

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

May 8, 2013

This meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m. at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Those in attendance were:

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

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

**A. MINUTES OF APRIL 10, 2013 MEETING**

Mr. Johnson moved and Mr. Tanner seconded the motion to approve the April 10, 2013 minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion

**B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

After a brief discussion on the definition and the cleaning process of tuberculated pipes, Mr. Corda gave a short presentation on *Preparing for Climate Change in Cambridge*. The presentation is attached. Board members were requested to sign in for this presentation. New Cambridge flood maps were revised a few years ago. The Union of Concerned Scientists have projected that there will be a sea level rise in Boston. Due to the global sea level increase over the past 100 years, global high temperatures, global flooding and extreme weather predictions a "Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment" is being done by the City of Cambridge. The Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee held a Climate Emergency Congress. Residents, businesses and institutions asked that we: continue to track and work to reduce our "carbon footprint" and plan ahead to incorporate climate change risk into long-term planning efforts. The vulnerability risk assessment will identify priority areas; describe aspects of the likely impacts of climate change and provide a technical foundation for the preparedness plan beginning in 2014. To sign up for notices about climate project activities, go to [www.cambridgema.gov/climateprep](http://www.cambridgema.gov/climateprep) or contact John Bolduc at 617-349-4628 or email at [Jbolduc@cambridgema.gov](mailto:Jbolduc@cambridgema.gov).

*Municipal Energy Reduction (to reduce green house gas emissions)* – The **Martin Luther King School** construction project is trying to achieve a "net zero" energy use as a goal. Photovoltaic solar panels will be installed there to assist in this goal. **The Water Department** has taken a major role in energy reduction and has met, if not exceeded, the City recommendation of reducing energy consumption by 20%. Solar panels are scheduled to be installed on the plant and storage building roofs later this calendar year. (Pending structural analysis.)

*Green Communities* – Mr. MacDonald gave a short "Green Communities" presentation. The presentation is attached and dated May 1, 2013. Mr. MacDonald commented that we are dependent upon snow and rain for water as we have an eight month supply of water in our reservoir system (if it does not rain). MWRA is, however, our backup, although more costly than producing our own water. The MWRA rate is ~\$3,000 per million gallons of water and our cost to produce water is less than half that figure. Ms. Roosevelt asked if using MWRA is good planning. That approach is only a portion of our planning strategy, additionally we are in the middle of the first phase of our "strategic planning" process that includes a water audit of our system and demand projections. The audit will be the most accurate to date, and help us to reduce our unaccounted for water to below 10% which is the DEP guideline. Mr. MacDonald briefly discussed the significant impacts that the DEP Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI) could have if applied to us. This would ultimately limit the water we could produce to significantly below our water registration. Of significant note is that the City water consumption has been decreasing for almost 30 years (currently at 12-13 mgd) due to conservation and the increasing block rate structure. In general this is also the trend for Massachusetts and many other states in the US.

**C. OPERATIONS**

**Transmission and Distribution:**

None

**Watershed:**

*Fresh Pond Reservation Railroad Right of Way Purchase* – Ms. Roosevelt inquired about the closing date. The closing is scheduled for May 16, 2013.

*Tour of the watershed properties and the former Polaroid site* - The trip is scheduled for May 20<sup>th</sup> and is open to the public as part of the Monday Night's at Fresh Pond & Beyond Program.

**Business:**

*The water fund balance is updated yearly.* It is next scheduled to be updated on 7/1/13. The balance is based on the FY13 financial closeout for the Water Department which is financially operated as an "Enterprise Fund".

*FY14 Water Rates* – For the third consecutive year and for four of the last five years, there will be no water rate increase.

**Water Operations:**

The board extends their congratulations to Mr. Bourdeau upon his retirement from the department. Mr. MacDonald will also relay their message to Mr. Bourdeau, personally.

**Engineering Division:**

None

**D. ACTION ITEMS**

None

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

None

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

None

Mr. Weinberg moved and Mr. Johnson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:32pm. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**G. NEXT MEETING DATES /TOPICS**

- Wednesday, June 19, 2013 – Approved/FY14 Budget Status
- July and August – No Meetings
- September 11, 2013 – TBA/TBD
- October 9, 2013 – TBA/TBD
- November 13, 2013 – TBA/TBD
- December 11, 2013 – TBA/TBD

Minutes approved by vote of the Board.

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

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