

Mattapoissett River Valley
Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee
Special Meeting Minutes
April 26, 2022

The Mattapoissett River Valley Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee met on Tuesday, April 26, 2022 at 3:04 p.m. remotely using Zoom Meeting ID: 247 835 7020 or by calling 1-646-876-9923.

In attendance:

Town of Fairhaven	Vincent Furtado	term expires: 5/2022
	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
	Henri Renauld	term expires: 2024
Town of Rochester	Sandy Keese	term expires: 2023

Others in attendance:

Jon Gregory	Tata & Howard
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 Fairhaven: Wendy Graves
Town of Rochester: Rick Charon

Chairman Vincent Furtado called the meeting to order at 3:04 p.m.

1. Mattapoissett River Valley Land Protection Partnership – Land Acquisition for Drinking Water Protection

Mr. Rasmussen thanked the Committee for the opportunity to present this project and calling a special meeting to discuss. Mr. Rasmussen continued and summarized the information presented at the April 12, 2022 meeting of the Mattapoissett River Valley Water Supply Protection Advisory Committee.

Ms. Keese noted that this is a wonderful opportunity to protect the watershed.

Mr. Munafo asked Mr. Rasmussen, assuming that the project progresses and the lands are purchased, how the land will be used and what uses will be

permitted on the lands, and who will technically own the lands. Mr. Rasmussen responded that all lands will be placed under conservation with restrictions that he proposes will be held by all Towns involved. He continued that he feels it makes sense for respective Town Water Departments to own certain pieces outright, dependent on where the lands are located. For example, the Wolf Island parcels, which are adjacent to the existing Marion wells, should be owned by the Marion Water Department. It is proposed that other parcels that are to be conservation lands, be managed by BBC for two reasons: They connect to all the trails that become part of the bog trail network system for the public to use, and to maintain existing farming efforts on the lands. These parcels would be owned by BBC but protected by the respective Water Departments.

Mr. Rasmussen continued that the Towns involved will reserve rights to develop water supply sources anywhere on the purchased parcels.

Mr. Munafo asked if there is flexibility to identify the specifics of ownership, etc. during the grant process. Mr. Rasmussen responded that absolutely, details regarding ownership can be worked out after the grant is awarded.

Mr. Renauld stated that when he and his Select Board spoke with Mr. Rasmussen, the Town of Mattapoisett would like to hold ownership of the parcels on the eastern side of Long Plain Road for the purpose of establishing future water supply sources.

Mr. Bailey asked if the grant will require a match commitment from every Town. Mr. Rasmussen responded that since the BBC has not had the chance to reach all community Select Boards yet, it can not be stated that the Towns involved will commit their match share, but rather that the BBC will be committing the match. It is the intent to raise \$1 million of the match privately, and pursue CPA sources from the Towns involved. In short, the BBC on the hook for funding in terms of the grant.

Mr. Munafo commented that he has significant concerns about ownership of the specific parcels, and he has to protect his Town's own. Mr. Munafo proposed to include restrictions on the properties so that whichever Town owns a parcel with the intent to develop a new water supply source, so that such Town cannot charge other communities for sale of water (besides production costs of well operation).

Blair continued that currently the grant is looking for Committee to commit to \$150,000 towards grant to move forward. Specifics to ownership and use of lands can be determined out in the future.

Mr. Gregory wanted to clarify what exactly is needed from individual Towns and the Committee for the BBC to submit the grant. Mr. Rasmussen

responded that the BBC needs is a letter stating the match commitment from the Committee, and would prefer to have letters of support from all the Towns involved. The letters of support from the Towns involved do not need to state a match commitment, but rather just support of the project. The BBC would prefer letters of support from as many Towns as possible.

Mr. Annett stated that Town support letters are to come from respective Town Water Departments, and the letter from the Town of Rochester shall come from Rochester Conservation Commission. The BBC will draft the letters of support from and forward them to individual towns as soon as possible.

Mr. Munafo asked Mr. Bailey, assuming the Committee has \$150,000 in the budget for this project, do the funds need to be set aside into a dedicated account for the match? Mr. Vincent Furtado responded that the motion would be to commit those funds to the grant as match funds should the grant be obtained. The Committee Treasurer would encumber the funds so they cannot be accessed for other means. This does not require transferring the funds to a separate account.

Mr. Vincent Furtado reiterated Mr. Munafo's point, that he agrees that it is important to identify the ownership of the parcels, when appropriate.

Ms. Keese also made point that the land conservation will benefit wildlife. Mr. Bailey continued that this conservation will prevent solar projects from being installed onto many of these lots. Both Ms. Keese and Mr. Bailey are in support of the project.

Mr. Munafo asked Mr. Jeff Furtado to confirm the Committee has the \$150,000 in the budget. Mr. Jeff Furtado responded that the current balance is \$275,627.00. Therefore the funding for this project is available.

Mr. Vincent Furtado entertained a motion for the MRVWSPC to commit the \$150,000 to the project as proposed, subject to grant approval of the project. Ms. Keese made motion, 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).

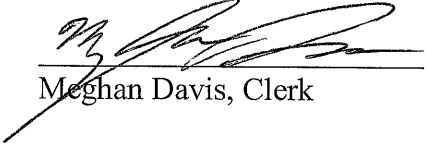
Mr. Vincent Furtado entertained motion to sign the letter of support from the MRVWSPAC for the project, subject to grant approval of the project. Mr. Parker made motion, Ms. Davis seconded, and all in favor. The motion passed on a roll call vote of 8 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained (8-0-0).

2. Adjournment

Mr. Vincent Furtado entertained motion to adjourn at 3:29 p.m. Mr. Munafo made motion, 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).

Next Meeting May 10, 2022

Meeting Minutes Prepared By:



Meghan Davis, Clerk