

Rebecca Coletta, President Mary Waldron, Executive Director

(508) 583-1833

70 School Street, Brockton, MA 02301

www.oldcolonyplanning.org

#### Regional Water Plan Steering Committee Meeting MINUTES OF THE MEETING Monday, May 20, 2024, 9:00am

Location:

Old Colony Planning Council, 70 School St, Brockton, MA 02301

Attendees:

Steering Committee				
Organization	Name			
Town of Abington	Liz Shea			
Town of Bridgewater	Shane O'Brien			
Town of Bridgewater	Greg Tansey			
City of Brockton	Pat Hill			
CPCWDC	Kimberly Groff (via Zoom)			
East Bridgewater	John Haines			
Easton Department of Public Works	Greg Swan			
EPA	Margherita Pryor (via Zoom)			
Town of Kingston	Val Massard			
MA Department of Conservation and Recreation	Jason Duff (via Zoom)			
МАРС	Martin Pillsbury (via Zoom)			
MassDEP	Duane LeVangie			
MassDEP	Jon Hobill (via Zoom)			
Pembroke Water Department	Dan Sullivan			
OCPC	Joanne Zygmunt			
Town of Plymouth	Peter Gordon			
Town of Plympton	Brian Vasa			
Town of Stoughton	Phil McNulty			
Watershed Associations	Pine duBois			
Watershed Associations	Jimmy Powell (via Zoom)			
Town of West Bridgewater	Wayne Parks			

Observers			
Organization	Name		
SRPEDD	Danica Belknap (via Zoom)		
OCPC	Becky Coletta (via Zoom)		
OCPC	Bill Napolitano (via Zoom)		
Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association	Brian Wick		

Consultants			
Organization	Name		
CDM Smith	Grace Houghton (via Zoom)		
CDM Smith	Kirk Westphal		
CDM Smith	Amara Regehr		
CDM Smith	Grace Inman		
CDM Smith	Kara Rozycki		
Regina Villa Associates	Kyle Olsen (via Zoom)		
Alliance for Water Efficiency	Andrew Morris		

#### Minutes:

- 1. Call to Order, introductions
  - a. New attendees: Brian Wick (Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association), Andrew Morris (Consultant, Alliance for Water Efficiency), Grace Houghton (Consultant, CDM Smith), Brian Shepherd (Consultant, CDM Smith)
- 2. Public Comment none
- 3. Technical Work
  - a. Public Outreach ongoing. Interviews being conducted by RVA. Reminders coming from Kyle Olsen of RVA to town officials and steering committee members.
  - b. Annotated Bibliography Draft complete, team completing updates
  - c. Water availability models for Taunton and South Coastal Watersheds ongoing
  - d. Demand analysis ongoing
  - e. Water efficiency ongoing
  - f. Future climate conditions upcoming
  - g. Alternatives upcoming
- 4. Definitions
  - a. Discussion of EJ vs. EJ population
- 5. Metrics Finalization

- a. Request to remove "local needs" from "supply volume beyond local needs"
- b. Request to define "gap" as a unit
- c. Request to remove "or" from "quantity and quality of natural waters"
- d. Request to define quantity using DEP sub-basin quantity
- e. net export of water from its original aquifer
- f. Incorporate undocumented immigrant populations and major prisons into equity metrics.
- g. MetroWest Climate Equity Project includes equity information (Shane to distribute)
- h. Newspaper article over the weekend includes MBTA proposed projects
- i. Metrics and updates to be distributed to group via email
- j. Fisheries information available
- 6. Alliance for Water Efficiency
  - a. Presentation provided by Andrew Morris from Alliance for Water Efficiency
  - b. Discussion:
    - i. DEP requires AWWA M36 model if UAW 10% is not met. Grants are available in August.
    - ii. Discussion of water bans and charging more for irrigation, which would require an irrigation meter.
    - iii. Discussion of multi-family units.
    - iv. Conservation rate structure grant from DEP also available in August.
    - v. Breakout groups on efficiency
    - vi. Feasibility of public/leadership/political acceptance to be considered as a metric
- 7. Introduction to Demand Projections
  - a. Presentation provided by Brian Shepard from CDM Smith introducing how demand is calculated.
  - b. To be continued at next workshop, along with alternatives introductions.
- 8. Next Workshop
  - a. 6/25/2024

#### **Action Items:**

Assigned to	Action Item
Steering Committee members	Review annotated bibliographies and respond to interview requests
CDM Smith	Update metrics and distribute to steering committee

#### Attachments:

1. Meeting Presentation Slides

Prepared by CDM Smith.

















	Q. Search_	
9	OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL Expertise & Services +	Get Involved • Resources • Calendar About
Pla	The feet Partner II water output	Uncoming Meetings and Events
	the Dark Regional where Pain for the Out County Region is unner development. To stay up to many, subscribe to the OCPC Newsletter and review minutes from Steering Committee meetings. All meetings are open to the public. Our region faces critical water challenges, such as decreasing well depths, rising demand due to development, water quality issues, and ecological damage. OCPC is leading a joint effort to plan for future water supply while tackling	100 am - 12:00 pm EDT     Regional Water Plan Eterring Committee Meeting     Old Colory Planning Council     July 800 am - 12:00 pm EDT
	the OCPC Newsletter and review minutes from Steering Committee meetings. All meetings are open to the public. Our region faces critical water challenges, such as decreasing well depths, rising demand due to development, water quality issues, and ecological damage. OCPC is leading a joint effort to plan for future water supply while tacking immediate vulnerabilities. The aim is to help ensure affordable, safe, abundant, and ecologically sustainable water now and into the future.	100 am - 12:00 pm EDT     Regional Water Plan Stearing Committee Meeting     Old Colony Planning Council      With 800 am - 12:00 pm EDT     Segional Water Plan Stearing Committee Meeting     Old Coony Planning Council      Were Calendari
	The first regional where that not the Out County Region is under development. To stay up to runce, subscribe to the OCPC Newsletter and review minutes from Steering Committee meetings. All meetings are open to the public. Our region faces critical water challenges, such as decreasing well depths, riaing demand due to development, water quality issues, and ecological damage. OCPC is leading a joint effort to plan for future water supply while tackling immediate vulnerabilities. The aim is to help ensure affordable, safe, abundant, and ecologically sustainable water now and into the future. Seventeen citles and towns, along with state and federal regulators, elected officials, environmental groups, and businesses, are working together to improve water management and infrastructure. This collaborative approach is ensemble because local water management alone is no longer adequate.	Were Calendar  Staff Contact







Technical Work		
Technical Analysis: CDM Smith Existing Studies and Plans Regional Water Availability Climate Vulnerability Mater Demand and Gap Analysis Water Supply and Quality Risks: Drought, PFAS, Salinity, Algae Blooms, Others Opportunities and Constraints		
Discuss Today - Introduction to the demand analysis conducted by CDM Smith - Water efficiency by Alliance for Water Efficiency		
	OCPC Regional Water Plan	9



Technical Work	
Technical Analysis: CDM Smith         Existing Studies and Plans       Water         Regional Water Availability       Demand and Gap Analysis       Water Supply and Quality Risks: Drought, PFAS, Salinity, Algae Blooms, Others       Opportunities and Constraints	
Ongoing: CDM Smith to support the development of alternatives with creation of figures, high level costs, and other pieces to support future implementation	
OCPC Regional Water Plan 1'	1







OCPC Regional Water Pla

### Terms used in our Objectives

- Meet all current and future peak water demands with climate resilient supply side and demand side strategies.
- Meet safe drinking water quality regulations, current and future.
- Improve ecosystem health.
- Prioritize alternatives with high cost-benefit value.
- Promote environmental justice and equity between communities by incorporating affordability, accessibility, and distribution of infrastructure impacts.
- Consider innovative and alternative solutions such as stormwater capture, wastewater reuse and water use efficiency.
- Encourage sustainable potential for housing, economic development and prosperity.

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Highlighted Term	Definition	Source
Sustainability	In practice, sustainability refers to efforts to align economic development with environmental protection and human well-being. Sustainability is commonly characterized in terms of the interdependence among three broad dimensions—environment, economy, and society—while considering both present and future generations.	United States EPA
Equity	Equity is defined as being fair and impartial, and providing what each group needs so they can experience fair and equitable treatment.	Massachusetts Office of Diversity and Equal Opportunity
Environmental Justice	Based on the principle that all people have a right to be protected from environmental hazards and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment regardless of race, color, national origin, income, or English language proficiency. Environmental justice is the equal protection and meaningful involvement of all people and communities with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of energy, climate change, and environmental laws, regulations, and policies and the equitable distribution of energy and environmental benefits and burdens.	Massachusetts Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Program

igningnieu ier <u>ni</u>	Definition	Source
limate Resilience	The ability of a community to address the needs of its built, social, and natural environment in order to anticipate, cope with, and rebound stronger from events and trends related to climate change hazards, including temperature changes, extreme weather, sea level rise, coastal and inland flooding, changes in precipitation, and other impacts.	Massachusetts MVP Program









Objective	Metric	Units (or qualitative)	
Meet all current and future peak water	Amount of regional supply gap filled (seasonal peak)	% of gap	
demands with climate resilient supply side and demand side strategies	Supply volume beyond local needs	% of gap	
	Connectivity of natural waters	Qualitative	•
Improve ecosystem health	Quantity and/or quality of natural waters	Qualitative	•
High Benefit: Cost value	Volume of supply gap reduced per unit cost	MG/\$M	
Consider innovative and alternative solutions such as stormwater capture,	Water supply- volume of supply that is considered innovative	MG	
wastewater reuse and water use efficiency	Water efficiency- volume of demand decreased	MG	More II on
Promote environmental justice and	Percent of MA designated EJ census tracts served by alternative	% of census tracts	slide
equity between communities	Percent of MA designated EJ census tracts not impacted by construction	% of census tracts	
Meet current and future drinking water	Total supply vulnerable to salinity/PEAS_etc	% of total new	
quality standards		supply	
Encourage sustainable water use to meet the needs for housing and	Flexibility in phasing and supply capacity	Qualitative	→
economic prosperity			



### Objective: Promote environmental justice and equity between communities

- Before we get into qualitative scales, lets look briefly at the state's data source that will be used for evaluating this metric



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https://mass-

-		Units (or qualitative)	Qualitative Scales				
Objective	Metric		1	2	3	4	5
Improve ecosystem health	Connectivity of natural waters	Qualitative	Major detrimental impact to connectivity	Minor detrimental impact to connectivity	Neutral impact to connectivity	Minor positive impact to connectivity	Major positive impact to connectivity
	Quantity and/or quality of natural waters	Qualitative	Major detrimental impact to quantity and/or quality	Minor detrimental impact to quantity and/or quality	Neutral impact to quantity and/or quality	Minor positive impact to quantity and/or quality	Major positive impact to quantity and/or quality

# Objective: Encourage sustainable water use to meet the needs for housing and economic prosperity

		Units	Qualitative Scales			
Objective	Metric	(or qualitative)	1	2	3	
Encourage sustainable water use to meet the needs for housing and economic prosperity	Flexibility in phasing and supply capacity	Qualitative	Low flexibility in time or volume	High flexibility in time or volume	Fully able to meet anticipated future needs	













The Alliance for Water Efficiency is a stakeholderbased nonprofit organization dedicated to the efficient and sustainable use of water.

**Collaboration:** Network of colleagues across water providers, governments, business and industry, researchers, nonprofits and other partners.

Knowledge: Creating and sharing resources, tools, trainings, expertise and research.

Learn more: www.a4we.org

Change: Advocacy for funding, policies, and partnerships that advance water efficiency.

# Alliance for Water Efficiency

#### About The Process

Process for developing preliminary recommendations:

- 1. Reviewed the annotated bibliography CDM prepared
- 2. Reviewed water data from OCPC communities
- 3. Reviewed state laws, plans, and standards
- 4. Reviewed water rates and structures from OCPC communities
- 5. Reviewed several OCPC regional plans
- 6. Compared regional efforts to other regions in the Eastern U.S. and beyond
- 7. Compared regional efforts to American Water Works Association G480-20 Standard for Water Conservation and Efficiency Program Operation and Management

<u>My Background</u>: 15 years experience working for utilities on law, policy, and planning. Major focus areas include developing supplies and implementing demand-side alternatives. Experience in the private, public, and nonprofit sectors. Certified utility water loss validator and trainer in Georgia, one of the two leading states for water loss. Education: JD from University of Notre Dame; BA from the University of Georgia.

