

Commissioners Meeting  
Water Supply District of Acton  
Meeting Minutes  
November 19, 2012

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- Agenda:**
- A. Comments from Citizens
  - B. Approve Minutes of November 5th Meeting
  - C. OLD BUSINESS:
    - Further discussion of the Water Land Management Advisory Committee's mission and future assigned tasks..
    - Discussion of "Debt Service Fee" implementation and public relation strategies.
    - Update on petitioning MA State Revolving Fund administrators for extension of deadline to file the financial application..
    - Update on pilot study report for South Acton sources.
    - Update on the District's Energy Efficiency Efforts at Conant II.
  - D. NEW BUSINESS:
    - None

The regular bi-monthly meeting was called to order at 7:35 p.m. on Monday, November 19, 2012 at the Acton Water District Office, 693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton MA by Mr. Ronald Parenti.

**Present at Tonight's Meeting:**

Commissioners: Ronald Parenti (Chairman), Leonard Phillips, Stephen Stuntz  
District Manager: Chris Allen  
District Treasurer/Collector: Mary Jo Bates  
District Counselor: Mary Bassett  
Environmental Manager: Matthew Mostoller  
Finance Committee Member(s): David Butler  
WLMAC: Barry Rosen, John Cipar, Paul Malchodi, Chuck Olmstead  
District Moderator: Richard O'Brien

**A. Comments from Citizens**

There were no comments from citizens.

**B. Approval of Minutes from November 5 Meeting**

Mr. Parenti moved to accept minutes of the meeting held on November 5, 2012 and Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. The Commissioners voted in favor of approving the minutes, with Mr. Stuntz abstaining.

**C. OLD BUSINESS**

*Further discussion of the WLMAC mission and future assigned tasks.*

Mr. Parenti pointed out that the original committee was formed in response to the accident in the sand pit and moved into water clean up. They disbanded when their project was completed. Mr. Parenti then asked the members of the WLMAC if they feel that their task has been completed. Do they feel that there is still work to be done, perhaps on another issue? Solar energy and energy conservation were a few issues that were suggested. Mr. Phillips suggested that the committee look at the solar energy models and do some comparisons. The committee could research the models, feasibility, technology, sites and timelines. Mr. Phillips also suggested looking into generating revenue from district cooling for using the existing infrastructure to provide approximately 50-degree water to see if that would be feasible for the

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District to be considering. Mr. Stuntz pointed out that the committee had been used in the past to assist the Commissioners with a significant political issue such as expansion or land use. Currently there is no political problem facing the District. He suggested that the committee be in abeyance until the next political issue is presented. The current District issues are more operational.

Mr. Parenti agreed with Mr. Stuntz that there are currently no pressing political issues. Mr. Phillips stated that he was disappointed in the closed-mindedness of the Board. He would like to see us looking at alternative sources of income, whether it be geothermal, solar, etc. Mr. Phillips stated that the successful conservation program has reduced revenue. He asked if our current cost structure is equitable. He feels that raising revenue should be a priority and we should be thinking outside the box, looking at all alternatives. Mr. Parenti stated that we are not alone with this problem.

Mr. Malchodi asked if the WLMAC could be involved in the long range plan which currently under contract with Wright Pierce. Mr. Rosen asked what is the objective of the master plan? He believes that this long term strategic plan is an area where the WLMAC could add value. As an outside citizen group they could review the plan. He added that he believes that revenue should be a major concern for the District. Increased rates are going to be a problem.

Mr. Stuntz stated that this master plan should look further out than the past master plan studies. Mr. Cipar asked what was the scope of work for the master plan. The WLMAC would like to work with the consultant to see that we are getting what we asked for. Mr. Malchodi indicated that a 5 year plan is unnecessary. What the District really needs is a 25 year plan, which would be much more useful. The Commissioners agreed that the WLMAC will review the draft of the master plan, which is due in December. Mr. Allen will provide the WLMAC with copies of the last 2 master plan studies.

#### Discussion of "Debt Service Fee" implementation and public relation strategies.

Mr. Allen recapped the discussion from last week regarding the implementation of the debt service fee. Based on a conversation with Commissioner Stuntz, Senator Jamie Eldridge, the chair of the Water Infrastructure Finance Committee, expressed an interest in attending a meeting to discuss financing of infrastructure improvements and capital projects. Mr. Allen suggested a public forum to discuss the debt service fee. Mr. Stuntz agreed and suggested a town hall meeting with Senator Eldridge in attendance, perhaps in January. Mr. Allen will contact the senator and both local representatives to schedule something for January at either the Public Library or the EOC.

#### Update on SRF financial application

Mr. Allen informed the Commissioners that due to the increased scope of the South Acton Pilot Study and the extension of the Administrative Consent Order timeline from DEP, we have requested an extension of the deadline to file the financial application to December 1. The extension request is in process now and should be approved with the revised deadlines.

#### Pilot Study Report Update

The pilot study indicated the presence of 1,4 Dioxane after membrane treatment. This was expected to be the case. As this contaminant is currently not regulated with a Maximum Contaminant Level, and does not trigger the District's VOC Regulation, there is no requirement for treatment at this time but space will be available in the treatment plant design for future expansion. DEP approval of the pilot study calls for 2 aeration towers at the plant for redundancy. Mr. Allen indicated that the treatment for 1,4 Dioxane would be advanced oxidation. The Photo Cat system from Purifics will not work on the raw water but would be installed post-filtration to remove metals prior to 1,4-Dioxane removal. A decision will need to be made on the treatment technology soon. Mr. Allen is planning a visit to an operating Pall treatment plant in the near future to see that technology.

Mr. Parenti moved to go into Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss threatened and pending litigation as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body, and then to reconvene in open session. On a roll call vote Mr. Phillips, Mr. Stuntz and Mr. Parenti approved.

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The Commissioners resumed regular session at 9:40pm. Mr. Parenti made a motion to adjourn at 9:40 pm. Mr. Phillips seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

## **Executive Session Minutes**

Commissioners Meeting  
Water Supply District of Acton  
693 Massachusetts Avenue  
Acton, MA 01720

Executive Session Minutes  
November 19, 2012

The Commissioners voted unanimously by a roll call vote to enter into Executive Session at 9:00 p.m. to discuss pending or contemplated litigation as remaining in open session would prejudice the District position with respect to the matter. In attendance were Commissioners Len Phillips, Steve Stuntz and Ron Parenti, District Manager Chris Allen, Environmental Manager Matthew Mostoller and District Counsel Mary Bassett.

Minutes of Executive Session meetings dated 9/17/12 and 11/5/12 were reviewed and approved with edits.

Attorney Bassett updated the Commissioners on the status of the Assabet Sand trespass case. She discussed the latest issues raised in the litigation.

Attorney Bassett reported on the motion to withdraw by both defense counsel and the motion to intervene filed by the defendants' lender. The District has filed a motion to reconsider the denial of entry of the preliminary injunction based on the defendants' lack of compliance with the court order denying the motion. Also, pending is the deposition of Chris Allen (11/29) and the second day of the Greenough deposition (11/20).

The Commissioners discussed these latest developments and agreed with District Counsel to proceed as planned. The attendees generally discussed the status of the case and how discovery is proceeding.

Mr. Parenti moved to adjourn the executive session and moved to reconvene in open session at 9:40 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Phillips and on a roll call vote was unanimously approved.