



# Water Supply District of Acton

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## WLMAC MEETING NOTES OF APRIL 17, 2014

**Documents:** Any documents utilized during this meeting are either included in these minutes and/or can be examined at the District offices during regular business hours.

**Present:** Paul Malchodi, Charles Olmstead, Barry Rosen, Janet Adachi (Board of Selectmen), Ronald Parenti (Board of Water Commissioners)

**Note Taker(s):** Paul Malchodi, Barry Rosen

**Chairperson:** Barry Rosen

**Called To Order:** The chairperson called the meeting to order on Thursday (new meeting day), April 17, 2014 at 7:50 PM. A quorum was present.

### **New Business:**

1. **Approval of Minutes:** On a motion by Mr. Malchodi, seconded by Mr. Rosen, the committee voted to accept the minutes of February 24, 2014 as presented by a vote of 2 in favor and 1 abstention.
2. **March 13, 2014 Meeting Cancellation:** Mr. Rosen announced that a quorum for the scheduled 3/13 meeting was not reached. The purpose of that meeting was to discuss possible questions and to begin work on the slide presentation for the Acton Town Meeting warrant article. Mr. Sonner, Dr.. Parenti, Mr. Mostoller, Mr. Cipar and Mr. Rosen worked on materials including the notes submitted in advance by Mr. Malchodi. *[The District IT Manager will be notified to list this meeting as cancelled on the District web site as no minutes will be submitted.]*
3. **Date/Time of Next Meeting:** After the members examined possible alternate times for holding an incremental WLMAC meeting, the decision was made to hold the next meeting on its regularly scheduled date of May 8, 2014. As Mr. Olmstead will not be able to attend, he will submit his notes/suggestions to the committee prior to the meeting date.
4. **Joint Board of Water Commissioners / Board of Health Meeting:** Dr. Parenti announced that the AWD will host this joint meeting at District HQ on Monday, April 28, 2014. He was not certain of the starting time of the meeting. It may begin a little earlier than the usual 7:30 PM to allow the BOC to complete some of its other business prior to the beginning of the joint meeting. He suggested that we check the District web site or with Mr. Allen to ascertain the timing of this meeting.
5. **Chairperson Discussion:**
  - 5.1. Mr. Rosen announced that he would like to step down as chairperson and note taker. He stated that he would like to see someone else do the job for a while. Mr. Rosen thought that perhaps the committee could work-out a rotating chairpersonship to spread the work. He hoped that at the next committee meeting with all of the current members present, we would be able to se-

lect new individuals for these jobs. In the meantime, Mr. Rosen would continue in his current capacity (with assistance from Mr. Malchodi in note taking).

- 5.2. Mr. Malchodi suggested that after the WLMAC completes any work on a new proposed bylaw and writing that we would like to do, we could suspend the WLMAC.
- 5.3. The committee decided to review *the list of possible items* on which it may wish to work: [These are not listed in any particular order. The committee did not further discuss these in detail during this meeting as to which ones it would continue to pursue.]
  - 5.3.1. *Strategic planning document*: The WLMAC had provided its suggestions to the Commissioners on what it thought was needed to make the LRP more complete. It further said that it would review the “final” LRP document after it had been delivered to the District by the consultant. Mr. Malchodi told the committee that the last time he spoke to Mr. Allen, the document had not been delivered to the District. He thinks this was in March. Mr. Malchodi volunteered to contact Mr. Allen for an update on the status on the LRP. Mr. Rosen asked Mr. Malchodi to see if the final document could be obtained in digital form since it would make distribution much easier than the photocopying and conversion to PDF pages that had to be performed with the first draft.
  - 5.3.2. *Water Week Text*: In conjunction with Water Week, Mr. Mostoller had asked if the WLMAC could provide him with some text that he could use for publication. Mr. Malchodi suggested that he may be able to put some words together for that event.
  - 5.3.3. *Series of Articles for “The Beacon” newspaper*: The committee had been thinking about a series of about six articles to be offered to “The Beacon” for publication (as a series only) relating to water issues.
  - 5.3.4. *Ground Water Protection Bylaw*: To be discussed as old business later in the meeting.
  - 5.3.5. *Other water issues*: Mr. Rosen explained that he is concerned that the District will have to face a number water purity issues in the not very distant future such as endocrine disruptors, pharmaceuticals and others which have no action levels today. He believes this will change. Dr. Parenti added that he believes that Mr. Mostoller is already becoming concerned that 1,4 dioxane levels will need to be reduced in the water supply. Mr. Rosen stated that 1,4 dioxane is a tough one with which to deal. He explained that there is some belief that various oxidation processes involving combinations of H<sub>2</sub>O<sub>2</sub>, ozone and intense UV may lower the concentration of the compound. [Ed. Note: I don’t know if any studies have focused on reductions below 0.35 µg per liter.] Mr. Rosen also stated that Acton may also be adding to its problem since, with state encouragement, the town deployed its waste water treatment leaching fields in a zone 2. The treatment plant’s effluent concentrates pharmaceuticals, endocrine disruptors and 1,4 dioxane and introduces them into the wells’ recharge area. [Ed. Note: 1,4 dioxane is found in many personal care products including shampoos. E.g. Johnson & Johnson has agreed (after a multi-year fight) to reduce the level of 1,4 dioxane and to remove formaldehyde from its baby shampoo and other children’s products. Both are carcinogens.] Mr. Malchodi asked Mr. Rosen what he thought the District should do about this. Mr. Rosen replied that he was not sure at this time.

