



Water Supply District of Acton

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WLMAC MEETING NOTES OF JUNE 4, 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, Chuck Olmstead, Paul Malchodi, Barry Rosen

Note Taker(s): Barry Rosen, Paul Malchodi

Chairperson: Barry Rosen

Called To Order: The chairperson called the meeting to order on June 4, 2013 at 8:10 PM ET 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 May 21, 2013 were approved by a vote of 2 in favor and 1 abstention. [Mr. Malchodi was not present during this vote.]
2. **Next Meeting Date:** The committee affirmed that the next regularly scheduled meeting of the WLMAC will be held on Tuesday, July 9, 2013 beginning at 8:00 PM at the AWD HQ.
3. **Discussion of W.R. Grace Request to Discontinue Pumping in South Acton:** The committee reviewed the latest information that it had regarding the Grace request led by Mr. Malchodi. Some of the points made during this discussion:
 - 3.1. The drilling/clean-up was being done by a third party firm across the road from the AWD wells (near the BOC gases site).
 - 3.2. Water is being pumped from below the bedrock level.
 - 3.3. It is unclear how all of the pollutants got there. They may have been derived from Grace and/or its predecessor at the site. More than simply 1,4 dioxane is present.
 - 3.4. In our area, the bedrock has numerous joints (fractures) that would allow water and other materials from above the bedrock to percolate to the level below. This is different from the area north of us (like NH) which consists of a great deal of solid granite.
 - 3.5. The water that is pumped from beneath the bedrock level is treated and then discharged back above the bedrock level. Some committee members wondered if that was the best method.
 - 3.6. Since the Christofferson well has been idle for a time, members wondered what will happen to the plumes once all of the wells begin pumping in earnest.

3.7. Most of the members thought that it was very possible that the EPA will allow Grace to stop the pumping as the argument that additional pumping produces diminishing returns seems to be correct. They have stated that "natural attenuation" will take care of any remaining pollutants.

4. Periodic Article Submissions To Local Media: Mr. Malchodi told the committee of discussions that he had with Mr. Parenti during the AWD election period about educating the public concerning water issues by getting local media to publish articles submitted by the AWD.

4.1. Is AWD illiteracy natural? Does the public care? Until a pocketbook or controversial issue occurs, is it normal for the public to take the AWD and the water for granted?

4.2. How should we communicate with the public? Is "Water Words" enough?

4.3. If the public is more aware, is it less likely to pollute? Would it make better water decisions?

4.4. If articles were to be submitted to a publication like "The Beacon," how often should they be submitted? The consensus from the committee was that quarterly was probably about right.

4.5. There was considerable discussion concerning whether "The Beacon" would even publish any articles that were submitted. Since it is likely that the submissions would only be once a quarter, most thought that the paper would be amenable to fairly short (c. 250 words) articles that they could use to fill empty space. They seem to be running with a very small staff covering the town of Acton.

4.6. How can the writing burden be spread-around if the District embarks on such a plan? The committee felt that each member would be responsible for authoring an article which would mean less than one article a year for each member. We would expect that AWD staff could be consulted for review/assistance.

4.7. What would be the list of topics?

4.7.1. Look over some of the old issues of "Water Words" for ideas that have not been discussed in some time. Many people don't read "Water Words" (publications that are inserted with an invoice). These could also include some of the same people who do not subscribe to or read "The Beacon" newspaper.

4.7.2. Review the WLMAC's "Report To The Commissioners" for some of the topics that were mentioned.

4.7.3. Mr. Cipar suggested that articles could also be posted on the AWD web site. There was a question as to the readership of the District's web site. Perhaps the Town of Acton web site might be a suitable place. We think the readership is larger but most felt that it was not the easiest web site to navigate when looking for something.

4.7.4. It was also suggested by Mr. Cipar that the articles could be introduced as FAQs with their answers as the article.

4.8. Action Items:

4.8.1. *For next WLMAC meeting, be prepared to discuss if writing/submitting articles is a reasonable thing for us to do.*

4.8.2. *Come prepared with a list of topic suggestions for articles.*

4.8.3. *Mr. Rosen: Contact AWD to find-out if back issues of "Water Words" are available in electronic format or hard copy format as a back-up.*

Old Business:

5. Additional Water Solutions: Next Step of LRP Review ó The committee discussed what additional feedback on the LRP to the commissioners, if any, would be appropriate at this time.
 - 5.1. Mr. Rosen noted that the commissioners stated during their meeting that they would like to have the WLMAC make further comments on the draft LRP.
 - 5.2. Mr. Rosen also asked the committee whether we should critique what is in the draft LRP or what is not in the draft LRP.
 - 5.3. Mr. Cipar answered that BOTH should be critiqued. The rest of the members agreed.
 - 5.4. Mr. Cipar: The LRP should have a longer time horizon. It should be a long range plan for the District.
 - 5.5. Members felt that the future potential changes in regulated substances contained in water should be addressed as this will affect District investment expense and the planning of WTPø. These changes could hold the greatest consequence for the District.
 - 5.6. The committee will need to consider evaluating what area(s) in the LRP should be considered more thoroughly.
 - 5.7. Some other areas that we think need to be examined:
 - 5.7.1. Population changes in Acton
 - 5.7.2. What could be driving any of these population changes?
 - 5.7.3. Are housing costs affecting the townø population?
 - 5.8. *Action Item: The committee was not certain whether or not it provided the commissioners with a written statement in addition to its presentation on the top 5 areas to the LRP that we felt required more consideration? Mr. Rosen volunteered to research this and get back to the membership. [He did think that we had sent an email to the commissioners and Chris prior to our presentation during the AWD Commissioners meeting.]*

Adjournment:

On a motion by Mr. Olmstead which was seconded by Mr. Cipar, the committee voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 9:35 PM ET on June 6, 2013.