

**WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
TOWN HALL
Meeting Minutes ~ March 13, 2006**

Members in attendance: Dave Irwin, Chair; Tom Burns; Mike Blanchard; Malcolm Brown; Bob Hunter; Rick Mattila; Joan Meschino; Ed Petrilak.

Also in attendance: Arnie Wallenstein; Gary Smith, Wright-Pierce; Paul Weisman, Wright-Pierce; Jeff Musich, Wright-Pierce.

Meeting called to order by Chair at 7:07 p.m.

Public Input: None.

Approval of Minutes: None.

Chairman's Topics:

1. Wright Pierce Update. P. Weisman updated the WRC regarding its hydro-geologic findings, distribution system analysis, hydraulic gradeline, recommended plant capacity, plant design initial sensitivity analysis and next steps. See Technical Memo No. 2.

G. Smith presented the test well drilling process and results. The best site appears to be at location B where he found gravel with good porosity and other conditions conducive to using the slant well technology. Mr. Smith noted a fresh water lens under the main land mass which only extends out to the high tide mark. The slant wells will require approximately a 15° angle to extend 350' offshore as required. DEP requires ownership or control of the 200' area around intake screen and the 50' area around the well head. Next step is to confirm geology, get sense of volumes, determine costs and requirements.

Per J. Musich, the water samples results will be available soon. Mr. Musich reminded the WRC that the recovery rate is a primary cost driver. Mr. Musich identified an unforeseen issue with current water tank which is too small and 60' too low to be effective. This will be a significant cost center for planning purposes in that it alone could cost \$2 million. The water tank is important because it relates directly to how the plan runs. In review of potential facility site locations, Mr. Musich reported that the HMLP location looks best at this point because of close proximity to likely well head locations thus requiring the least pipe.

Regarding the likely size of a facility, Mr. Musich advised that W-P is working up date based on three options: 2.5 mgd (Hull's need), 4.0 mgd (includes an income stream to sell excess capacity) and 5.0 (maximum capacity for current system to withstand water pressure). Brine disposal is a question for DEP. Economically it is preferred to discharge near intake if possible. W-P is in contact with DEP to schedule a meeting. Proposed dates will be forthcoming shortly.

P. Weisman reported that he anticipates a few changes regarding the sensitivity analysis, notably higher energy costs. The market analysis will begin shortly. W-P will be contacting neighboring communities to survey development plans, water needs, water sources, water generation costs, etc. Mr. Weisman will forward a draft scope and script for input by individual committee members next week.

2. Annual Report. R. Mattila circulated a draft which was approved with minor changes.
3. Sale of Aquarion Water Company. The WRC noted the recent news that Aquarion is being sold.
4. Wright-Pierce Contract Extension. P. Weisman advised the WRC that W-P would like to extend its contract completion date to August 31, 2006, at not additional cost to the Town. Delays in geotechnical surveys due to permitting and weather pushed the analysis scheduled back. Mr. Weisman noted that if the WRC decides to try to dovetail our study with the UMass study it will push the completion date back to October, 2006.

MOTION by R. Mattila, **SECOND** by M. Brown, to extend the timeline on the Wright-Pierce contract to August 31, 2006, with the understanding that such extension does not increase the budget. **APPROVED**, unanimously.

5. Meeting Minutes. The WRC agreed to hire someone to take minutes now that the discussions are becoming more technical and everyone needs to participate in the discussion.

New Business: None.

Old Business: P. Weisman advised the WRC that they submitted the abstract to the EOE Water Resource Conference on April 18th.

Items for Discussion: None.

MOTION by M. Brown, **SECOND** by T. Burns, to adjourn meeting. **APPROVED**, unanimously.

9:07 p.m. meeting adjourned.

Approved: _____