

WLMAC MEETING NOTES OF SEPTEMBER 13, 2012

Present: John Cipar, Charles Olmstead, Paul Malchodi, Barry Rosen

Note Taker(s): Barry Rosen

Chairperson: Barry Rosen

Called To Order: The chairperson called the meeting to order on September 13, 2012 at 8:30 PM ET.

New Business:

1. Approval of Minutes: On a motion by Mr. Olmstead which was seconded by Mr. Cipar, the minutes of August 28, 2012 were approved unanimously.
2. Confirmation of Next WLMAC Meeting Date: The membership surveyed itself regarding the next WLMAC meeting date. It will be held on TUESDAY, October 9, 2012 beginning at 8:00 PM. However, Mr. Rosen was asked to email survey the membership prior to the meeting to determine if anyone's schedule had changed.
3. Discussion/Conclusions regarding meeting with AWD Manager or related topics: There were no direct questions regarding the discussion with Chris. There were some comments noted by members.
 - 3.1. Mr. Malchodi understood from Chris Allen that an incremental build of water treatment plants can be more expensive. However, Mr. Malchodi noted that by doing this, water bills could be kept lower for an extended period of time.
 - 3.2. Mr. Cipar feels that there are many problems that need to be solved. Some of them must be solved quickly as a result of the consent order signed by the AWD. He feels that it makes the most sense to solve all of these problems in "one fell swoop."

Old Business:

Ed. Note: All numerical calculations below should be considered estimates and were "back of the envelope" to demonstrate points.

4. Presentation and Discussion Led by Mr. Malchodi: Paul began a presentation of some of his thoughts about the capacity of the AWD to provide water.
 - 4.1. The overriding question is, "How to provide more water to more homes?"
 - 4.2. The AWD has a revenue problem. Even though the population of the town of Acton has increased, the town is using about 30% less water.
 - 4.3. There are still homes in Acton without town water. There are homes just outside the Acton border that are not on public water.

- 4.4. The main thesis: *The AWD does not have a water problem. We have a “time problem.”*
- 4.5. Mr. Malchodi presented a “grandma’s cookie jar” analogy to demonstrate that we can’t deliver enough water to users at certain times.
- 4.6. The reason for this is that we don’t have enough water in storage.
- 4.7. The rough calculation is that we should have two days of water storage available above the open head level.
- 4.8. Is there enough water available in the ground? A very rough calculation of just the zone 2 recharge areas (underground storage) can be performed.
 - 4.8.1. Rough area of the zone 2’s is about 10% of Acton or 2 Mi².
 - 4.8.2. Average saturation depth: Assume 10% saturation of sand and gravel.
 - 4.8.3. Therefore c. 200M gallons in the zone 2’s.
 - 4.8.4. Conclusion: There is lots of water stored in the zone 2’s.
- 4.9. AWD is permitted to pump a little over 2M gallons/day. We are told we cannot pump all of the wells for too long a period without the risk of damage.
- 4.10. Therefore it appears we require an additional 4-8M gallons above open head level.
- 4.11. We are using c. 1.5 MGD in the winter. We could go to 1.7 MGD.
- 4.12. Propose: Increase the number of households purchasing water from the AWD. This could include adding properties in Acton and neighboring towns like Boxborough and Stow. Having a public water supply could provide those properties with better fire protection (readily available water) and a monitored, safe domestic water supply. The advantage to Acton would be to spread the capital costs of building new water treatment plants across a larger number of households.
- 4.13. QUESTIONS
 - 4.13.1. Can we serve more people?
 - 4.13.2. Should we serve more people?
 - 4.13.3. Advantages of doing this?
 - 4.13.4. What would need to be done if we did this?
5. Mr. Olmstead stated that the WLMAC needs to remain on this topic of water capacity. He sees the possibility of “huge hits” to the average customer.
6. The Committee agreed to remain on this topic and to continue discussion at the next meeting.

Adjournment:

Water Supply District of Acton: Water-Land Management Advisory Committee
Minutes of September 13, 2012

On a motion by Mr. Olmstead and seconded by Mr. Cipar, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting on September 13, 2012 at 10:00 PM ET.