

Mattapoisett River Valley
Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
April 11, 2017

The Mattapoisett River Valley Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, April 11, 2017 at 3:30 p.m. at the Fairhaven Board of Public Works, 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, MA.

In attendance:

Town of Fairhaven	Vincent Furtado	appointed indefinitely
Town of Marion	Paul Dawson	term expires: 6/2017
	David Pierce	term expires: 6/ 2017
	Rob Zora	term expires: 6/ 2017
Town of Mattapoisett	Henri Renauld	term expires: 4/ 2017
Town of Rochester	Laurell J. Farinon	term expires: 4/ 2018
	Sandy Keese	appointed indefinitely
	Fred Underhill	term expires: 4/ 2018

Others in attendance were:

Patrick O'Neale Tata & Howard

Absent Members:

Mark Rees	appointed indefinitely
Dan Chase	term expires: 4/ 2017
William Nicholson	term expires: 4/ 2017

Chairman Furtado called the meeting to order at 3:39 p.m.

1. Acceptance of minutes of March 14, 2017 meeting
Minutes will be available for review at the next meeting.
2. Treasurer's Report
Copies of MRVWSPAC account balances as of April 1, 2017 were distributed by Treasurer Pierce, who reported that the current balance is \$213,986.43. Treasurer Pierce reported that the invoices did not show up in the recent statement, and the only transactions shown were from Rockland Trust. It was noted that the MRVWSPAC met one week later last month due to the storm, which is probably why the invoices were late in posting.

Mr. Underhill motioned to accept the Treasurer's Report as presented, Mr. Dawson seconded, all in favor.

Members that were present signed the following invoices:

- Tata & Howard \$ 1,354.19
- David Watling \$ 220.48
- Megan McCarthy \$ 135.00

Mr. Dawson motioned payment of the above referenced invoices, Mr. Underhill seconded, all in favor.

3. Update on Water Restrictions

Mr. O'Neale reported that he has not received an updated report on official drought status, and distributed copies of monitoring well elevations and 25th percentile. Overall water levels have come up and the deep wells are doing better than surface water wells; the wells are recovering.

Mr. Renauld distributed copies of the U.S. Drought Monitor dated April 4, 2017 indicating that we are technically out of the drought, with a minor portion of Rochester being shown as abnormally dry. Mr. Renauld recommended that we need to step back from the water restriction as a group, and in the future we need to stipulate an end date when going into a water restriction. Mr. Renauld has a board meeting on April 26th, and Mr. Furtado has one on April 24th.

4. Discuss Status of Decas Tailwater Recovery Pond Project

Mrs. Farinon reported that Decas Cranberry Company submitted a Request for Amended Order of Conditions to push material back into the excavation to bring the bottom elevation up closer to the original approved elevation. The Commission originally requested a \$10,000 peer review consulting fee to hire a hydrogeologist (Bristol Engineering Advisors) to study the area aquifer and prepare a report on potential impacts from the dewatering operation. The Commission closed the public hearing on Tuesday April 4th, and issued an Order of Conditions mandating the payment of an additional \$20,000 for additional groundwater monitoring and installation of two groundwater monitoring wells. The aquifer will be studied for an additional year after the pumps are turned off. MRVWSPAC members requested that copies of the monitoring reports be forwarded for review.

5. Establishment of Important Calendar Dates

Mr. Pierce requested that the MRVWSPAC establish a timeline of important calendar dates and regular annual action items. It was agreed that Mr. Nicholson, Mr. O'Neale and Chairman Furtado will meet as a subcommittee to prepare said list for review by the MRVWSPAC.

6. Discuss April 2, 2017 Article in the New Bedford Standard Times
Mr. Renauld distributed copies of the April 2, 2017 article for review. It was agreed by all that the article was well written, and that Mr. Underhill did an excellent job summarizing the work of the committee and local needs.
7. Discuss and Vote on Follow-up Meeting with Senator Pacheco
Notes from the March 3, 2017 meeting with Senator Pacheco in Taunton were distributed for review by the MRVWSPAC. Mr. Pierce stated he thinks we need to follow up. Discussion ensued about the results of the meeting; members that participated noted that Senator Pacheco appeared to be sympathetic to environmental groups. Mr. O'Neale recommended that the MRVWSPAC re-develop a subcommittee to revisit the subject of mitigation. Mr. Nicholson recommended that the MRVWSPAC hire special counsel to advise the committee. Mr. Underhill would like to see Representative Straus fight it out on the legislative level while he is still in his position on the transportation committee.
8. Plan Meeting of MRV Water Officials to discuss New Water Permitting Process
Mr. Pierce suggested a few dates but doesn't want it to be just a few people involved. He would like to plan at least a month or two in advance. He suggested we select a date we can all get behind and invite Boards of Selectmen and Water Commissions. Discussion on strategy ensued and it was decided that Mr. O'Neale will investigate names of potential attorneys and meet with the Water Superintendents on a plan of action.
9. MRVWSPAC Bylaw Changes
Mr. Nicholson will research whether the MRVWSPAC ever adopted bylaws when the organization was formed.
10. New Business/Old Business
Mr. Pierce expressed concern about certain representatives not regularly attending MRVWPAC meetings, and that the appointing boards should be made aware.

Mr. Underhill motioned to adjourn the meeting of the MRVWSPAC at 5:03 p.m., Mr. Nicholson seconded, all in favor.