

WLMAC MEETING NOTES OF FEBRUARY 25, 2010

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

Chairperson/Recorder: Barry Rosen

Call To Order: 8:20 PM EST on February 25, 2010 at the AWD HQ.

Old Business:

1. The minutes of January 21, 2010 were presented and discussed. Motion made by John Cipar and seconded by Paul Malchodi to accept the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously.
2. There was a brief discussion of the last AWD Commissioner's meeting which was attended by Barry Rosen.

New Business:

1. The committee members discussed the items remaining on the "Wish List" of possible areas of interest that should be addressed by the WLMAC. The membership felt that no further pruning of the list is necessary.
 - a) John Cipar felt that the AWD needs to be more directly involved in the amount of development in Acton that can be supported by the District. In the simulation that was run of the re-zoned "technical district," he reminded us that we discovered the potential for the demand to outstrip the average daily limit imposed by the DEP. The WLMAC was also aware that the water demand has been down for the last two years but this may be an anomaly that may not continue.
 - b) Barry Rosen explained that the Acton WRAC had also considered salt usage in or near a zone 1 but that it had to move onto a different topic at the request of the BOS since the Acton Health Department had stated that they did not have the staff or the expertise to craft the required storm water bylaws required by the regional EPA office. We may want to look into this further. Chuck Olmstead wondered what was the persistence of salt in the wells?
 - c) Paul Malchodi voiced a concern that the commissioners may not understand that according to the bylaw that created the WLMAC, they should:
 - i) Make the WLMAC aware of every decision to be made that involved the use of AWD land including the potential sale or purchase. This would include such examples as: the purchase of 60 Lawsbrook Rd., the "taking" of land required to complete the Kennedy-Marshall well treatment plant, the permission granted to the Town to build sidewalks across District land.
 - ii) Ask the WLMAC for advise and opinion on all such issues.
2. The final wish list will remain as:
 - a) How much development can the AWD support? How much water is likely to be required? *Note: The AWD is concerned about the amount of revenue that will be*

available in light of the decreased use of water. There is a “balance” between conserving water and the revenue needed by the staff to plan and implement new water treatment plants.

- b) What should we do, if anything, about road salt usage in Acton? Should we ask that salt usage be reduced in certain areas such as on roads that traverse a zone 1?
 - c) Should the town’s designations for zone 1 and 2 be made congruent with the same zones as defined by the AWD/DEP?
 - d) What should be the allowed uses of AWD land? Are there any uses that should be prohibited? Should the town build sidewalks across AWD land? *[The town stated that the AWD has given permission to build them. Jane had voiced her concern that security could be an issue if these were built.]* This is a combination of two similar items that the membership felt could be handled as a single item.
 - e) We were asked (by one of the Commissioners) to consider the question of whether the AWD should set new water rates to be reflective of climate change. The WLMAC did not feel that a question in the area of climate change or global warming could be adequately addressed. Instead, the committee felt that it may be able to consider setting water rates in general. Do they need to be reflective of the need for more wells? Should they have some basis in the water usage from the previous fiscal year? Why do we present rate payer’s bills in cubic feet of water used? Would it be more clear/simple to the majority of users if the water use were stated in gallons used per quarter?
3. The Committee felt that it would be useful to invite the AWD Environmental Compliance Manager (Matt Mostoller) to our next meeting to help us answer a number of questions.
- a) Talk about alternative wells for Acton. Where might they be located?
 - b) What can we do if we are asked to pump more water than our authorized limit?
 - c) Are there any abandoned AWD wells? Could any of them be reactivated? Under what conditions could they be activated? Would special treatment be needed? Would special permits be necessary?
 - d) How about bedrock wells?
 - e) Are there any AWD wells already declared “under the influence of surface water” and/or are there any wells that are likely to be declared as such?
 - f) Which of our wells have the most salt? What is the cause or likely cause of the salt in each of these wells? What is the persistence of salt in well water? Does salt get into wells very quickly? Does it “exit” quickly?
 - g) Can you tell us about the former Travers well?
 - h) Can you tell us about the Flannery O’Tool land that the AWD owns? Can a well be dropped there?
4. Action Items:
- a) Barry was asked to invite Matt to our next meeting.

- b) Barry was asked to ask the Commissioners for a 10-minute slot at their next meeting (March 8, 2010) for Paul to present the group's understanding of how the WLMAC should be working with the AWD Commissioners.
5. NEXT SCHEDULED WLMAC MEETING: Thursday, March 18, 2010 at 8:00 PM at the AWD HQ.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Chuck Olmstead to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Paul Malchodi. Motion passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 9:45 PM ET on 2/25/2010.

Respectfully submitted,

Barry R. Rosen