

WLMAC MEETING NOTES OF MAY 15, 2012

Present: Greta Eckhardt, Paul Malchodi, Chuck Olmstead, Barry Rosen

Note Taker(s): Barry Rosen

Chairperson: Barry Rosen

Called To Order: The chairperson called the meeting to order on May 15, 2012 at 8:20 PM ET.

New Business:

1. Approval of Minutes: Ms. Eckhardt moved and Mr. Olmstead seconded a motion to accept the WLMAC minutes of April 10, 2012 as presented. The motion was passed unanimously.
2. Updates:
 - 2.1. Mr. Rosen mentioned that he has not heard anything more about the new Acton resident that expressed interest in joining the WLMAC. He stated that Mr. Allen is out of the office until the end of May but will check with Chris after he returns.
 - 2.1.1. The committee had some thoughts on additional ways that new membership might be recruited.
 - 2.1.1.1. Mr. Olmstead suggested that the "Action Unlimited" newspaper has a very wide circulation in Acton and that they often run public service announcements for organizations ó sometimes occupying an entire page.
 - 2.1.1.2. There was a question as to whether the AWD had run a public service advertisement in "The Beacon" newspaper. No one was certain of the answer.
 - 2.1.1.3. Mr. Olmstead also wondered if the Acton town web site could be utilized.
 - 2.1.1.4. Another suggestion was that the AWD might be able to ask Charlie Kadlec to distribute the recruiting message and job description to his very large Acton resident email list.
 - 2.1.2. The members discussed whether the AWD was actively pursuing a replacement member for the WLMAC. Mr. Rosen responded that he had observed a "recruitment message" on the AWD web site. The sense of the committee was that some additional methods such as those listed above should be utilized.
 - 2.1.3. The committee also concluded that it could not do the recruiting as the "hiring" was done by the AWD Commissioners.

- 2.2. Mr. Malchodi told the group that he was able to attend the portion of the AWD Centennial celebration held at the North Acton treatment plant. He participated in a tour of the facility and heard a good explanation (by Chris) of how the plant operates. He also viewed a demonstration (by Matt) of a pair of water saving toilets that are on the market.
3. WLMAC Meeting Schedule from July 2012 to December 2012:
 - 3.1. The committee discussed the current schedule and how it has worked. The schedule calls for meetings to be held on the second Tuesday of each month except when conflicts arise. Additional meetings are held if and as necessary.
 - 3.2. The members concluded that it should move forward utilizing the same schedule as it seemed to produce the least number of conflicts with members' other responsibilities.
 - 3.3. Mr. Rosen will prepare a new schedule which he will send it to the AWD for posting with a copy to the WLMAC.
4. Next WLMAC Meeting Date Confirmation: The members polled themselves to determine if the next meeting date had any known conflicts. The date/time appeared to work for all of the members at this time. The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 12, 2012 beginning at 8:00 PM EDT at the AWD HQ building.

Old Business:

5. Capacity Study Update: Mr. Malchodi requested that the committee postpone his presentation as he needs a bit more time to complete his work. The WLMAC will place this presentation and discussion on the agenda for the next meeting of the WLMAC on 12 June.
6. Continuing Discussion On The Capacity Study Outline:
 - 6.1. Ms. Eckhardt wondered how much of our work would be read by the general public.
 - 6.2. At our last meeting, Ms. Eckhardt talked about an idea of shutting down some of the well fields and reducing the amount of water that was available to the town. This could reduce the need of building and operating more and more expensive treatment plants. It would also reduce the power consumption of the AWD. In support of this idea, she explained the research of an MIT math professor whose study of obesity concluded that the increased food supply, reduced cost of the food and its ready availability were, in large part, responsible for the obesity epidemic. Therefore, asked Ms. Eckhardt, if the amount of water available were reduced, would the consumption per person also be reduced?
 - 6.3. Mr. Malchodi pointed out that the AWD's operating trend has been for lower water usage each year. Higher efficiency water using appliances, conservation measures and less industry and businesses in the area are at least, in part, contributing factors. His initial calculations indicate that the AWD would have an

excess capacity of about 2 million gallons. [Ed. Note: This is in comparison to what the AWD had pumped in past years.]

- 6.4. Expanding on this fact, Mr. Malchodi believes that the AWD could expand into other areas utilizing any additional supplies in those areas and providing improved and safer water quality to the people in those areas that were restricted to private well water. This would provide additional revenue to the AWD which would allow the District to construct additional expensive treatment plants.
- 6.5. Ms. Eckhardt believes that the committee can utilize some of Paul's thoughts to better focus the capacity study outline. There seem to be reasons that would encourage the AWD to expand beyond its present borders. These reasons are consistent with those outlined earlier in a WLMAC report to the AWD Commissioners. Those that seem to be most helpful are:
 - 6.5.1. Homeowners without public water service face an increasing risk of drawing contaminated water from their wells. This risk can be essentially eliminated by giving them access to a public water supply that is operated with strict water quality testing and remediation. It is our duty as a good neighbor to make this possible.
 - 6.5.2. AWD will have control over the withdrawal of water from recharge areas that affect AWD wells, but are beyond the Acton Town boundaries.
 - 6.5.3. Expansion of service will spread the cost of water treatment improvements to more customers, thus reducing or eliminating potential increases in water rates. This will help balance the fact that AWD customers have been effective at conserving water.

Adjournment:

On a motion by Mr. Olmstead and seconded by Mr. Malchodi, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:55 PM EDT on May 15, 2012.