

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

January 15, 2014

This meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m. at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Those in attendance were:

Cambridge Water Board (CWB): James Burruss, Richard Johnson, Ann Roosevelt and Jim Tanner
Bioengineering Group: Beth Fenstermacher and Duke Bitsko
Cambridge Water Department (CWD): Fred Centanni, Sam Corda, Tim MacDonald and Linda Vierboom

A. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 13, 2013 MEETING

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Tanner seconded the motion to approve the December 11, 2013 minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Corda delivered the sad news that Chip Norton passed away unexpectedly Monday night. The water board extends their best wishes to his family.

Mr. Tanner moved and Mr. Burruss seconded the motion to express condolences on behalf of the water board. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Kingsley Park Project Phase 1 Update: Bioengineering Group discussed the status of the Kingsley Park Site Improvement Project. The Phase 1 design has been refined based on public comment and project development to the final design and will be soon ready to go out to bid. The phase one improvements include: perimeter road (along the front of Kingsley Park), the crest loop path (location and material), seating areas, overlook restoration, discovery zone, drainage, restoration plantings, turf restoration and irrigation. The following areas of the project were finalized and are summarized below:

The Crest Loop Path: The crest loop path material will be "Flexipave", which is the same material that was successfully used in the Black's Nook Project.

Gathering/Outdoor Seating Areas: 1) A gathering/seating area has been designed at the entry point from the Kingsley Park parking lot. The path extending from the "crest loop path" will have a "Y", with one leg following the existing location and the other connecting to the "new" seating area. This seating area will have five (5), six (6) foot long benches with backs. This area is large enough to accommodate groups and could be a gathering spot for educational and informational exchanges. 2) The overlook/seating area will now be ADA compliant and will be accessed from the crest loop path also utilizing the "Flexipave" material. To accomplish this, a stone seat wall will be created incorporating two (2) curved benches and two (2) benches with backs.

The proposed project schedule will be to issue the bid package February 1st, start construction on April 1st and complete the work by September 1st, 2014.

Future Kingsley Park Project Phases: The proposed 2nd phase will entail restoration of the plant communities and “bowl” area and the stabilization of the “steep” slopes. The proposed 3rd phase will include the restoration of the base loop path including the elevated walkway near the existing storm water wetland at the southeastern section of the “bowl” area. When completed the entirety of Kingsley Park will be stabilized to prevent erosion, will be re-vegetated removing invasives and restored with native plantings, have improved drainage which will improve water quality, meet the shared use objectives and be ADA compliant.

Energy Update: 1) Variable frequency drives (VFDs) on the low lift pumps are being designed and we are awaiting cost estimates. 2) Processes improvements have been submitted to DEP for approval. These include an Aqua Ammonia chemical change to improve safety and reduce maintenance costs. The chemistry will be the same and the chemical will not have to be listed as a hazardous material. The more diluted Sodium Hydroxide is an advantage from an energy and maintenance perspective. It will not require room temperature control thus reducing energy costs. The fluoride pumps have been changed. 3) Variable frequency drives (VFDs) have been installed on the chiller and hot water circulating pumps. 4) LED Re-lamping/Fixturing - Installation of LED lighting by the electrical department has started. 5) Solar Panels - Structural analysis indicated 170 kilowatts panels may be installed on the roof of the main and vehicle storage buildings - this is equivalent to saving 207,000 kilowatt-hours each year. We anticipate that construction will start in early summer.

Comments or Questions by the Board: Ms. Roosevelt stated that the water department is doing great things. She’d like a “press release” indicating some of the energy accomplishments by the Department. Mr. Burruss concurred that this approach would be advantageous to the City and Department. Mr. MacDonald reported that the City is keeping track of accomplishments in the budget book and the annual report. Mr. Centanni said we can work through the public information officer to determine the process of releasing this information to the public.

C. OPERATIONS

Transmission and Distribution:

We have turned on the “new” connection in front of the plant and we have increased the flow from the plant to an average of about 5 MGD. Huron A and B will be a two to three year project each having a different component within the same Huron Avenue area.

Water Operations:

None

Watershed:

Drainage improvement project: Now that the water department owns the railroad right-of-way, the drainage project will be re-starting. The focus will be determining if we can utilize the right-of-way to help improve the drainage issues on the northeast corner of the Reservation (from the plant to the Sozio rotary).

Inquiries or questions by the board: Mr. Johnson brought up the topic of the new construction at 350 Fresh Pond Parkway. He expressed concerns of water quality. Mr. Gallagher reported that this will be new retail space. Fire and domestic services will be added. Mr. Gallagher also reported that there is

sewer separation there which will send storm water to Alewife Brook. He commented there is less chance of migration of things in the soil now that it is paved. Ms. Roosevelt asked where the Hobbs Pond Dam was and who owned it. Mr. MacDonald said it is a small pond and the dam is maybe 3 or 4 feet tall. Our water runs through it and we have jurisdiction over it. It is owned by Weston and is considered "Class A" waters. In response to Ms. Roosevelt's question as to how often the retention basins on route 2 are cleaned, the answer was annually. Mr. Burruss would like to discuss "chemical storage" within our watershed at a future water board meeting.

Business:

We are replacing the Data Collection Units (DCUs) on the Automatic Meter Reading System (AMR) because the DCU wireless technology will not be compatible past 2014.

Engineering Division:

None

D. ACTION ITEMS

Mr. Burruss moved and Mr. Tanner seconded the motion to approve the Kingsley Park project phase one as updated and presented by the Bioengineering Group. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

None

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

Mr. Tanner moved and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:34 pm. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

G. NEXT MEETING DATES /TOPICS

- February 12, 2014 – Approved – Huron Avenue Water Projects Update
- March 12, 2014- Approved- Distribution and Engineering Update
- April 16, 2014 – Approved- Water Operations Update

Minutes approved by vote of the Board.

Signed: _____

Ann C. Roosevelt, President

Date: _____