fee. Comparative cost analysis by Environmental Partners has shown that the MWRA alternative for drinking water supply may be worth considering. Eric will give this further scrutiny, even if only to evaluate the MRWA customer experience for a 1 to 2-

year period, while we continue our planning effort to build facilities that can support Sharon's current operation to pump all our own water.

5. The State declared Norfolk County to have Level 2 drought conditions in late June. State regulations require outdoor water use be limited to hand-held hose and inground residential lawn irrigation systems must be turned off. WMAC notified Select Board who agreed at their last meeting in June. Sharon residents were informed by public display boards at various town locations.

6. Eric Hooper reported on Water Department activity during June:

Pumping: 46,867,000 gallons well below historical average, but slightly above 5-year and 10-year averages.

UAW: Year to date slightly above permit limit of 10%; however, reads were taken 3-5 days early (before the 4th of July weekend). Adjusting for the early read would result in UAW below permit limits.

PFAS: Well #4 PFAS6 77 ug/L raw water, ND treated water.
However, seeing breakthrough of non-regulated short chain compound.

Scheduled swap of filter material to take place this Fall.

Groundwater: Low, but consistent with noted drought conditions statewide.

Nitrate: Well #4 5.68 mg/L above study limit but below MCL of 10 mg/L

Revenue: End of Fiscal Year \$4.954 million, slightly above \$.9 million used to establish FY22 budget.

Construction: MWRA Pump Station - complete and online,
Massapoag Ave. Tank – filled and online, communication
equipment being swapped from old tank to new tank.
New Residential Water Meters – install underway, WMAC
committee members should be contacted within a week for early install.

7. Water Master Plan update will commence in September. College student intern from Northeastern University has assigned to conduct a preliminary review.

8. Next WMAC zoom meeting is August 18th at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor