

WMAC Meeting Minutes, March 17, 2016

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

Guest: Eric Hooper, Superintendent - Sharon DPW; Leah Stanton – Weston & Sampson

1. Minutes from the February 25 meeting were approved.
2. Leah Stanton reviewed the updated sections to the town Water Master Plan.

Our region in the Neponset and Taunton River basins is stressed according to Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. It becomes imperative for Sharon to consider use of MWRA water in the long term to address this issue. Sharon should proceed with building the emergency water line connection to the town of Norwood who is already on MWRA water.

A future trade-off to consider is the cost of upgrading Well #6 to remove iron/manganese (located in the Taunton basin) so that it returns to an active contributing source to town water supply vs joining MWRA and purchasing water from this source outside our region.

Start the investment decision process to upgrade our water meter network within the next 3 years. It will most likely take up to 4 years once we start before contracts are awarded and the work begins. This network once in place allows better tracking of Unaccounted for Water. In the meantime, the Water Department could test the residential water meters of WMAC members to find out if they are recording water consumption accurately. Leah will put the water meters write up into the Demand Management section.

Set up a change log for each section in the water master plan so that we can see revisions as they are implemented over time.

W&S recommends glass on steel tank design for replacement of our current steel tanks.

3. Eric requested that Leah coordinate with Blake Martin at W&S to attend our next meeting and discuss storm water recharge issue in the vicinity of Lake Massapoag. David Crosby requested that the Water Department measure the effluent from the culvert discharging into the flume (Massapoag Brook) at the traffic circle. This location is adjacent to the spillway where water discharges from Lake Massapoag. The culver collects water that is intercepted from town land to the west of Lake Massapoag before it reaches the lake. This diversion of water may be impacting the lower lake level observed over the past 2 summers.
4. The Water Smart program is being used by 15% of residential accounts in Sharon. Eventually it will allow customers to pay their water bills.
5. Unaccounted for water was at 15% in February, but the actual volume of UAW is lower than a year ago. The reduction is probably due to a summertime issue related to the Beach House Concession Stand at Lake Massapoag and/or a leak in the vicinity of Gavins Pond.
6. Groundwater level is looking satisfactory. Nitrates at the larger town wells remain below 4%.

7. We voted the slate of officers: David Crosby - chair, Chris Pimentl – vice chair, Rory McGregor – secretary. There are openings on the committee for 3 new members.

8. The next meeting will be Thursday April 21st at 7:30 pm at the Community Center.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor