

Mattapoisett River Valley
Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 10, 2017

The Mattapoisett River Valley Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee held a joint meeting with the Mattapoisett River Valley Water District Commission on Tuesday, October 10, 2017 at 4:00 p.m. at the Fairhaven Board of Public Works, 5 Arsene Street, Fairhaven, MA.

In attendance:

Town of Fairhaven	Vincent Furtado Mark Rees	appointed indefinitely appointed indefinitely
Town of Marion	David Pierce Rob Zora	term expires: 6/ 2018 term expires: 6/ 2018
Town of Mattapoisett	Dan Chase William Nicholson Henri Renauld	term expires: 4/ 2020 term expires: 4/ 2020 term expires: 4/ 2020
Town of Rochester	Laurell J. Farinon Fred Underhill Sandy Keese	term expires: 4/ 2018 term expires: 4/ 2018 appointed indefinitely
Others in attendance were:	Patrick O'Neale Atty. Tom Crotty	Tata & Howard
Absent Members:	Paul Dawson	term expires: 6/2018

Chairman Furtado called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m.

1. Acceptance of minutes of September 19, 2017 meeting
Mr. Pierce motioned to accept the minutes of the September 19, 2017 meeting, Mr. Underhill seconded, all in favor.
2. Treasurer's Report
Treasurer Pierce distributed the Treasurer's Report for October 1, 2017 and reported that we have received the annual assessment from the Town of Mattapoisett. Treasurer Pierce summarized that there was a fair amount of activity this past month with three checks being written to William David Watling (\$220.48), Tata & Howard (\$762.82) and Meagan McCarthy (\$162.00). The current ending balance is \$172,446.42, total payments made to date equaled \$2,318.80, and total income to date is \$66,402.57.

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

Members that were present signed the following invoices:

- Tata & Howard (9-5-17) \$ 1,762.82
- Tata & Howard (10-4-17)\$ 1,677.79
- David Watling \$ 220.48
- Meagan McCarthy \$ 175.50

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

3. Proposed Bylaw Changes

Mr. Pierce requested that proposed bylaw changes be drafted for review in advance of the publicly posted meeting. Mr. O'Neale will draft language for review by the MRVWSPAC which includes adding the Treasurer to the annual election of officers, and defining the quorum as having a representative from each community.

4. Consolidation of Meeting Minutes by Meagan McCarthy

Mr. Pierce reported that Ms. McCarthy has forwarded consolidated meeting minutes to both the MRVWSPAC and MRVWDC and they look excellent.

5. Buzzards Bay Coalition Letter of Support

Mr. Underhill inquired if we have received confirmation that the Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC) letter of support on the MRVWDC permit renewals has been sent to DEP. Chairman Furtado will contact the BBC to find out.

6. Meeting with Attorney Tom Crotty

Chairman Furtado introduced Attorney Crotty and summarized that he invited him to the joint meeting of the MRVWSPAC and MRVWDC in order to discuss the following two matters:

1. Discuss options for combining the MRVWSPAC and MRVWDC in order to eliminate redundancies.
2. Discuss MRVWDC operation and maintenance of MRV wells

Regarding item #1, Mr. Underhill expressed concern that there could be consequences from making changes to the enabling legislation of both committees.

Mrs. Farinon expressed concern that because the missions of each committee are vastly different, it could result in a conflict of interest. It would be prudent to leave the MRVWSPAC as is, since the MRVWSPAC initiatives including water monitoring, land acquisition, education and outreach, and project review are positive initiatives that can benefit the MRVWDC in future mitigation efforts.

7. Old Business/New Business

Mr. Underhill asked whether the draft letter from the Buzzards Bay Coalition in support of Mattapoissett River Valley Water Management Act permit renewals was ever sent. Chairman Furtado agreed to look into the matter and report back to the MRVWSPAC.

Mr. O'Neale reported that at a prior meeting there was discussion about flow readings being recorded by a state agency at the Snipatuit Pond herring ladder. There is a continuous data logger running that can generate CFS (cubic feet per second). Mr. O'Neale would like to have this data to correlate with MRVWSPAC monthly data.

Mr. O'Neale distributed monthly graphs and summarized that in general we are tracking about the same as last year. Well 1S at Tinkham Lane has dropped two feet since June, Well 1D has dropped four feet, Well 2D has dropped three feet, Lot 3S has dropped two feet, Lot 3D has dropped one foot. Over June and July, water elevations are generally one to two feet higher.

Mr. O'Neale reported that there was a hearing last week at MA DEP on the MA Rivers Group petition to put conditions on WMA registrations. Half of the attendees were water suppliers. DEP has ten days from the hearing to issue a decision. Mr. O'Neale commented that there were many good comments from the water suppliers. Two communities have filed suit and are arguing that WMA permits are not subject to the Permit Extension Act. Mr. Renaud suggested that if the Mattapoissett River Valley communities join the suit, they do it as the district (MRVWDC).

Chairman Furtado reported that he sent an e-mail to Attorney Crotty and inquired if it was possible to merge the MRVWSPAC and MRVWDC. He noted that there is redundancy in some of the agenda items, and meeting time is often spent reiterating identical reports for one or two representatives that are not on both committees. Mrs. Farinon expressed concern about merging the two committees, since one focuses on protecting the Mattapoissett River and the other focuses on the MRVWDC water treatment plant. Mr. Underhill suggested a solution of recommending that the Boards of Selectmen appoint the same three representatives to both committees to be more efficient. Discussion ensued and it was agreed by all that for now both committees will post a 4:00 p.m. start time in order to eliminate redundancy.

Mr. Underhill motioned to adjourn the meeting of the MRVWSPAC at 4:30 p.m., Mr. Renaud seconded, all in favor.