

2016 Report of the  
Mattapoissett River Valley Water Supply  
Protection Advisory Committee

History and Purpose of MRVWSPAC

The Mattapoissett River Valley Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee (MRVWSPAC) was established in 1980 by the towns of Fairhaven, Mattapoissett, Marion and Rochester. The organization grew out of a concern for the aquifer underlying the Mattapoissett River watershed, from which all four towns draw water supplies. Special legislation was enacted in 1983 (Chapter 407) formalizing the Committee.

The MRVWSPAC is made up of three (3) representatives from each town for a total of 12 members. The MRVWSPAC holds public meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at 3:30 p.m. at the Fairhaven Board of Public Works in Fairhaven.

Mattapoissett River Valley Aquifer

The Mattapoissett River and its aquifer provide fresh water for water supply, recreation and agriculture to portions of the entirety of five communities in Bristol and Plymouth Counties in Massachusetts. In 2016, our aquifer supplied approximately 2.3 million gallons per day for domestic and commercial users in the towns of Mattapoissett, Fairhaven, Marion and Rochester. A drought advisory for Southeastern Massachusetts was issued by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs in July 2016, and upgraded to a warning status in August 2016. In response District towns implemented outdoor water use restrictions identified in their Water Management Act Permit. As of December 2016, drought warning is still in effect, and District towns continue to monitor drought status and implement outdoor water use restrictions.

**Summary of 2016 MRVWSPAC Accomplishments**

- Permanent Protection of Land in River Valley: Voted approval of \$11,458.94 towards permanent protection of the 114-acre Tinkham Woods Project in Mattapoissett. The property is 100% within the Zone II Aquifer and has 3,700 linear feet of frontage on the Mattapoissett River.
- Environmental review of projects in the Mattapoissett River Valley:
  - Reviewed plans for projects within the watershed and sent comment letters to respective planning boards in Mattapoissett and Rochester
- Mattapoissett River Monitoring/Protection:

- The Towns of Fairhaven and Rochester adopted surface water protection by laws that prohibit surface water withdrawals into any tank vehicles
- Monitored stream flow and water levels in numerous locations along the Mattapoissett River. Maintained a database of critical water level data.
- Funded Annual Mattapoissett River Hydrologic Monitoring Report

The MRVWSPAC was saddened by the resignation of longtime members Jeff Osuch, Naida Parker and Barry Denham, and welcomed new members Sandy Keese, Mark Rees and Henri Renauld.

David Watling took over MRV monitoring and data collection when Elizabeth Leidhold resigned.

The MRVWSPAC wishes to recognize the members of its consulting team for their excellent work and contributions in 2016:

Tata & Howard	Lead environmental consultant
Elizabeth Leidhold	Mattapoissett River Valley monitoring and data collection
David Watling	Mattapoissett River Valley monitoring and data collection
Meagan McCarthy	Data reduction and graphing
Nettles Design	MRVWSPAC website management

Respectfully submitted,

**Fairhaven Committee Members**

Vinnie Furtado, Chairman  
Mark Rees

**Mattapoissett Committee Members**

Daniel W. Chase  
William T. Nicholson  
Henri Renauld, Vice Chairman

**Marion Committee Members**

Rob Zora  
David Pierce, Treasurer  
Paul Dawson

**Rochester Committee Members**

Laurell J. Farinon, Clerk  
Sandy Keese  
Fred Underhill