

WATER RESOURCES COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes ~ September 13, 2004
Town Hall

In attendance: Dave Irwin, Chair; Ed Petrilak; Mike Blanchard; Rick Mattila; Bob Hunter; Joan Meschino

7:17 p.m. meeting called to order by Chair.

Chair asked each member in attendance to introduce themselves with a brief statement of their background and interest in the project.

The Committee discussed its charge which is to either (a) determine feasibility and related recommendations at which time the committee would dissolve itself or (b) determine the project is not feasible and recommend no further action. The goal is to get the project as tight as the committee can, including location, design suggestions, proposed financial model. The committee expects to provide the Town with a roadmap of substantive information and suggestions.

First committee meeting. No minutes to approve.

The Committee **tabled** discussion regarding reorganization until next meeting to allow discussion by all members.

The Committee discussed possible next steps and appropriate project drivers, including, but not limited to, recap of production cost estimates; bench model markers like the facility in Tampa, FL and in NC; intake and discharge issues; DEP brackish water well set back requirements which will be defining point in design; technical support to determine alternatives; fresh water aquifers off beach; site issues; blue print of current water infrastructure.

The Committee agreed that it is important to keep the public informed of regular progress and provide opportunity for public input. Chair proposed quarterly public forums to vet ideas; gain support and hear concerns. The Committee discussed the possibility of having graphic charts and basic displays to assist with public discussion and public relations.

Chair advised the Committee that several engineering firms want to present credentials. The Committee expressed preference to do the main work itself and to issue mini RFPs with discrete scopes of work on individual issues as required.

The Chair advised the Committee of several similar projects. Taunton has been looking at this for the Taunton River. The Town of Seekonk has appropriated money to further study desalinization.

Hunter suggested the Committee create a decision making flow chart as its first step.

The Committee posed the legal questions regarding options and requirements to reinvest profit or surplus funds into the desalinization plant once operational. Is the answer different if the Town is only producing water versus producing and distributing water?

Members volunteered to research various issues.

Next meeting: October 4, 2004 at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall

9:12 p.m. meeting adjourned on motion by Petrilak, second by Hunter.

Approved: 01-10-05