

WMAC Meeting Minutes – October 13, 2022

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

Guests: Eric Hooper, Superintendent - Sharon DPW

1. WMAC minutes for zoom meeting held on September 15th were approved.
2. Eric Hooper will coordinate a November weekend tour of Sharon's water system infrastructure for Finance Committee, Capital Outlay Committee, and Standing Building Committee members who missed the recent tours in July.
3. Newly appointed Chair of Capital Outlay Committee is Bill Heiten. His predecessor Paul Linehan sent an email to Eric asking whether Capital Outlay 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. Further discussion is required on the role of Capital Outlay.
4. The state Department of Environmental Protection conducted surface water and ground water testing for PFAS6 chemicals in the region around Well #4. A site alongside the bridge over the train tracks where there had been an auto body shop registered 350ng/L. Other nearby sites, tennis courts and Well #2, registered an order of magnitude less at 40ng/L and 30ng/L respectively, but still exceeded the MCL of 20ng/L. Two objectives from the testing are to support the town in efforts to provide safe drinking water and to mitigate contaminated groundwater.
5. Eric's cost analysis for the tradeoff between town pumping of drinking water vs. going with MWRA gives the former a small advantage. The average residential customer bill is \$700/year. Implementing PFAS treatment systems at Well #4 and #2 will add \$100/year. Using MWRA for our drinking water will add \$180/year.
6. Planning for the PFAS treatment system to service Wells #4 and #2 is progressing. Treatment will take place at Well #2. Fe and Mn which are present in groundwater at Well #2 will also be removed. Granular carbon is the primary filter. Ion-exchange will accomplish the polishing. Eric is receiving assistance from technical experts on the Standing Building Committee. Design will conclude in 2023. Construction will last until Q1 2026.
7. Eric Hooper reported on Water Department activity during September:

Pumping: 2nd lowest in 28 years, UAW relatively low, but because of very low pumped volume, percentage was high. UAW for the year is still likely to be under 10% limit after accounting for water used during hydrant flushing and construction projects.

Nitrates: Well #4 slightly lower 4.4 ng/L, well below study trigger.

PFAS: below MCL at well #3, turned off out of precaution.

Results from DEP groundwater testing near Well #4 identify auto body shop as significant contributor. However, high results were found elsewhere in Town.

Options for emergency sources of drinking water:

Option 1: primary MWRA/Norwood; redundant MWRA/Stoughton

Option 2: primary MWRA/Norwood; redundant MWRA/Canton

Option 3: primary MWRA/Norwood; redundant Untreated Well 5, 6, 7

Option 4: primary Treated well 2, 4, 3; redundant MWRA/Norwood

Groundwater: mixed results, some recovery from summertime drought conditions is shown.

Revenue: running slightly ahead of FY22, on target for \$5.5 million, well ahead of budget \$4.6 million. However, quarter 1 is summer use, so usually generates excess revenue.

Construction: MWRA Emergency Connection via Norwood is essentially complete. Old Massapoag Ave Tank demolition is scheduled for mid-October after Verizon delay.

New Water Meter installations is on second 1000 count batch.

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

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor