

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

**MEETING MINUTES**

November 13, 2013

This meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Those in attendance were:

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

**A. MINUTES OF OCTOBER 11, 2013 MEETING**

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Tanner seconded the motion to approve the October 9, 2013 minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

It was then suggested that we move the “Hobbs Brook Reservoir Presentation” to the top of the agenda and this was accepted by all.

*Hobbs Brook Upper Basin Presentation:* Mr. Dave Kaplan gave a presentation on the “Hobbs Brook Reservoir Upper Basin Water Quality Improvements Project”. A copy of the presentation was also handed out and is attached.

In summary the Hobbs Brook Reservoir presentation focused on water quality. The main discussion topics were: existing water quality characteristics, recent in-lake assessment, reservoir water quality goals, in-lake management and source control options. The following questions were asked by Mr. Johnson, Mr. Tanner and Ms. Roosevelt:

- Are the existing water quality levels standard or unusual? Mr. Kaplan commented that the levels are standard for this type of reservoir/watershed and are based on the last five years of data. He also mentioned that the uppermost reservoir basin (North of the Trapelo Road gatehouse) is impaired.
- Is there road salt storage nearby? Mr. Kaplan stated that there is a Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MDOT) salt storage depot, at the route 2A interchange, that is covered and contained.
- Is the seasonal “Draw Down” option feasible to improve the water quality in the upper basin? Mr. Kaplan said a risk assessment would need to be done to determine if the option could be considered. The full Reservoir system capacity is limited to ~9 months and this could create supply quantity problems.

Mr. Weinberg commented that phosphorous typically comes from fertilizers and there may soon be legislation that restricts phosphorous content in fertilizers. Mr. Corda commented that many fertilizers now have “0” phosphorous.

**B. MANAGING DIRECTOR’S REPORT**

*Fresh Pond Reservation Rules and Regulations:* At the October Board meeting, it was discussed that reservation “rules and Regulations” should more closely mimic the 2009 revised City Ordinance 6.04 Animal Control Regulations. In particular, relating to the use of some mowed grassy areas as off leash dog areas. After some discussion the following modified “Animal Control” section of the Fresh Pond Reservation Rules and Regulations is the final recommendation to be taken as a vote of the Water Board:

## **Animal Control**

*Dogs will be allowed off-leash in the designated/posted areas as per City Ordinance “6.04 Animal Control Regulations” and more specifically section “6.04.040 – Dogs – Leash or restraint – Areas exempted where”. Dogs that do not respond to oral commands must be leashed.*

*In all other areas of the Reservation, dogs must be leashed at all times.*

## **C. OPERATIONS**

### **Transmission and Distribution:**

*Huron A and B Projects:* Ms. Roosevelt asked how long the Huron A and B projects (MWRA sponsored sewer separation) will take to complete. Mr. Gallagher said it would be quite a while, at least three years. The third phase of the project, Concord Avenue, is going out to bid in the spring of 2014. Currently, the City is on a combination of both Cambridge and MWRA water while work is being done in and around the 42” force main to the Cambridge Common. We anticipate that this water supply configuration will continue until April of 2014. The MWRA water is being provided as part of the sewer separation work.

Relating to the Huron Avenue work the “back-up” connection being installed within the plant driveway is on-going. We are currently waiting for additional “hardware” to arrive to complete the work which is anticipated to be in late December. Once completed, this connection will allow us to provide about 8 million gallons per day (MGD) to Cambridge versus the 2 MGD that we are currently pumping under the shared supply configuration with the MWRA.

### **Watershed:**

*Cycle to the Source Cambridge Watershed Bike Tour:* The bike trip was a grand success with much positive feedback.

*Stoney Brook Reservoir:* Continuing the surveying effort to address encroachment onto our property. Unfortunately, encroachments are somewhat common and the “recovery” process is quite complex.

*Rail Road Right of Way:* Ms Roosevelt inquired about the restoration plan on the RR Right of Way within the Reservation. The property is now owned by the City of Cambridge and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is working to get state funding to design and build the bike path. It is unknown how long this will take, although Cambridge will have a say in the design process once initiated.

*Water Supply Summary Report:* October was dry, averaging 3” short of regional normals.

### **Business:**

Mr. Tanner asked why October billings were higher than September billings. The reason, said Mr. Centanni, is that in October cycle 70 sewer abatement accounts were billed. Sewer abatements were previously done through the DPW department. Now abatements are done when the abatement accounts are billed and are automatically included. Since cycle 70 is fairly new, and until we have a few more years of history for comparison, it will be difficult to compare year to year usage. Water billing verification is done and sent to finance with every billing.

### **Water Operations:**

*Water Registrations:* When the water management act was set up in the mid 1980’s, traditional water rights were converted to water “registrations”. Since that time, if more water was needed a permit had to be requested through the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MDEP).

The Cambridge Water Department has a water registration. More recently the MDEP has been interested in conditioning water registrations which we are not in favor of. The Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI) being sponsored by MDEP is a possible way of conditioning the water registrations by requiring minimum stream flows. If SWMI were required for the Cambridge Water Department we would be forced to purchase water from the MWRA because we would only be able to supply about 30% of our current registration. This would result in a significant financial burden for the Citizens of Cambridge.

As a result we have worked with the Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA) to testify in the cities defense relating to legislation that would adversely affect Cambridge.

Ms. Roosevelt suggested that we work to “educate” the city and state legislative representatives about the detrimental effects of SWMI or other related legislation. Mr. Corda will make this recommendation to the City Manager’s office.

#### **Engineering Division:**

Mr. Johnson asked what hybrid maps are. Mr. Gallagher responded that these GIS drawings are a combination of other utilities along with the water infrastructure.

#### **D. ACTION ITEMS**

A vote was being considered relating to the City Animal Control Ordinance change in 2009 and how it relates to Fresh Pond Reservation Rules and Regulations as defined by the Water Board. Some discussion about signage, allowed leash length and how the general public can be informed of the Fresh Pond Reservation Rules and Regulations and the City Ordinance was had. This information can be found on the webpage and a link to the City Ordinance will be added.

A motion was made by Mr. Weinberg to replace the existing Fresh Pond Reservation Animal Control Rule and Regulation to the following:

**Animal Control - Dogs will be allowed off-leash in the designated/posted areas as per City Ordinance “6.04 Animal Control Regulations” and more specifically section “6.04.040 – Dogs – Leash or restraint – Areas exempted where”. Dogs that do not respond to oral commands must be leashed.**

*In all other areas of the Reservation, dogs must be leashed at all times.*

The motion was seconded by Mr. Johnson. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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

- Memorandum, to David Kaplan from Dave Cannon, Assistant Town Engineer, Town of Lexington, Subject- Equipment Fire at Lincoln Street, dated October 30, 2013
- Memorandum, to Timothy MacDonald from Carolyn Fiore, Director, Toxic Reduction and Control, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, Subject Walter J Sullivan Water Purification Facility Compliance Status for the Period of July 1 2012 to June 30, 2013, Dated October 29, 2013
- Cycle to the Source Cambridge Watershed Bike Tour, event summary

Key Topics: Reservation Rules and Regulations  
Hobbs Brook Upper Basin (Con't)  
Water Quality Project Update

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

None

Mr. Tanner moved and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:33 pm. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**G. NEXT MEETING DATES /TOPICS**

- 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: \_\_\_\_\_