

Mattapoissett River Valley  
 Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee  
 Meeting Minutes  
 June 9, 2015

The Mattapoissett River Valley Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, June 9, 2015 at 3:30 p.m. at the Fairhaven Board of Public Works, 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, MA.

In attendance:

Town of Fairhaven                  Jeffrey W. Osuch, Chairman  
 Vinnie Furtado

Town of Marion                         David Pierce, Treasurer  
 Rob Zora

Town of Mattapoissett                Dan Chase  
 Barry Denham  
 William Nicholson

Town of Rochester                      Laurell J. Farinon, Vice Chair  
 Fred Underhill

Others in attendance were:

Patrick O’Neale, Tata & Howard  
 David Watling, Rochester Herring Inspector

1.        Acceptance of minutes of May 12, 2015

Mr. Pierce motioned to accept the minutes of the May 12, 2015 meeting, Mr. Underhill seconded, and all in favor with Mr. Chase abstaining.

2.        Treasurer’s Report

Copies of the June 1, 2015 treasurer’s report were distributed by Treasurer Pierce who explained that it was a slow month with only one check issued to Tata & Howard (\$2,326.88) and interest in the amount of \$5.68 from Rockland Trust. The account balance as of June 1, 2015 is \$88,547.00, and total income for the period of July 1, 2014 through June 1, 2015 was \$84,907.25. Mr. Underhill motioned to accept the June 1, 2015 treasurer’s report as presented, Mr. Chase seconded, all in favor.

Members that were present signed the following invoices:

- Tata & Howard                     \$ 2,151.57
- Megan McCarthy                  \$ 299.00

- Tom Crotty                                 \$     39.00
- Tom Crotty                                 \$    702.00

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

3.     DEP Water Withdrawal Permit Renewal

Mr. Osuch introduced Rochester Herring Inspector Mr. Watling to the group, and explained that the water suppliers are under pressure to reduce withdrawals in support of maintaining water flow. He summarized that the MRVWSPAC has invested a great deal of money on studying Mattapoissett River water flow. The group is collecting data to determine what is going on in the headwaters, when water is withdrawn, and how much is withdrawn.

Mr. Watling explained that he visits the herring ladder/control point at Snipatuit Pond at least once a month. He measures the water level from the top of the water to the top of the cement. Generally in January he keeps the water level 1 foot to 16 inches from the top of the cement. In March when the fish ladder is installed it is 10 – 12 inches from the top. He wants to have a steady flow downstream from March to May for herring migration. After Memorial Day he leaves the water down. He explains that he tries to balance the needs of property owners on Snipatuit Pond. Owners of older cranberry bogs tend to want the water level lower; owners of new cranberry bogs want the water level higher. Mr. Watling explained that this year the water level has been very low and there has been very little water going over the boards; he has had to wait for the pond to replenish. Mr. Osuch thanked Mr. Watling for enlightening the MVWSPAC on his maintenance of Snipatuit Pond water levels.

4.     Withdrawal of surface water from Mattapoissett River

Attorney Crotty provided a revised copy of the draft bylaw entitled *Protection of Water Sources and Supply* for review. He explained that the fastest way to regulate water withdrawals from surface water is by Town Bylaw. Discussion ensued about regulating the capacity of wells under 10,000 gallons per day. Attorney Crotty discussed the ability to add ticketing/non-criminal disposition options. He will prepare a final draft and forward to committee members prior to the next meeting.

5.     MRV Data Collection

Mr. Osuch reported that that due to an injury, Elizabeth Leidhold was unable to collect MRV data. Meghan Dineen of Tata & Howard collected the data last month. Chairman Osuch stated that the group needs to address the larger

issue of having a backup plan for data collection, and requested that the item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Mr. Pierce reminded committee members that it's the time of year when we may want to have Meagan McCarthy back up MRVWSPAC minutes to be put on the website. All were in agreement that Mr. Pierce should request Ms. McCarthy to complete said work.

Mr. Underhill motioned adjournment of the meeting at 4:38 p.m., Mr. Pierce seconded, all in favor. The next meeting of the MRVWSPAC will be held on Tuesday, July 14, 2014.