

Mattapoissett River Valley  
Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
August 9, 2016

The Mattapoissett River Valley Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, August 9, 2016 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
	Mark Rees	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 Mattapoissett	Dan Chase	term expires: 4/ 2016
	Henri Renauld	term expires: 4/ 2017
Town of Rochester	Laurell J. Farinon	term expires: 4/ 2018
	Fred Underhill	term expires: 4/ 2018

Others in attendance were:

Meghan Dineen, Tata & Howard

Absent Members:

Sandy Keese	appointed indefinitely
William Nicholson	term expires: 4/ 2017

Chairman Furtado called the meeting to order at 3:42 p.m.

1. Acceptance of minutes of July 12, 2016 meeting  
Mr. Pierce motioned approval of the July 12, 2016 minutes, Mr. Underhill seconded, all in favor with Mr. Rees abstaining.
2. Treasurer's Report  
Treasurer Pierce reported that he met with the Fairhaven Town Accountant to review the MRVWSPAC account, and they agree on the tally. Copies of MRVWSPAC account balances as of August 1, 2016 were distributed by Treasurer Pierce, who reported that the current balance is \$162,136.45. Last month checks were written to Elizabeth Leidhold (\$118.00) and Meagan McCarthy (\$130.00).

Mr. Underhill motioned approval of the August Treasurer's report, Mr. Dawson seconded, all in favor.

Treasurer Pierce also distributed copies of a summary of all MRVWSPAC transactions beginning July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016. Mr. Furtado

motioned approval of the summary report, Mr. Underhill seconded, all in favor.

There were no invoices submitted for payment this month.

Mr. Underhill reported that he received a call from David Watling regarding submitting for mileage reimbursement for doing MRVWSPAC data collection. Mr. Watling explained to Mr. Underhill that he was advised to use a flat fee; however some months require multiple days of data collection due to scheduling and weather conditions. Discussion ensued regarding mileage reimbursement, and all agreed that the current government reimbursement rate should be used.

Mr. Pierce motioned that the current government mileage reimbursement rate be used for mileage reimbursement incurred for data collection, Mr. Chase seconded, all in favor.

3. Branch Brook Land Preservation Project

Ms. Farinon explained that she met the week before with Mr. Furtado, Mr. Renauld, and Brendan Annett of the Buzzards Bay Coalition to discuss permanent protection of the 164-acre Roy Hawkes property off Wolf Island Road in Rochester. The subject property lies west of the Town of Marion well, and directly abuts the Department of Fish & Game Church Homestead Wildlife Management Area. The site is in close proximity to land owned by the Fairhaven and Mattapoisett Water Departments.

Ms. Farinon explained that the Town of Rochester and Mattapoisett both applied for and received grants from the Buzzards Bay National Estuary Program in the amount of \$35,000 each.

Brendan Annett of the Buzzards Bay Coalition was present, and explained that the property is under agreement and is scheduled to close at the end of June 2017. He explained that the Town of Marion proposes to apply for a state drinking water grant, which will pay for half of the project value if awarded. He further explained that the Towns of Marion, Mattapoisett and Fairhaven will submit \$20,000 CPA applications this fall.

Mr. Annett distributed maps showing the property boundaries in relation to adjacent permanently protected properties. He also distributed a breakdown of the proposed funding strategy, which is as follows:

\$230,000	State Drinking Water Supply Grant to be submitted by the Town of Marion
\$ 70,000	Buzzards Bay NEP Mini-grants awarded to the Towns of Rochester & Mattapoisett
\$ 60,000	Fairhaven, Marion and Mattapoisett CPA funding (\$20,000 from each community)
\$ 100,000	MRVWSPAC
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\$ 460,000	TOTAL

Mr. Renauld reported that only \$11,500 will be needed to close out the Tinkham Woods project, which is significantly less than the \$120,000 originally approved. He suggested that the unused funds could be applied to the Roy Hawkes project.

Mr. Underhill inquired if the Buzzards Bay Coalition had written the requested letter of support on behalf of the MRV communities requiring Water Management Act permit renewals. Mr. Annett responded that he was not aware of that request, but would inquire with Executive Director Mark Rasmussen.

Discussion ensued about the relationship between the Buzzards Bay Coalition and the Mattapoisett River Valley Committees. The majority of the MRVWSPAC would like the Coalition to work collaboratively to solve environmental problems, and not adversarialy. Some members expressed concern that the only time Coalition representatives attend MRVWSPAC meetings is when they are seeking funding for land protection projects.

Mr. Renauld motioned that the MRVWSPAC commit \$100,000 towards permanent protection of the 164-acre Roy Hawkes property with the stipulation that all other grants and funding sources are in place, Mr. Zora seconded, all in favor. Based upon the purchase and sale agreement for the project, it is anticipated that final payment will be discussed at the May 2017 meeting.

4. MRVWSPAC Treasury Reconciliation  
Treasurer Pierce complimented the good work of the Fairhaven Town Accountant's office in reconciling the MRVWSPAC account.
5. 2014 Annual Report and Updates

Ms. Farinon reminded Ms. Dineen that the 2014 report is long overdue, and the committee has yet to see the 2013 final report. Ms. Dineen committed to bring the matter up to Mr. O'Neale, and work on printing hard copies of the finalized 2013 report.

6. Committee Attendance

Mr. Pierce expressed concern about the lack of consistent attendance of all representatives. He stressed the importance that each member discharges his/her obligation to serve on the committee.

7. New Business

Ms. Dineen explained that there is a drought advisory, and the Drought Management Task Force will be meeting to discuss the drought status. She suggested that towns have the ability to take proactive steps if they desire. She distributed July 2016 DEP correspondence about the Drought Watch/ Drought Advisory Status and the August 2, 2016 letter from the Massachusetts River Alliance to Matthew Beaton, Secretary of the Executive Office for Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Mr. Chase motioned adjournment of the meeting at 4:40 p.m., Mr. Pierce seconded, all in favor.