

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

**MEETING MINUTES**

October 9, 2013

This meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Those in attendance were:

**Cambridge Water Board (CWB):** Richard Johnson, James Burruss and Jim Tanner

**Cambridge Water Department (CWD):** Sam Corda, Fred Centanni, Tim MacDonald, Mark Gallagher and Linda Vierboom

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

Mr. Burruss moved and Mr. Tanner seconded the motion to approve the September 11, 2013 minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

*Security:* Security is always a concern, particularly since 9/11/2001 and most recently, the Marathon Bombing(s).

*Background:* The “new” treatment facility was designed with a high level of security in mind. The facility is always locked. Employees use access cards (which can be shut off at any time) for entry, the “process area” is isolated from the general public and security cameras are in use throughout the inside and parking areas of the facility. A vulnerability assessment of the facility was completed in 2003 and as a result of the recommendations several areas were “hardened” at that time. Over the last couple of years the external security cameras and recording systems were upgraded and security cameras were added at the field house. The new cameras have a 360 degree capability and have better resolution. Also, gates have been added to the entrance and exit at the rear of the facility and around the vehicle storage area. We are working with a company that specializes in security and is on a state contract.

The Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) System for the treatment plant is not connected to the “outside” and therefore cannot be “hacked into” from the outside. The best security practices are not to have a connection to the internet. Raw and finished water quality methodologies are under review for enhanced detection.

*Future:* Over the next few years we will expand the “enhanced” security system to Payson Park and all of our gatehouses. Although the system works well now, we have met with the police department, a security company and the MWRA and we are reviewing our current procedures for improvements based on what we have learned from the Marathon Bombing(s). Potential funding sources for security enhancements will also be looked into.

Mr. Tanner asked if there was an emergency response plan in place. Mr. Corda reported that we have an emergency response plan which was updated a few years ago and it covers man-made and natural emergencies. The plan is currently under review and will be updated as needed. We are also looking at what type of “internal training exercise” we may perform over the next several months.

Mr. Burruss inquired whether sensors could be used to test water remotely. Mr. MacDonald stated that we currently monitor several parameters in both the raw and finished water and is not sure if it makes sense to perform “other” tests. The MWRA is using certain test methods that we are looking into.

*Reservation Rules and Regulations:* As the shared use recommendations are being implemented we would like to address a contradiction of no dogs on mowed grassy areas, and change text saying dogs are allowed off leash in areas designated, so it’s consistent. We will suggest specific language changes to review at the next Water Board meeting.

Mr. Burruss mentioned the railroad tracks as a possible bike path. The City has purchased the railroad right-of-way within the Fresh Pond Reservation (last May 2013) and DCR has purchased the right of way from Huron Avenue to the Watertown line. The DCR has an easement (on the Fresh Pond Reservation railroad right-of-way) to do a rail-to-trails conversion on the tracks. The easement allows the DCR to fund and build the bike path on the former tracks. From the plant drive way to Concord Avenue the new bike path will remain and we plan on restoring the track area as part of the drainage improvements project where the design is in progress.

Shared use information is on the website under the Fresh Pond Reservation page.

## **C. OPERATIONS**

### **Transmission and Distribution:**

Mr. Burruss asked when the Western Avenue project would be finished. Mr. Gallagher replied it would be another year or so until completion and that the water phase is about finished. The end near Memorial Drive is almost ready for paving.

### **Engineering:**

Mr. Johnson inquired about the Engineering report entry about recently discovered transmission line GIS edits. To clarify, the transmission line was not recently discovered. It was merely being updated into the GIS maps. Typically, the coops will update the GIS maps when we find additional or improved accuracy information about various water mains within the City. Mr. Tanner inquired whether any difficulties were encountered during the MWRA water switchover. Mr. Corda said there were a few discolored water calls over the first 24 hours and nothing thereafter. From a water quality point of view, there were no complaints, although the MWRA water is softer.

The hydraulic model was excellent and was very accurate in predicting the pressure settings needed to operate with both MWRA and Cambridge water concurrently. During this period the plant is operating about 5 hours each day. During the time the plant is shut down operators are doing maintenance on the treatment facility.

### **Watershed:**

*Polaroid:* Work continues despite Market Basket hold up.

*Kingsley Park Project:* Currently, phase 1 is being designed. Design and bid package to be completed shortly. Project is to be bid in December/January time frame with construction to start in the spring of 2014.

*Fire Department Access:* The work took about one week and is completed. You can hardly see it was done.

**Business:**

None

**Water Operations:**

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

**Engineering Division:**

*Leak Detection:* It was asked by Mr. Johnson if the ability exists for the CWD to see water consumed versus water produced in a 24 hour timeframe. Mr. Macdonald responded that flow meter calibration shows water going out. The AMR system tracks water used and meter reads are transmitted nightly and therefore we cannot in real time track water pumped and consumed. Leak detection will now be done annually instead of biannually. The intent is to reduce “unaccounted for water”. New pipe installations are prioritized in “high leak” areas and will reduce leaks overall.

**D. ACTION ITEMS**

None

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

- Article from Mass.gov, ‘Directors Corner – Hot Towns, Summer in the Cities: Shedding Load to Save Money’, dated September 9, 2013
- Article from Boston.com, ‘Construction at Waltham’s Polaroid site resuming, expect for Market Basket’, dated September 30, 2013

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

None

Mr. Tanner moved and Mr. Burruss seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:13 pm. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**G. NEXT MEETING DATES /TOPICS**

- November 13, 2013 – Approved – Reservoir Invasives/Watershed projects
- 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: \_\_\_\_\_