



## WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes  
October 13, 2022  
7:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting

**Present:** Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, Joe Robb, Matt Mostoller, and Mike Geis

**Chairperson:** Mike Geis

**Clerk:** Ron Parenti

**Others in Attendance:** Himaja Nagireddy (Select Board Liaison), Kim Kastens, and Terra Friedrichs.

### 1. Opening

WRAC chair Mike Geis opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

### 2. Regular Business

- A. Review Minutes – The draft minutes from 15 September were reviewed, and there were no proposed changes. A motion to approve the minutes was made by Matt Mostoller and seconded by Joe Robb; the minutes were approved by unanimous vote.
- B. Public Remarks/Comments – Terra Friedrichs asked several questions relating to the possibility that the Water District would connect to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) at some point in the future. She asked if the Water District would essentially cease to exist at that point and if customers would be charged the raw MWRA water cost without overhead. Matt Mostoller responded that the Water District would still need to maintain the local distribution system and charge customers for that work in addition to any outstanding financial obligations. Friedrichs then asked if the Water District was waiting to respond to the PFAS problem until a decision had been made about the MWRA connection; Mostoller responded that the District is moving in parallel tracts, actively pursuing PFAS remedies, including treatment at the North Acton Treatment Facility which is at the 90% design for a near-term remediation installation.
- C. Review of the Great Road Study Kickoff Meeting – Ron Parenti presented an overview of the kickoff meeting held on 27 September, which he and Matt Mostoller attended. Representatives from the Town included John Mangiaratti, Corey York, and four other members of the Town staff. Wright-Pierce was represented by Kevin Olson (Senior Project Manager), Paul Birkel (Executive Vice President), Michael Giggery (Technical Advisor), and Marc Moccio (Lead Project Engineer). Wright-Pierce prepared a fairly extensive agenda for the meeting, which included the following discussion points.
  - 1) The study will cover a 6-month time period. The defined study region includes the Great Rd. corridor section between the Concord line and Main St.
  - 2) Several wastewater options will be evaluated and compared during the study. These options will include a connection to the Town's existing treatment plant on



Adams St., connections to existing treatment installations within the corridor, and the construction of one or more local treatment plants.

3) Wright-Pierce accepted WRAC's suggestion to delay the start of the potable water study tasks until the favored wastewater solution had been identified. WRAC recommended this approach because water quality and quantity questions will likely be impacted by the nature of the wastewater solution.

4) Wright-Pierce indicated that they will be working closely with Town staff to obtain several types of information that will be incorporated into the study. The requested information includes data on the number and health of septic systems within the corridor, the number of private wells, possible locations for local wastewater treatment plants, estimates of future growth, and the likelihood that the Water District will pursue a connection to MWRA.

5) The next formal project review will probably be scheduled for January or February of 2023.

Parenti asked the Committee members if they thought it would be appropriate to pursue an informal connection with the Wright-Pierce engineers who will be conducting the potable water segment of the study. It was decided that this might be appropriate later in the investigation, and that such discussions would need to be approved by the Town Manager. Terra Friedrichs expressed her strong opinion that the WRAC should take a lead role in directing the manner in which the potable water tasks are to be performed.

D. Continue Discussion of Future WRAC Tasks –Parenti asked the Committee to continue its discussion of committee tasks to be performed following the Great Rd. study. Previously, the WRAC has discussed investigations related to the formation of a wastewater utility district, stormwater management, and projections of future potable water demand. There was general agreement that the Town would benefit from an investigation of methods to manage private septic systems, but the Committee also agreed that a proposal to initiate such a study would need to be presented to the Select Board.

Parenti suggested another Committee task that might assist the Water District in its decision to establish a future connection to MWRA. Parenti argued that while the WRAC is not a Water District committee, an economic tradeoff study of treatment options would benefit both the District and the Town. Matt Mostoller emphasized that the decision to connect to MWRA should not be based solely on water quality issues, and that there would need to be other compelling reasons for switching to this water source. Mostoller and Rosen noted that the Water District is just beginning its investigation of the alternatives, and that there are still many unknown factors relating to the manner in which a connection to MWRA might be made, the compatibility of water treatment approaches, and long-term costs.

The WRAC members returned to the discussion of future tasks, and agreed that the suggestion to investigate methodologies for private septic system management should be revisited at the next meeting.



E. Any other new business –None.

**3. Adjournment**

The Committee members agreed to hold the next meeting on 3 November 2022 at 7pm. A motion to adjourn was made by Matt Mostoller and seconded by Mike Geis. Adjournment was approved by a unanimous roll call vote of the WRAC members, Joe Robb, Matt Mostoller, Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, and Mike Geis, at 9:05 PM.