

WMAC Meeting Minutes – September 15, 2022

Attendees: David Crosby – Chair, David Brookfield, Anne Carney, Lealdon Langley, Robert (Rory) McGregor – Secretary, Chris Pimentel – Vice-Chair

Guests: Eric Hooper, Superintendent - Sharon DPW,

1. WMAC minutes for zoom meeting held on July 21st were approved.
2. Eric Hooper will coordinate October tours of Sharon's water system infrastructure for Finance Committee, Capital Outlay Committee, and Standing Building Committee members who missed the recent tours in July. Tour stops will include 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.
3. Chair of Capital Outlay Committee, Paul Linehan, sent email to Eric asking whether his committee should have a role in reviewing financing for capital improvement projects on our water system infrastructure. Eric, Town Treasurer, and Fred Turkington have coordinated the planning effort on projects to date. David Crosby will contact Paul for further discussion. Anne Carney will check with the state Department of Revenue on their guidance for borrowings by our Water Department which is an Enterprise Business. Lealdon Langley suggested that we contact Mass Waterworks for their opinion.
4. The state Department of Environmental Protection conducted surface water and ground water testing in the vicinity of Well #4 for PFAS chemicals during August. The Water Department has not received the results from the testing.
5. Eric reported that possible relocation of Well #2 is under investigation. Town owned land in this area includes upgradient terrain in the direction of Moose Hill Parkway. The objective is to determine whether Fe, Mg, and PFAS concentrations in the groundwater may be less than those in the wetlands around the current shallow depth well field (approximately 20 foot depth).
6. Eric will investigate MWRA plans for future pricing of their water to complete his analysis of the tradeoff between town pumping of drinking water vs. MWRA supply. Eric will share with WMAC his update to the report that he had put together in July.
7. Eric will send WMAC members the map of current groundwater test locations in Sharon. He advised that tests are taken monthly. Review of potential new locations may be a topic for discussion at future WMAC meeting.
8. The State reduced Norfolk County from Level 3 to Level 2 drought conditions. State regulations require outdoor water use be limited to hand-held hose and in-ground

residential lawn irrigation systems must be turned off. Sharon residents continue to be informed by public display boards at various town locations.

9. Eric Hooper reported on Water Department activity during August:

Pumping: 46,272,000 gallons, slightly below average, repaired significant leak on Oak Hill Drive

UAW: year to date 13.1%, above permit requirement. However, does not include known hydrant flushing quantity, quantity used during MWRA pumping station construction and testing and new Massapoag Avenue water tank construction and filling. Repair of long-duration leak on Oak Hill Drive (failed joint between two pipe sections) should reduce UAW.

Groundwater: Low but consistent with past summer data except for monitoring wells near well #7 which has been used more than normal to make up for lost capacity at well #4. Addition of booster pump at Well #4 allowing expansion to 1MGD should reduce this problem.

Nitrate: well #4 4.63 mg/l, below study threshold.

PFAS: Testing hillside behind Well #2 to determine whether there is an advantage to resetting well location.

PFAS test data for water sampling at town wells during August has not been received.

Construction: Massapoag Ave Tank – wrapping up, waiting for Verizon to complete moving/removal of their equipment, deconstruction of old tank currently scheduled for October.

Residential water meter replacement is underway; roughly 500 meters are installed. My understanding is that it took a while for the data files to line up correctly. Those who have installed meters can ask Antonetta for instructions to access software to be able to look at your water use data.

Water line from Foxboro which services Shaw's Plaza on South Main Street will be replaced by new Sharon water line.

10. Next WMAC zoom meeting is October 13th at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor