

Mattapoissett River Valley  
Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee  
Meeting Minutes  
April 12, 2022

The Mattapoissett River Valley Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 3:38 p.m. remotely using Zoom Meeting ID: 810 8647 6828 or by calling 1-646-876-9923.

In attendance:

Town of Fairhaven	Vincent Furtado	term expires: 5/2022
	Wendy Graves	
	Jeffrey Furtado	term expires: 5/2022
Town of Marion	Meghan Davis	term expires: 6/2022
	Nathaniel Munafo	term expires: 6/2022
	Randy Parker	term expires: 6/2022
Town of Mattapoissett	Nick Nicholson	term expires: 2024
Town of Rochester	Sandy Keese	term expires: 2023

Others in attendance:

Michael Lorenzo	Town of Mattapoissett
Jon Gregory	Tata & Howard
Paul Howard	Tata & Howard
Mick Colageo	The Wanderer
David Pierce	
Blair Bailey	
Mark Rasmussen	Buzzards Bay Coalition
Brenden Annett	Buzzards Bay Coalition

Absent Members:

Town of Rochester: Merilee Kelly  
Town of Mattapoissett: Daniel Chase  
Town of Mattapoissett: Henri Renauld  
Town of Rochester: Rick Charon

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

1. Acceptance of minutes of the March 8, 2022 meeting  
Ms. Keese motioned to approve the March 8, 2022 meeting minutes, and Mr. Munafo 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 \$25,544.96, and income totaled \$73,624.26, with a total ending balance of \$275,627.83. Mr. Jeff Furtado noted that there was a date typo on the total income; it's supposed to be July 1, 2021, not 2020. He will adjust at next months meeting. Mr. Nicholson motioned acceptance of the Treasurer's report as presented, Mr. Munafo 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 \$ 238.00

Mr. Gregory presented the invoices from Tata & Howard, Inc., including an invoice of \$2,778.36 for preparation of River Monitoring Reports, and an invoice of \$2,479.52 for FY22 Hydrologic Monitoring.

Mr. Jeff Furtado motioned to approve payment of the above referenced invoices on behalf of the MRVWSPAC. Mr. Parker 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. ANR Plan for 253 Hartley Road

Mr. Vincent Furtado presented an Approval Not Required (ANR) Plan for a property located on the north side of Hartley Road in Rochester. Per the requirements of the Rochester Planning Board, the MRVWSPAC sub-committee (composed of Mr. Vincent Furtado, Ms. Keese, and Mr. Renault) reviewed the ANR Plan to confirm that there is no impact to the Mattapoissett River Valley. Mr. Vincent Furtado explained that the ANR Plan is basically a property lot line adjustment. Mr. Vincent Furtado entertained a motion to permit him to send a letter to Walter Hartley from John Libby Consulting, informing him that the Plan has no impact on the Mattapoissett River Valley.

Ms. Keese motioned to approve as stated above, Mr. Nicholson seconded, and all in favor. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained (8-0-0).

4. Auditing Approval

Mr. Vincent Furtado stated that the documentation associated with this agenda item was not distributed to the Committee for review prior to the meeting. Therefore, this agenda item will be discussed at the next meeting.

5. Outside Bookkeeping

Mr. Vincent Furtado stated that it was previously discussed to hire an outside bookkeeper for the Committee. Mr. Munafo commented that Committee personnel reached out to someone who was interested in the position about a year ago. The goal is for the outside bookkeeper to assist with large upcoming expenditures and maintain a smooth process during auditing.

Mr. Vincent Furtado asked the group how they would like to proceed. Mr. Parker stated that he thinks it would be a good idea to identify a defined scope of work and tasks for the outside bookkeeper position. Ms. Keese asked if the Committee has to advertise the position. Mr. Vincent Furtado responded that the Committee could advertise, if required.

