

Mattapoisett River Valley
Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
February 14, 2017

The Mattapoisett River Valley Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, February 14, 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	Dan Chase	term expires: 4/ 2017
	William Nicholson	term expires: 4/ 2017
	Henri Renaud	term expires: 4/ 2017
Town of Rochester	Laurell J. Farinon	term expires: 4/ 2018
	Fred Underhill	term expires: 4/ 2018

Others in attendance were:

Patrick O'Neale Tata & Howard

Absent Members:

Mark Rees appointed indefinitely
Sandy Keese appointed indefinitely

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

1. Acceptance of minutes of January 10, 2017 meeting
Mr. Underhill motioned approval of the January 10, 2017 minutes, Mr. Pierce seconded, all in favor.
2. Treasurer's Report
Copies of MRVWSPAC account balances as of February 1, 2017 were distributed by Treasurer Pierce, who reported that the current balance is \$212,470.85. Treasurer Pierce reported that it was a typical month with payments to Tata & Howard (\$3,663.86), William David Watling (\$213.98), and Megan McCarthy (\$117.00). Since our last report, we received an interest payment in the amount of \$19.03 from Rockland Trust.

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

Members that were present signed the following invoices:

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

3. Appointment for Discussion – Mark Rasmussen , President of Buzzards Bay Coalition

Mr. Rasmussen, Mr. Annett, and Mr. Decker were all present representing the Buzzards Bay Coalition. Mr. Rasmussen distributed copies of his draft letter to Mr. David Johnston, Director of MA DEP Bureau of Water Resources, and the draft report entitled “15-Year Status Report (2001 – 2016) Mattapoissett River Valley Land Protection Partnership. Mr. Rasmussen explained that the report summarizes the cooperative efforts of the towns of Fairhaven, Mattapoissett, Marion and Rochester to permanently protect watershed lands over the past 15 years. He summarized that over 1,468-acres of land were protected in the Mattapoissett River Valley between 2001 and 2016, and doubled the amount of protected land in that time period. As of this date, 28% of the Zone II is permanently protected, and 17% of the Mattapoissett River Valley is permanently protected. He asked the MRVWSPAC to please review the draft report and DEP cover letter and provide comment by Wednesday, February 22nd.

MRVWSPAC members thanked Mr. Rasmussen for the report and letter. Mr. Pierce commented that he was pleased to see all that has been accomplished. Mr. Rasmussen offered the support of his staff if needed in the communities' efforts to obtain WMA permit renewals.

4. Annual Reports

Mr. O'Neale distributed copies of the MW-1D, MW-1SM, MW-2D, MW-2S and MW-3S Elevation and 25th Percentile graphs. He also distributed Draft 2014 Mattapoissett River Hydrologic Monitoring Annual Report Section 4 – Conclusions and Recommendations. The 2013 report has been posted as draft on basecamp.

Mr. Renauld distributed copies of historical photos showing the Mattapoissett River under drought or no flow conditions before the wells were installed.

Mrs. Farinon asked Mr. O'Neale to prioritize which of his recommendations is the highest priority. Mr. O'Neale replied that identifying surface water releases (how, when and why) and identifying links to agricultural components (who, what, when and where) are critical items that need to be determined.

Mr. O'Neale distributed a press release issued by the department of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) based on the Drought Task Force meeting, which stated that EEA Secretary Matthew Beaton declared a drought warning for the Southeast Region.

5. Meetings with Senators Montigny and Pacheco

It was announced that the meeting with Senator Pacheco will be held on March 3, 2017 at 1:00 p.m. in Taunton. Mr. Furtado, Mr. Pierce, Mr. Chase, and Mr. Underhill plan to attend.

6. MRVWSPAC Assessment Letters

Treasurer Pierce distributed assessment letters to MRVWSPAC representatives of respective communities.

7. New Business/Old Business

Mr. Underhill reported that Decas Cranberry Company over-excavated their Neck Road tailwater recovery pond by approximately eight feet, and the Rochester Water Commission is concerned about impacts to the Mattapoissett River Valley aquifer. He requested that the MRVWSPAC write a letter to the Rochester Conservation Commission and Soil Board expressing concern about the project.

Mrs. Farinon explained that when she visited the Decas site as Conservation Agent, she requested that the bottom elevation of the pond be surveyed, and subsequently learned that it was eight feet deeper than allowed by permit. The Rochester Conservation Commission issued a cease and desist order and Notice of Violation, and ordered Decas Cranberry to appear before the Commission on February 7, 2017. At said meeting the Commission requested that Decas Cranberry submit an as-built plan and file for an Amended Order of Conditions.

After considerable discussion by the MRVWSPAC, all were in agreement that Tata & Howard would draft a comment letter for submittal to the Rochester

Conservation Commission and Rochester Soil Board. Mrs. Farinon will provide copies of the violation letter and pertinent correspondence to Chairman Furtado and Mr. O'Neale.

Chairman Furtado reported that he received e-mails from Rochester Planning Board Chairman Arnold Johnson requesting clarification on the Milka comment letter. Discussion ensued about the project, and Chairman Furtado explained that he was told by Mr. Milka that no water would be exported from the property. He agreed to write to Chairman Johnson to further clarify MRVWSPAC comments.

Mr. Underhill motioned to adjourn the meeting of the MRVWSPAC at 5:08 p.m., Mr. Dawson seconded, all in favor.