Mr. Malchodi asked Mr. Rosen about some of his concerns. Mr. Rosen explained that he had learned more about endocrine disruptors and other potentially mutagenic agents from his ongoing reading. He also attended a series of seminars focused on water which was sponsored by the Radcliffe Institute at Harvard University where he also spent considerable time between lectures speaking with Harvard and MIT graduate students during the poster sessions.

## **Old Business:**

### 6. Review/Discussion of GWP Bylaw Effort:

- 6.1. Dr. Parenti reviewed what transpired during the Acton TM concerning the AWD's request to withdraw the proposed GWP warrant article. He explained that there were a considerable number of citizens who did oppose the warrant article's withdrawal. The discussion of the article did come very late on the second night of TM and he felt that many of the attendees that remained were tired. He thought that if the article had not been removed, that it probably would not have been able to pass with a 2/3 majority vote which is required for a zoning change. It is Dr. Parenti's belief that it was better not to have passed a bylaw that would have contained unintended consequences. He felt that it was better to start from the beginning.
- 6.2. Dr. Parenti, representing the Board of Water Commissioners, stated that it was the hope of the Board that the WLMAC will take the lead in getting a GWP bylaw written under the hazardous materials bylaw and/or a zoning GWP bylaw or both.
- 6.3. Mr. Malchodi proposed that the committee review the current hazardous materials bylaw and make suggestions for changes at its next scheduled meeting (May 8, 2014). Since all members of the WLMAC will not be present at that meeting, Mr. Malchodi will create an editable text file from the PDF file on the Town web site and send it to the membership. *[See Action Items below.]*
- 6.4. Mr. Rosen felt that during the GWP review, the committee needs to consider pesticide storage and coal tar emulsion storage and possible use. Neither is covered in the hazardous materials bylaw.
- 6.5. Mr. Rosen stated that he wanted the WLMAC or members of the WLMAC to have the flexibility to meet with the Board of Health (or its members) and/or the Planning Board (or its members) to assist the committee in crafting any GWP bylaw. He believes that this can be helpful to the committee particularly to avoid areas that may cause unintended consequences. Dr. Parenti thought that this should be brought before the Board. Since their next meeting is a joint meeting with the Board of Health, it would probably be best to wait until their next meeting to discuss this.

### 7. Action Items:

- 7.1. Mr. Malchodi to email current Acton Hazardous Materials bylaw (from Town web site) to WLMAC as a PDF and editable text file. *[Ed. Note: completed.]*
- 7.2. Prior to the next WLMAC meeting, members will review and make suggested changes to the Town's hazardous materials bylaw that could add GWP to zone 2 and 3. Mr. Olmstead is requested to send his comments to the committee if he will not be able to attend the next meeting.
- 7.3. Mr. Rosen will contact Mr. Allen and request two time slots for the WLMAC during the Board of Water Commissioners' meeting scheduled for 12 May 2014 to discuss meeting with other boards and to present current state of work on GWP.

**Adjournment:** On a motion by Mr. Malchodi and seconded by Mr. Olmstead, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:15 PM ET.