

Mattapoisett River Valley
Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee
Meeting Minutes
October 13, 2015

The Mattapoisett River Valley Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, October 13, 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	appointed indefinitely
	Vincent Furtado	appointed indefinitely
Town of Marion	David Pierce	term expires: 6/ 2016
	Rob Zora	term expires: 6/ 2016
Town of Mattapoisett	Dan Chase	term expires: 4/ 2016
	William Nicholson	term expires: 4/ 2016
Town of Rochester	Laurell J. Farinon	term expires: 4/ 2016
	Fred Underhill	term expires: 4/ 2018

Others in attendance were:

Patrick O’Neale, Tata & Howard

Absent members included:

Naida Parker	term expires: 4/2018
Barry Denham	term expires: 4/2016

1. Acceptance of minutes of September 8, 2015
Mr. Pierce motioned to accept the minutes of the September 8, 2015 meeting, Mr. Underhill seconded, and all in favor with Mr. Chase abstaining. (7-0-1)
2. Treasurer’s Report
Copies of MRVWSPAC account balances as of October 1, 2015 were distributed by Treasurer Pierce, who explained that it was a relatively active month with two payments to Tata & Howard (\$1,309.95 and \$1,113.93) and one to Meagan McCarthy (\$130.00). The Towns of Fairhaven and Marion made the following respective payments: \$47,158.00 and \$18,724.50. The MRVWSPAC received \$3.86 in interest from Rockland Trust. The total income since July 1, 2015 was \$65,886.36.

Mr. Underhill motioned approval of the above referenced Treasurer’s report, Mr. Zora seconded, all in favor (7-0-1) with Mr. Chase abstaining.

Discussion ensued about the hourly rates of Elizabeth Leidhold and David Watling, and it was concluded that David Watling's rate is \$30.00 per hour, and Elizabeth Leidhold's rate is \$31.00 per hour.

Members that were present signed the following invoices:

- Tata & Howard \$ 911.90
- Meagan McCarthy \$ 117.00
- David Watling \$ 450.00
- Elizabeth Leidhold \$ 103.00

Mr. Pierce motioned payment of the above referenced invoices, Mr. Underhill seconded, all in favor. (8-0-0)

3. Discuss MRVWSPAC member appointment dates
Ms. Farinon will add MRVWSPAC term expiration dates to the minutes of the next meeting.
4. Update on Decas Cranberry Co. proposed tailwater recovery pond/water supply pond off Neck Road in Rochester
Mr. O'Neale summarized the concerns presented in the two MRVWSPAC comment letters. The committee is concerned that the proposed project is a mining operation that may impact Snipatuit Pond water levels. The project is presently being reviewed by the Rochester Conservation Commission and Rochester Soil Board. Ms. Farinon reported that after significant review, and consultation with consultants, DEP SERO, and Cape Cod Cranberry Growers Association, both the Conservation Commission and Soil Board approved the project with conditions. She explained that the proposed tailwater recovery pond will result in increased water quality and quantity, and less reliance on Long Pond.
5. MRV Data Collection
Mr. Nicholson reported that there was a presentation at Mass Maritime Academy on climate change. SLOSH models were presented, and he is concerned about potential impacts of a hurricane on the #2 well and #3 pumping station. A conference call was held with Jeri Weiss and Jeff Young of US EPA about data needed to model the vulnerability of the water supply and treatment plant. US EPA has been working on the model for over a year, and are looking to calibrate their model. It was agreed that Mr. Nicholson and Mr. O'Neale will coordinate with US EPA representatives to provide the information that they need.

6. Draft 2013 Report

Mr. O'Neale reported that the Draft 2013 report is ready to go and print. He will post and send a link to the report.

7. WMA Permit Renewals

Mr. O'Neale met with Duane Levangie of DEP and discussed a time extension for WMA Permit Renewals. The Cape communities may be put on hold for one year.

Mr. Underhill would like to see Representative Straus and other legislators invited to a future MRVWSPAC meeting. He reported that the Town of Rochester sent a letter of objection to the City of New Bedford's water withdrawal proposal. Mr. Underhill suggested that the MRVWSPAC have a special meeting and whoever can make it will attend. Chairman Osuch will contact Representative Straus and let everyone know.

8. Old Business

Chairman Osuch reported that he received plans by Prime Engineering for a solar facility by Melink off Snipatuit Road in Rochester. It was agreed that the MRVWSPAC would express concern about the handling of stormwater and pesticides on the subject property. Chairman Osuch will prepare a letter on behalf of the MRVWSPAC and submit to the Rochester Planning Board.

Discussion ensued about the proposed surface water bylaw. Mr. Underhill reported that Rochester Town Counsel Blair Bailey reviewed the bylaw and made suggestions on how he would improve the article. Mr. Underhill and Ms. Farinon will discuss the edits with Attorney Bailey and report back to the MRVWSPAC.

Treasurer Pierce reported that he has investigated financial options for the MRVWSPAC treasury, and learned that the reward would be very small. He reported that it would not be worth the risk to invest the money for so little gain.

Mr. Chase motioned adjournment of the meeting at 4:48 p.m., Mr. Pierce seconded, all in favor. The next meeting of the MRVWSPAC will be held on Tuesday, November 10, 2015.