

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

**MEETING MINUTES**  
September 11, 2013

This meeting was called to order at 5:10 p.m. at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Those in attendance were:

**Cambridge Water Board (CWB):** Ann Roosevelt, Richard Johnson and Jim Tanner  
**Cambridge Water Department (CWD):** Sam Corda, Fred Centanni, Tim MacDonald, Mark Gallagher and Linda Vierboom

**A. MINUTES OF JUNE 19, 2013 MEETING**

Mr. Tanner moved and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion to approve the June 19, 2013 minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

The transition to a blend of City and Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) water began in Cambridge today as a direct result of coordinating and supporting two MWRA related projects. As a result of the transition activities there were a few discolored water calls likely due to flow reversals. The projects are listed below.

*Project 1) Sewer Separation Project in Cambridge on Huron Avenue.* The project will begin in mid September (2013) and will last about four months. There are several sewer pipe crossings under our 40" force main which make it very "complicated" for the sewer work to be done. The plan will be to shut down the force main for the stretch from Huron Avenue to Reservoir Street.

*Project 2) MWRA Pipe Line Upgrade in Waltham.* MWRA will remove our line and after completion of their work, replace it. The anticipated start date for this project is September 23, 2013 and is expected to take four weeks to complete.

Because the above projects are to support the MWRA (project 1 and 2 above) the water used will be part of the projects with no additional cost to the City.

In order to provide some redundancy to the Huron Avenue "force main" we are planning to make an additional connection to the 20" main that provides water to the water treatment plant (WTP). This 20" main runs down Fresh Pond Parkway and if connected would increase the quantity of water that could be provided to the City, if the Huron Avenue "force main" was out of service, by up to 8 MGD (from 2MGD).

For the long term, we will need to provide full redundancy to the 40" "force main" on Huron Avenue and this connection will provide about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the average water demand of the City. Full redundancy is part of our long range strategic planning.

*Fire Department Access Project:* Mr. MacDonald passed out pictures/layout of the proposed fire department access area. A contractor who previously worked on the Black's Nook project has been hired to make an access point in the reservation for the fire department to test the capacity of their pumper trucks. There is no threat of contamination to the reservoir during this process and this location will be the only one available to the Fire Department within City limits that meets the testing requirements. To allow

for this testing, construction will be taking place at the “intake” and when completed the area will not look any different. *Information on these projects is available on the City webpage.*

**Concession Stand Action Item:** An email request was sent to Mr. Corda and Mr. Ryder (DPW) requesting permission to open a coffee/snack concession stand on the reservation. Aside from issues of trash, rodents, and monies, this is clearly against the rules and regulations on the reservation. Mr. Corda will notify the requester of the request denial.

Mr. Tanner moved and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion to reject the proposal to open a snack concession stand at Fresh Pond. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Ms. Roosevelt inquired as to how the City will connect to/with the Watertown bike path. Mr. MacDonald said the rail line, recently acquired by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the City, is the answer. The intent is that DCR will work to obtain state funding to build a bike path on the rail bed. In the meantime, the water department will meet with the Cambridge Department of Public Works and the Community Development Department to determine the best methodology to remove the railroad tracks on the Reservation. Once the rails are removed this will allow for the drainage project on the Fresh Pond Parkway side of the Reservation to be constructed.

Mr. Johnson inquired about the work currently being performed on Brattle Street. Mr. Gallagher indicated that this project was not a “water” project and due to utility relocation requirements, may take quite a while to complete.

## C. OPERATIONS

### Transmission and Distribution:

#### Watershed:

Mr. Tanner inquired about the Trapelo Road Gatehouse work. Mr. MacDonald stated that the gatehouse was used when the upper watershed was more agricultural (pig farms) and was operated to close flow during certain parts of the year for water quality purposes. Updates to the gatehouse will include control valves, instrumentation, power and security.

Mr. Tanner also inquired as to why the detention basin at the corner of Route 20 and Route I-95 is not functioning as designed. Mr. MacDonald said we are working with the Massachusetts Department of Transportation to figure this out and correct it. The cause may be because the base flow is not maintained.

#### Business:

The following questions from Mr. Tanner were asked.

- Why is the FY14 consumption down ~10% from FY13? A majority of this difference is related to the sewer abatements being pulled into a separate billing cycle. The real consumption difference (+/-) should be more accurate on a quarterly basis which will include the “new” abatement cycle. It may take more than 2 years to obtain a consistent history to be able to compare consumption on a monthly basis.
- Are failed cross connection tests a normal occurrence? Yes, about 8% of the devices tested fail. Owners are required to repair the devices and request a re-test to ensure compliance.

**Water Operations:**

Energy Efficiency testing for the Raw Water Variable Speed Drive Conversion was completed and briefly discussed. Design recommendations including cost estimates are being developed.

**Engineering Division:**

None

**D. ACTION ITEMS**

None

**E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST**

The Telegram.com, Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI) article "New Water Use Regs Will Burden City", was discussed. The water department concurs with the opinions expressed in the article. Currently, it applies only to ground water wells and not surface water reservoirs. It is easily anticipated that SWMI will eventually apply to surface waters. Mr. MacDonald said that if the CWD had to do stream flow releases according to the SWMI framework, it could be drastic.

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

None

Ms. Johnson moved and Mr. Tanner seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 pm. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**G. NEXT MEETING DATES /TOPICS**

- October 9, 2013 – Approved – Reservoir Report\*
- November 13, 2013 – Approved – Security Update\*
- December 11, 2013 – Approved – Election of the President/Project Update
- January 15, 2014 – Approved – Energy Update
- February 12, 2014 – Approved - TBD

Minutes approved by vote of the Board.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Ann C. Roosevelt, President

Date: \_\_\_\_\_