

## WMAC Meeting Minutes – May 13, 2021

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

Guests: Eric Hooper, Superintendent- Sharon DPW

1. WMAC minutes for meeting held on April 15<sup>th</sup> 2021 were reviewed and approved. The WMAC meeting originally scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> was moved up one week to address the PFAS/PFOA test report results for town wells.

2. Well #4, located at the Sharon Train Station, exceeds Massachusetts DEP's recently established MCL (Maximum Control Limit) of 20 ppt (parts per trillion) for the PFAS/PFOA chemical family, having registered 88.8 ppt based on tests performed in April. The Water Department shut down pumping at Well #4 as soon as this test result was received. A repeat test has been ordered for Well #4 to confirm that this data is valid.

Nearby Well #2, located on Moose Hill Parkway, registered 19.5 ppt. The Water Department decided that this number was close to the MCL. Consequently, this well has also been shut down and a repeat test will be performed to confirm data validity.

All other town wells have reported test results that show PFAS/PFOA levels well below the MCL of 20 ppt.

3. The Water Department is taking immediate action to procure an ion-exchange resin filter for installation at Well #4 to remove PFAS/PFOA family chemicals from the water that will be pumped. The filter can be leased for approximately \$250K for every 3-month period. Fortunately, the Water Department has sufficient retained earnings to cover the cost for at least the next 6 months or end of calendar year. It will be possible to supply town water from the remaining wells (other than #4 and #2) during the winter months.

4. An investigation by an independent consultant will take place to identify potential sources for PFAS/PFOA chemicals that are in the groundwater at Wells #4 and #2. The absence of manufacturing facilities in the Sharon town center would suggest that the contaminants come from residential septic systems in the vicinity of the wells.

5. The longer-term plan for providing water during the Spring/Summer months in Sharon, when demand is the highest due to residential outdoor watering by inground irrigation systems, might involve use of the town's new emergency piping connection with Norwood to supply MWRA water. The facilities for this connection are being installed at present and should be fully operational next year.

6. As residential irrigation systems come on-line for watering lawns, total system water pumping capacity may be exceeded by consumer demand later this month without Wells #4 and #2 in operation. Adherence to the current Level 2 drought water

restrictions will be necessary to prohibit use of inground irrigation systems. This should be discussed again at next month's WMAC meeting.

7. Discussion on the IFB (Invitation for Bid) to install new residential water meters is postponed until next WMAC meeting.

8. Eric Hooper submitted the April report on Water Department activity:

#### Pumping History

33,532,000 gallons, slightly above last year, highest in last 6 years, completed most of the hydrant flushing program during April

Maximum volume day: 1.416 million gallons – Old Post Road break

YTD pumping 119,865,000 gallons, on target for 450 million gallons without implementing outright water use ban.

Billed Usage 30,605,925 gallons

UAW (Unaccounted for Water) 8.7% YTD UAW 4.5% well within permit limit.

#### Nitrate:

Well #4 4.0 mg/L slight drop from previous month.

#### Revenue

\$275,314, on target for annual revenue of \$5.5 million

Initial projected revenue (pre-quarantine) \$4.3 million used during budget preparation.

Approximately 25% increase in revenue from roughly 12% increase in billed water use

#### Construction

MWRA connection: water main proceeding up Edge Hill Road, pumpstation concrete slab poured on Tiot Street.

New Massapoag Water Tank proceeding, clearing completed, staging underway.

Contract for procurement of new water meters for residential/commercial/town buildings is complete; draft bid document for installation is under review.

9. Next WMAC meeting is June 17<sup>th</sup> 2021 at 7:30pm via ZOOM conference call.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor, Secretary