

2017 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 4:00 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 2017, our aquifer supplied approximately 1.76 million gallons per day for domestic and commercial users in the towns of Mattapoissett, Fairhaven, Marion and Rochester.

A drought warning for Southeastern Massachusetts issued by the Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs in July 2016 remained in effect through January 2017. In response District towns continued to implement outdoor water use restrictions identified in their Water Management Act Permit. The District Towns and the Mattapoissett River Valley Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee continue to monitor drought status and implement outdoor water use restrictions if required.

Summary of 2017 MRVWSPAC Accomplishments

- MRVWSPAC Recognized for Land Preservation Efforts in the Mattapoissett River Valley: The Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC) released the report entitled “15 Year Status Report 2001 – 2016 Mattapoissett River Valley Land Protection Partnership” which detailed that 1,468-acres of land were permanently protected between 2001 and 2016. The MRVWSPAC contributed funding for a number of land protection projects which resulted in 28% of the Mattapoissett River Zone II being permanently protected, and 17% of the Mattapoissett River Valley.
- Environmental review of projects in the Mattapoissett River Valley:

- Reviewed plans for the following projects within the watershed and sent comment letters to respective planning boards in Mattapoisett and Rochester:
 1. William Milka solar project off New Bedford Road in Rochester
 2. Decas Cranberry Tailwater Recovery Pond off Neck Road in Rochester
- Mattapoisett River Monitoring/Protection:
 - Met with local legislators Senator Pacheco and Representative Straus to make them aware of important Water Management Act changes that will impact the communities of Fairhaven, Marion, Mattapoisett, and Rochester.
 - Monitored stream flow and water levels in numerous locations along the Mattapoisett River. Maintained a database of critical water level data.
 - Funded Annual Mattapoisett River Hydrologic Monitoring Report

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

Tata & Howard	Lead environmental consultant
David Watling	Mattapoisett 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

Mattapoisett 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, Secretary

Sandy Keese

Fred Underhill