

Mattapoissett River Valley  
Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
March 8, 2022

The Mattapoissett River Valley Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, March 8, 2022 at 3:36 p.m. remotely using Zoom Meeting ID: 885 7670 8353 or by calling 1-646-876-9923.

In attendance:

Town of Fairhaven	Vincent Furtado Wendy Graves Jeffrey Furtado	term expires: 5/2022 term expires: 5/2022
Town of Marion	Meghan Davis Nathaniel Munafo	term expires: 6/2022 term expires: 6/2022
Town of Mattapoissett	Henri Renauld	term expires: 2024
Town of Rochester	Rick Charon Sandy Keese	term expires: 2024 term expires: 2023

Others in attendance:

Jon Gregory	Tata & Howard
Paul Howard	Tata & Howard
Mick Colageo	The Wanderer
David Pierce	

Absent Members:

Town of Marion: Randy Parker  
Town of Rochester: Merilee Kelly  
Town of Mattapoissett: Daniel Chase  
Town of Mattapoissett: William Nicholson

Chairman Vincent Furtado called the meeting to order at 3:36 p.m.

1. Acceptance of minutes of the February 8, 2022 meeting  
Ms. Keese motioned approval of the February 8, 2022 meeting minutes, and Mr. Renauld seconded. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstention (8-0-0).
2. Treasurer's Report  
Mr. Jeff Furtado reported that for this invoicing period, payments totaled \$22,371.71, and income totaled \$73,622.07, with a total ending balance of \$278,798.65. Mr. Jeff Furtado noted that Meagan McCarthy did not submit an invoice this month as of yet. Mr. Munafo motioned acceptance of the

Treasurer's report as presented, Mr. Vincent Furtado seconded, and all in favor on a roll call vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained (8-0-0).

Mr. Vincent Furtado presented the following invoices to be paid:

- Blair Bailey \$ 50.00
- William David Watling \$ 251.72
- Meagan McCarthy \$ 68.00
- Tata & Howard \$ 2,803.29
- Bluehost \$ 443.61

Mr. Jeff Furtado motioned to approve payment of the above referenced invoices on behalf of the MRVWSPAC. Ms. Keese seconded, and all in favor. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained (8-0-0).

3. MRV River Monitoring 2021 Data Review

Mr. Gregory presented an overview of the 2021 MRV River Monitoring data. Mr. Gregory shared his screen to present data graphs comparing the 2020 and 2021 annual data for MW-2D and MW-2S. These monitoring wells are located near the Tinkham Lane Pump Station. Mr. Gregory discussed that the gold step line on the graph represents the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile, which is the elevation percentile between the high and low groundwater levels for all data that has been collected throughout the entire monitoring program since it began. The 25<sup>th</sup> percentile line is generally utilized as the reference point for groundwater levels. Ideal groundwater levels should be at or above the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile line.

Mr. Gregory presented that the first set of graphs are a comparison of 2020 and 2021 data for MW-2D. Mr. Gregory noted that the December 2021 data is not included on the graphs due to an excel formatting issue, which is currently being reviewed.

Mr. Gregory noted that in July 2020 through a good portion of the fall, there was a drought period, as seen from the very low ground water levels for the monitoring well. This is especially evident in October 2020, when the observed low groundwater elevation was five feet below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile. Groundwater levels took sever months to recover.

Mr. Gregory continued to present the 2021 data for MW-2D. Groundwater levels were observed below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile until mid-April when groundwater levels recovered to near the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile. A large precipitation event occurred in mid-August, and groundwater levels increased to well above the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile. By October, groundwater levels were above the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile by approximate seven to eight feet.

Mr. Gregory then presented the shallow well (MW-2S) groundwater level comparison of 2020 and 2021. Mr. Gregory noted that the shallow well displayed basically similar trends to the deep well. Early in 2020, the groundwater levels were generally at the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile elevation, and then proceeded to fall below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile during the drought of 2020 (July through the fall). The lowest observed groundwater level was observed at approximately seven feet below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Mr. Gregory continued that similar to MW-2D, groundwater levels for MW-2S were generally below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile early in 2021, but recovered to meet the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile elevation in April. From the large precipitation event in mid-August through November, groundwater levels increased well above the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile.

Mr. Gregory presented a combination graph of annual data for MW-2S and MW-2D for 2020 and 2021. Mr. Gregory noted that the purple line represents MW-2D, the redline represents MW-2S, the green bar represents precipitation on a daily basis and the blue line represents water supply well pumping totals on a daily basis. Pumping totals during both years were similar and followed a similar pattern. Mr. Gregory discussed that the graphs show that groundwater levels for MW-2D were extremely low during the drought period in 2020, but groundwater levels during the same time period in 2021 were not as low because a drought was not experienced during this time.

Mr. Gregory also presented that the extreme perception event that occurred on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, produced 6-inches of rainfall, and resulted a significant increase in the groundwater levels in just that one day. This is a good example showing how precipitation directly influences the monitoring wells. Mr. Gregory concluded that groundwater levels directly respond to precipitation, drought periods, and water supply well pumping.

Mr. Gregory noted that he is happy to discuss the river monitoring data in more detail with anyone who is interested or has questions.

Mr. Charon asked if there is any tracking of the streamflow data in addition to the monitoring well data. Mr. Gregory responded that the streamflow data is more detailed, but he can provide more information at the next update. Mr. Gregory continued that the streamflow data gives a better indication of the surface water levels, which is also directly influenced by precipitation and water supply well pumping. Mr. Gregory will focus more on the streamflow data during the next river monitoring update.