Mr. Vincent Furtado volunteered to draft a scope for the bookkeeper position, with the assistance of Ms. Graves. Mr. Vincent Furtado will distribute the draft bookkeeper scope to the Committee for review. It was noted that although the bookkeeper would manage all the finances of the Committee, a Committee member would still have to present the treasurer's report at each monthly meeting. Mr. Vincent Furtado and Ms. Graves will prepare a draft bookkeeper scope of work for review by the Committee before the next meeting.

6. Old Business / New Business

Old Business: Mr. Pierce presented an annual calendar of events for the Committee. Mr. Pierce continued that the calendar should be reviewed as suggested items, and items can be added/removed as determined by the Committee. Mr. Pierce suggested to distribute the annual calendar each January to remind Committee members of upcoming events.

Mr. Gregory noted that Tata & Howard reviewed the calendar and it appears that all critical events are included. Mr. Gregory suggested to reference the calendar on a monthly basis to identify what needs to be completed for each upcoming month. Ms. Davis noted she will reference the calendar in preparation of monthly meeting agendas. Mr. Gregory continued that annual events will be added to the calendar as they occur, and the calendar can be regarded as a 'live' document.

New Business: Mr. Vincent Furtado discussed that Mark Rasmussen, from the Buzzards Bay Coalition (BBC), reached out to him and wanted to speak with the Committee regarding land acquisition for drinking water protection.

Mr. Rasmussen presented that the BBC has been working with the Committee for almost 20 years, and in that time has preserved a lot of land in the Mattapoisett River Valley for drinking water protection. Mr. Rasmussen presented a map that identified the existing protected properties that have been acquired over the last 20 years. Mr. Rasmussen identified the lands currently

proposed to acquire, which are at the top of the protection list. The lands are currently owned by Red Brick Farms and Mahoney (approximately 240 acres total). The goal is to acquire these lands for drinking water protection for \$6 million dollars, within a 2 year time period (close by July 2024).

Mr. Rasmussen explained that the secondary goal for the land acquisition is to expand the walking trail network in this area, and maintain wildlife habitat.

Mr. Rasmussen presented the total costs and strategy for funding. There would be \$25,000 in appraisal / legal fees, for a total budget of \$6,025,000. The BBC intends to apply for the Mass MVP Grant, which is geared towards multi-town projects, and awards projects that protect drinking water supply. The grant only funds 75% of the total cost, so the most funding the project could obtain from the grant is \$4.5 million dollars. The BBC is prepared to complete \$1 million dollars of private fundraising, and therefore the Towns involved would have to fund the remaining \$525,000.

Mr. Rasmussen explained that there can be only one applicant for the grant, and since the majority of the lands to acquire exist within the Town of Mattapoisett, it makes sense for the Mattapoisett Water Department to be the applicant for the grant. That being said, all Towns involved would be partners in the grant.

Mr. Rasmussen continued to present the division of funding per Town. The Committee would be responsible for \$150,000, and each Town (including the Town of Acushnet) would be responsible for \$85,000 through their CPA's (which does not get applied to rate payers). The Town of Rochester would only be responsible for \$35,000, since they do not have any water supply wells or CPA's. The BBC will find a state or federal grant that can direct the Rochester share, as done in the past.

Mr. Rasmussen explained that if the Mass MVP Grant is not successful, there are still two more years to determine funding for the project.

Mr. Annett from the BBC continued that the goal is to leverage as much outside grant funding as possible in the form of manageable size contributions from all parties involved. This grant was designed to help Towns prepare for changes as a result of climate change, while focusing on the concept of having a more resilient water supply through land protection. Mr. Annett summarized the benefits of the grant and suggests the Committee move forward with applying for the grant.

Mr. Annett continued that the biggest challenge for this grant is that the application is due in early May and asked the Committee if they wanted to proceed with pursuing the grant.

It was noted that the Committee cannot vote at this time and would have to hold a separate meeting to vote on the matter.

Ms. Keese asked what activities would be permissible within these lands, as she is interested in anything that would bring back revenue to the Towns, because some revenue would be lost on the tax base with this project.

