

WATER RESOURCES PROTECTION TASK FORCE

WORKING GROUP # 6 MEETING- MINUTES

Town Hall Room # 7 and Virtual – September 1, 2022 – 1:00 p.m.

Present: John Round, Peter Colarusso, Tom Kehoe, Steve Gang- Staff – Nate Desrosiers

Meeting called to order at 1:04 p.m.

Discussion of City of Cambridge Water Situation: In some water supply sources in Cambridge, the PFAS levels are close to/sometimes above the state allowed maximum levels. New medium for the PFAS filters is not available at this time due to supply chain issues. Cambridge is now purchasing water from the MWRA for at least the next four months at \$2million /month.

Tasks for Timeline/Discussion/Timetable for Completion:

I. Establish an informational grid concerning water sources in the following cities and towns.

Look for water sources -well and or surface water; Water quality and possible contamination;

How do they manage their water rates and how do they manage their water usage?

Do they use conservation rates to control their water usage?

If they use conservation rates, do they work to control their usage?

What has worked/not worked to control water usage?

Focus on North Basin Aquifer communities: Beverly (BSWSB), Hamilton, Wenham, Essex and Ipswich and Gloucester.

Nate and Chuck with John Round – Complete by October 2022

II. Discussion on proposing Conservation Rates to the Select Board for 2023/2024 fiscal year budget

Joint Meeting of Group # 1 and #6 to discuss, consider options and make recommendation to the WRPTF and the SB.

Decide joint meeting date – Tom Kehoe and Steve Gang. Meeting in late Sept/early Oct 2022.

III. Reduce the amount of finished water that is used for irrigation/landscape watering.

This is tied to the Conservation Rates structure. We need to consider “carrots as well as sticks” for the residential users. How can the information be distributed to the residents? The SB notes with the tax bills? The Town Administrator’s weekly notes? The Tide weekly alerts? Separate flyer produced by the WRPTF for inclusion with water bills? Flyer for November STM?

We can alert residents to the Greenscapes Northshore web site. Greenscapes.org. Household ideas with rain barrels and other water saving ideas. Flyer for November STM?

Peter Colarusso to work on this

Complete by: September or October 2022

IV. Areas for Future Discussion

- a. Replacement of Water Meters with Smart Meters - This is an area to investigate for the next town expenditure to replace water meters. Is it possible to arrange for a trial run of 15 to 20 meters to gather more accurate and timely information for the residents?
- b. Can we make water bills more user friendly? List out the usage from the past 3 to 4 billing cycles. Providing more information to residents allows them to make better decisions about their water usage.
- c. Acquire land in the watershed areas via purchase or conservation easements or restrictions.
 - i. Difficulties: Having the money to purchase the land must be approved by the Town Meeting.
 - ii. The town is not allowed to pay more than the assessed value for the land.
- d. Question: Who is responsible for checking on private wells for residential use or irrigation in the aquifer? Board of Health? Water and Sewer Commissioners?

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.

Submitted by:

Thomas P. Kehoe