Mr. Charon continued by stating that MassDEP used streamflow data to determine the withdrawal limits for the District water supply wells, and asked if there was a case that could be made to rebut MassDEP, concluding that streamflow and precipitation are basically a cause and effect relationship. Mr.

Gregory responded that the River Monitoring Annual Reports discuss that matter in more detail. He noted that Mr. Charon makes a good point, that if MassDEP is using streamflow as their basis for withdrawal limits, the District should have a firm handle on the data being used and respond to MassDEP if need be. Mr. Gregory will investigate further and report back.

Mr. Howard continued that Mass Water Works is pushing for each community to have their own drought management plan, because the regional drought management plan may not be applicable to everyone. Mr. Howard continued that if each community had their own plan, they could negotiate with MassDEP regarding the indices applied for drought management. Current regional standards might not be applicable for the District. The District might be better off looking at groundwater levels than streamflow. Those are the types of things that should be pushed MassDEP to review.

Mr. Gregory also reminded Committee members that a new spare levellogger was purchased last month, which provides a total of three spare levelloggers. Mr. Gregory continued that ironically, one of the old levelloggers failed a few weeks ago at MW-3S, which has been replaced. The Committee now maintains two spare levelloggers. Mr. Gregory noted that he is comfortable with maintaining two spare levelloggers for now, but if another existing levellogger malfunctions in the near future, he will alert Committee members to determine if another spare levellogger should be purchased. Mr. Gregory noted that eventually all levelloggers will be replaced, but the current goal is to utilize the existing equipment as much as possible before they fail and get replaced.

4. Request for Funding assistance from District for River Monitoring Data

Mr. Vincent Furtado noted this agenda item is in regards to the annual request for \$5,000 from the District to assist with the river monitoring program. The invoice will be issued prior to the next District meeting. Mr. Renauld noted he recalls that this didn't occur last year. Mr. Pierce responded that this lapsed by the committee last year. Mr. Renauld noted that if Mr. Vincent Furtado sends an invoice to the District, he will include it with other invoices to be paid during the next invoicing period.

Mr. Jeff Furtado made motion for Mr. Vincent Furtado to prepare the \$5,000 invoice and submit to the District for river monitoring assistance. Mr. Charon seconded. Motion passed on a roll call vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained (8-0-0).

5. Procedures for Review and Approval of Proposals and Agreements

Mr. Munafo discussed that this agenda item isn't as much of an issue with the Advisory Committee as it is with the District, but the same applies to both the Committee and the District. Mr. Munafo stated that procedures should be in place to have all members review large expenditures prior to voting approval. Mr. Munafo explained that although he understands emergency situations, he

would like to make an effort to review and plan for large expenses. Mr. Munafos asked if there was a standard, including a schedule, that could be referred to.

Mr. Vincent Furtado suggested to implement a standard operating procedure (SOP). Mr. Vincent Furtado explained that for the most part, an item for a large expenditure is put on the agenda, announced and prepped. Mr. Renauld agreed, all large expenditure items are put on the agenda. Mr. Renauld continued that in regards to the recent large expenditure for the District, the situation required quick action and vote, which is out of the ordinary. Mr. Renauld stated that he would advise against an SOP. He continued that members try to add items to the agenda as soon as possible, and forward documentation to everyone for a chance to review prior to the meeting. Mr. Renauld stated that he understands Mr. Munafos point very well, that everyone should get a chance to review before items are voted upon, but there will be occasions where this is not feasible. Mr. Renauld is confident that there are enough educated personnel in the group to make the appropriate decision in an emergency situation.

Mr. Pierce commented that there was an schedule when annual votes came up, election of offices, various expense, and so forth. Unfortunately with the change of Committee personnel, he anticipates this schedule was lost.

Mr. Vincent Furtado asked if the schedule is memorialized in the bylaws. Mr. Pierce noted that he believes it should be. Mr. Vincent Furtado continued that we could check the archives and identify the tasks with annual voting occurrences.

Ms. Davis commented that it appears there are two topics being discussed. In regards to the annual calendar of voting events, we can review past years meeting minutes and add annual voting events to future agendas.

Ms. Davis continued that she agreed with Mr. Munafos that it is a good idea to make an effort to distribute any documentation associated with large expenditures to be voted upon prior to the meeting so all Committee members have a chance to review prior to voting on the item. She also understands sometimes those opportunities aren't available. Mr. Vincent Furtado agreed. Mr. Gregory noted that Tata & Howard will make every effort to distribute agreements with both Committee and District ahead of time.

6. Website Domain

Mr. Vincent Furtado noted that this was discussed under the Treasurers report; the website name and domain needed to be renewed. Mr. Vincent Furtado also noted that the most recent meeting minute included on the website are from 2019, and need to be updated. Mr. Renauld stated that he knew Mr. Nicholson was working on updating some of the website information, and he will follow

up with Mr. Nicholson. The Committee was in agreement that website updates need to be addressed.

7. Old Business / New Business

Old Business: Mr. Pierce suggested that in terms of reviewing old minutes, Ms. Davis can review and find any particular material through a very quick PDF search, and that would be very helpful. Ms. Davis agreed.

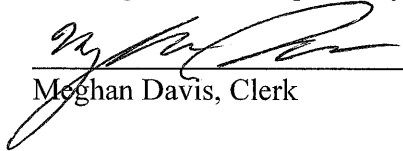
New Business: None.

8. Adjournment

Mr. Vincent Furtado entertained motion to adjourn at 4:11 p.m. Mr. Renauld made motion, Mr. Munafo seconded, and all in favor. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained (8-0-0).

Next Meeting April 12, 2022

Meeting Minutes Prepared By:

  
Meghan Davis, Clerk