Mr. Annett responded that the BBC has already reviewed that the project would result in minimal tax revenue loss. The Mattapoisett tax is \$7,596, Acushnet tax is \$1,665, and Rochester tax is \$417.

Mr. Annett continued that solar use or built developments would not be permitted. It would be allowed to lease the lands back to the current farmer to continue agricultural operation on the land, with no conversion from the land use of farming, as it is within Zone II.

Mark Rasmussen stated that Mattapoisett Water Department expressed interest in the right to develop wells on any of the acquired land, which is an acceptable use of the land.

Mr. Nicholson asked if the Town of Acushnet has been approached with this plan. Mr. Annett responded that they presented the plan to Mattapoisett, and now to the Committee, and have not approached Acushnet yet. Mr. Annett noted he expects it to be a challenge, but anticipates that Acushnet will be willing to participate in the project since the monetary request is less than \$100,000.

Mr. Parker asked Mr. Annett where Acushnet receives their water supply from. Mr. Annett responded that Acushnet receives their water from the Town of New Bedford.

Mr. Nicholson asked if the presentation that was presented today can be available to Committee members to review. Mr. Rasmussen will provide the presentation to Mr. Vincent Furtado for distribution.

Mr. Munafo asked if everyone is in agreement to move forward, what exactly would be needed from the Committee at a meeting in the near future to meet the grant deadline. Mr. Annett responded that the BBC would need a letter of support from the Committee, and letter of support from each participating Town. Mr. Munafo asked if the letter would need to state the portion of matching funds for the respective Town. Mr. Annett responded that since the portion of matching funds is subject to Annual Town Meeting, the letter should state that the Towns will do their best to secure funding, subject to Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Annett noted that the BBC would need a vote from the Committee to proceed with the project before May 5<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Annett noted that the Towns would only be responsible for portioned amount if the full grant was awarded. Mr. Rasmussen continued that the BBC is also a partner in this grant, and their letter of support will state that they will work as best they can towards raising the money for the grant, but that there is no guarantee. He anticipate this will be similar to what the Town letters state.

Mr. Vincent Furtado asked if the Committee members were available to attend a special meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup> at 3:00PM to address this agenda item. Members are available.

Mr. Bailey offered to be available to answer any legal questions in the meantime, so everyone is ready to vote at the April 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Mr. Renauld joined the meeting at 4:25PM.

New Business: Mr. Gregory discussed that the cable reader used to download levellogger data to the laptop for River Monitoring is about to fail, and another needs to be ordered. Mr. Gregory requested the Committee's approval to purchase the replacement equipment. The cost of the replacement equipment is approximately \$200, including shipping. Mr. Nicholson made motion to approve Tata and Howard to purchase the equipment, and Mr. Vincent Furtado seconded. All passed on a roll call vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained (9-0-0).

Mr. Gregory continued that they replaced a levellogger at MW-3S with the new levellogger recently purchased. There are currently two spare levelloggers on standby and Mr. Gregory feels that's adequate for now. Mr. Gregory recommends maintaining two levelloggers on standby at this point until all original levelloggers are replaced.

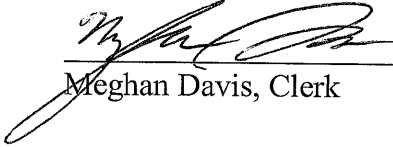
Mr. Gregory informed the Committee that as the end of the fiscal year approaches, Tata & Howard will prepare an engineering agreement for the FY23 Hydrologic Monitoring. He will distribute the agreement to Committee members for review and comment prior to the June meeting.

7. Adjournment

Mr. Vincent Furtado entertained motion to adjourn at 4:30 p.m. Mr. Munafo made motion, Mr. Nicholson seconded, and all in favor. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 9 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained (9-0-0).

Next Meeting May 10, 2022

Meeting Minutes Prepared By:

  
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Meghan Davis, Clerk