

## WMAC Meeting Minutes, February 16 2017

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

Guest: Eric Hooper, Superintendent - Sharon DPW

1. Minutes from December 15 meeting were approved. There was no official WMAC meeting in January due to lack of a quorum.
2. State reports that we still have a deficit situation for ground and surface water. 5 of last 6 months in 2016 had below average precipitation. Even with average rainfall over winter, Massachusetts will not recover back to normal ground water conditions. State is advising that drought condition at some level will be declared during this coming Spring.
3. Manganese limits for groundwater at well sites have been established and must be factored into our mitigation plan for Sharon. Manganese levels at Wells 2, 3 and 6 are candidates.
4. Brown water problem caused by suspended iron particles was discussed. A mitigation program to treat this issue is being considered by the Water Department. There is no health risk at present, but there are aesthetic and public perception issues that require an information program to address concerns. The first course of action by the Water Department is water line flushing in Spring time to see if this can reduce/eliminate the brown water. If this does not work, then water treatment strategies to remove iron will be considered.
5. Eric Hooper presented water rate pricing proposal for 2017. Current revenue model is four water user groups comprised exclusively of single family residences. He proposed a 5<sup>th</sup> group at the high end for residences consuming > 27,000 gallons per quarter. He proposed \$5 increase per quarter in base rate for residences and increased water consumption rates in each user group. This will generate annual revenue increase of \$300K in order to continue financing maintenance/repair work on the water system infrastructure and capital improvement projects like the emergency water connection to Norwood.

### Current Rates

		Fall/Winter	
Fixed Fee	Break Point	Break Point Delta	Rate
\$22.50	4500	4.5	\$3.00
	7500	3	\$6.00
	24000	16.5	\$8.00
	>24000		\$12.00

### Proposed Rates

		Fall/Winter	
Fixed Fee	Break Point	Break Point Delta	Rate
\$27.50	4500	4.5	\$3.50
	7500	3	\$6.50
	17500	10	\$8.00
	27000	9.5	\$12.00
	>27000		\$14.00

**Current Rates**

Fixed Fee	Break Point	Break Point Delta	Spring/Summer Rate
\$22.50	4500	4.5	\$4.00
	7500	3	\$7.00
	24000	16.5	\$10.00
	>24000		\$13.75

**Proposed Rates**

Fixed Fee	Break Point	Break Point Delta	Spring/Summer Rate
\$27.50	4500	4.5	\$4.50
	7500	3	\$7.50
	17500	10	\$10.00
	27000	9.5	\$12.50
	>27000		\$15.00

Implementation of price increase will not take place until Q2 in calendar year 2017. Up to 60 days is needed to publicly review the pricing proposal once it is submitted to the selectmen.

WMAC voted to endorse the above pricing proposal and make this our recommendation to the selectmen.

6. Eric Hooper report and discussion:

Ground water elevation levels have returned to normal in Sharon, despite the drought warning conditions experienced last summer.

Mitigation strategies for manganese were discussed.

New development projects and potential impact on water system and groundwater were discussed.

7. The next meeting will be Thursday March 16 at 7:30 pm at the Community Center.

Topics: irrigation system policy, new medical facilities in Sharon and impact on waste water, drought management plan.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor