

## WMAC Meeting Minutes – June 16, 2022

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

Guests: Eric Hooper, Superintendent - Sharon DPW, Kurt Buermann – Chair, Sharon Friends of Conservation

1. WMAC minutes for zoom meeting held on May 19<sup>th</sup> were approved.
2. Eric Hooper will schedule tours of Sharon's water system infrastructure for Select Board, WMAC, Finance Committee, Capital Outlay Committee, Standing Building Committee. Possible dates are July 9/10 and July 16/17.
3. Capital improvement project at Wells 2 and 4 for PFAS treatment and removal of other chemicals like Fe, Mn, and Nitrates is estimated to cost approximately \$15M. Option to include Well 3 will increase the price to \$18M. Current planning shows 3-year time estimate for completion of construction. Objective is to solicit project bids sometime this summer. Financing includes State and Federal grants and loans. Actual cost to Sharon customers will be between \$5M and \$10M.
4. State has declared that Norfolk County is now experiencing Level 2 drought conditions. Use of outdoor water is limited to hand-held hose. Inground residential lawn irrigation systems must be turned off permanently until drought conditions reverse and Level 1 is reestablished. WMAC voted to notify Select Board that Sharon residents and businesses should be informed immediately.
5. Eric Hooper reported on Water Department activity during May:

Pumping: 44,821,000 gallons (equivalent to 1.45 Million Gallons per Day) which is high but includes hydrant flushing and 3 fairly large new users including Point Apartments and Grow Facility off Rt. 1, which consumed early 2 million gallons during the past month.

UAW: Normal, 7% for month, 8.61% for year to date. Below permit requirement at 10%.

Revenue: Normal, on target for \$4.9 million slightly above budget target. Still using existing water rates. New increased rates begin July 1<sup>st</sup> and will impact next quarter's customer invoices.

PFAS: slight decline at well #4 to 62 ng/l. starting to see breakthrough of short chain (order of magnitude less risk) compounds PFBS and PFHxA. Swap out of PFAS filter media scheduled for this coming Fall.

Groundwater: Uniform drop of 1' throughout town. Dry conditions. Southeast Massachusetts considered to be at level 1 drought conditions. Limited outdoor watering is permitting; Sharon is already in compliance.

#### Construction:

- MWRA Pump Station: online and available for use.
- Water Meters: installation program initiated.
- New Massapoag Ave Water Tank: disinfection underway, major construction complete.
- Pleasant Street area design underway, to be bid in July pending availability of sufficient main piping.
- PFAS: Environmental Partners (EP) has been assisting the Town of Sharon with the initial phases of design for the Wells 2 and 4 Water Treatment Plant. The project will be divided into two construction contracts for installing the water main (bid under Chapter 30, 39M) and the water treatment plant (Chapter 149). In an effort to streamline the construction process, we will also pre-procure the major treatment equipment (under Chapter 30, 39M) prior to bidding the WTP construction project. The Town has secured funding for this project through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) loan program (\$15.8M), as well as the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) grant program (\$5M).

EP is currently investigating potential treatment technologies for removing iron and manganese from Well Station 2 raw water; and for removing PFAS6 from both Well Stations 2 and 4 water. Other constituents of interest include nitrate, sodium and chloride. As a part of this effort, EP is developing initial building layouts to assist with identifying potential siting options on the Well Station 2 parcel. In addition to this work, EP is completing a desktop analysis to determine whether a single point replacement well for the Well Station 2 wellfield is a possibility. EP and the DPW presented the project to the Standing Building Committee on May 24<sup>th</sup>.

EP and the DPW will hold a treatment workshop with the WMAC and other interested parties including the SSBC and Select Board to discuss initial findings and recommendations for treatment and siting. This workshop will also include considerations for installing solar panels as part of this project to reduce utility costs and environmental impacts. Following the treatment workshop, EP and the DPW will proceed with a pilot treatability study at Well Station 2 to confirm the method of iron and manganese treatment for the full scale treatment system, as required by MassDEP. EP will proceed with the water treatment plant preliminary design in parallel with the pilot treatability study. Based on a preliminary schedule, EP estimates that WTP building construction will commence in June 2024.

6. Updating the master plan for the Water Department will commence in September. One suggestion that has been proposed is to work with a college student intern to conduct a preliminary review.

7. Next WMAC meeting is July 21<sup>st</sup> at 7:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Rory McGregor