



Water Supply District of Acton

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WLMAC MEETING NOTES OF MAY 21, 2013

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: John Cipar, Greta Eckhardt, Barry Rosen

Note Taker(s): Barry Rosen

Chairperson: Barry Rosen

Called To Order: The chairperson called the meeting to order on May 21, 2013 at 8:35 PM with a quorum present.

New Business:

1. Approval of Minutes: On a motion made by Mr. Cipar and seconded by Mr. Rosen, the minutes of April 9, 2013 were approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 1 abstaining.
2. WR Grace Request to Stop Treatment: This discussion item was removed from the discussion list since its contributor was not present at the meeting.
3. Periodic AWD Article Submissions To Local Media: This discussion item was removed from the evening's agenda as its contributor was not present at the meeting.
4. Ms. Eckhardt To Resign From WLMAC: Ms. Eckhardt announced to the WLMAC that she will reluctantly resign from the WLMAC in the future (likely sometime in June). The reason for this is that Ms. Eckhardt will be moving outside the boundaries of the AWD.

Old Business:

5. Examining water solutions in context of AWD Commissioners' discussion on 4/8:
 - 5.1. The commissioners still would like additional feedback from the WLMAC on the master plan.
 - 5.2. The committee members discussed their current thoughts on the AWD LRP.
 - 5.3. Mr. Cipar summarized the thinking of the other members present stating:
 - 5.3.1. The previous LRP that we analyzed were very tactical in that they talked about things like how much pipe needs to be replaced and where it should be replaced. The current (2013) LRP answers certain questions which the District staff has to deal with but not the long range requirements.

- 5.3.2. It should address things like what other solutions for water are available to the District in addition to the MWRA? What about thinking of "out of the box" solutions like partnering with other towns like Littleton and Boxborough to create a regional water supply district.
- 5.4. The members believe that personnel costs are one of the most, if not the most, expensive cost areas with salaries on the increase, benefits and the savings that are required to fund future benefits. If a regional approach can help a water district to hold or reduce headcount, it may be one of the solutions that should be explored in a long range planning document.
- 5.5. RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD: The WLMAC was unanimous that it should recommend to the commissioners that the final LRP should be obtained as a Word document and/or as a PDF file so that it can easily distributed and posted on the AWD web site. This would be in addition to hard copies of the document that would be delivered to the commissioners.
6. Conclusions from April 9, 2013 Joint Meeting With Finance Committee: The major take-away from the joint meeting between the Finance Committee and the Water Land Management Advisory Committee is that *headcount* is the major financial decision point as to whether purchasing water from the MWRA would make financial sense for the rate payers of the water district. This was proven utilizing the "worst case" model during the meeting and included downward adjustments to many of the expenses after receiving input from AWD staff (thank you to Ms. Bates and Mr. Mostoller from the WLMAC). If the current AWD headcount does not need to increase to monitor either or both the North Acton or South Acton water treatment plants, it does not appear that purchasing water (including the infrastructure for this) makes good financial sense. However, as soon as headcount needs to be increased, the model begins to change and a connection to the MWRA needs to be examined again.

Adjournment:

On a motion from Mr. Cipar which was seconded by Ms. Eckhardt, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM ET on May 21, 2013.