#### Let's Start with an Icebreaker

When I say water efficiency, what words come to mind?

















# Preliminary Recommendation #1:

## Conduct, Validate, and act on AWWA Water loss audits

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Unaccounted for water Methodology in Massachusetts

Water Treated *minus* Metered Water Use *minus* <u>Confidential Estimated Municipal Use</u> = Unaccounted For Water

Unaccounted for water includes, among other things, physical leak in the water utility's distribution system; **reducing leaks is an alternative to increasing supplies** 







#### Water Loss - Preliminary Recommendations

Each year water systems could:

- <u>Conduct</u> water loss audit using AWWA M36 manual and free water loss audit software
- <u>Validate</u> water loss audits using a third-party trained to conduct Level 1 validations pursuant to Water Research Foundation project #5057
- Act on the results by improving data grades and reducing real water losses

**Potential demand reductions**: Based on study of data from CA, GA, TN and TX, the median utility studied could cost effectively **reduce real water losses by more than** 1/3<sup>rd</sup>; however, reductions vary based on utility-specific factors



#### Water Loss - Regional recommendation

OCPC or another regional entity could coordinate and assist with grant applications for multiple interested communities in the region and then host regional training.



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https://www.mass.gov/doc/m36-water-audit-opportunity-notice-fy2024/download







### Metering and billing - Status quo in OCPC Region

<u>Current meter types</u> – Predominantly manual reading and AMR (automated meter reading)

<u>Infrequent Billing</u> – Bimonthly, quarterly, semiannually + ~10 to 30+ days from time meter is read until bills are sent

<u>Impacts on Water Use</u> – customers may be unaware of customer-side leaks for a very long time; limits customer feedback on water usage; limits utility's ability to understand usage during peak months

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#### Metering and billing – Preliminary recommendations

<u>Adopt AMI</u> – Adopt advanced metering infrastructure by creating a plan to install AMI meters and related infrastructure for most customer meters (can be phased)

Adopt Monthly Billing – Begin issuing monthly bills (possible even before/without AMI)

**Potential demand reductions**: AMI metering and monthly billing are best practices; they are necessary building blocks for improved water loss auditing, customer-side leak detection, and improved inclining block rates



















# Preliminary Recommendation #4:

# Improve increasing block rate design

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	Water Rate Per Thous	and Gallons	
	Current Rates Effective Ja	nuary 1, 2024	
		2022	2024
	Origination	2023 Por Thousand	2024 Per Thousand
	Quarteriv		
	Quarteriy	Gallons	Gallons
1st Step	0 -20,000 gals	Gallons \$5.03	<b>Gallons</b> \$5.44
1st Step 2nd Step	0 -20,000 gals 20,001-50,000 gals	Gallons \$5.03 \$6.12	Gallons \$5.44 \$6.61





Good Example of increasing block rate structure						
Proposed Water Blocks	Approx. % of Bills in New Blocks	Water Usage Examples (CF)	Current Monthly Bill	Proposed Monthly Bill	Impact (\$)	
Basic Needs 0-600	55%	588	\$33.97	\$33.40	-\$0.57	
Larger Family 600-1,200	25%	1200	\$60.22	\$60.88	\$0.66	
Efficient Irrigation 1,200-2,600	15%	1600	\$79.58	\$85.04	\$5.46	
Enhanced Irrigation >2,600	5%	3208	\$160.74	\$191.28	\$30.55	

Source: https://www.olatheks.gov/Home/Components/News/News/3362/57

# Improve increasing block rate structures – Preliminary recommendations

Size blocks based on basic indoor use, efficient outdoor use, and excessive outdoor use

Ensure the costs of serving peak customers are allocated to peak customers, which better reflects cost of service, promotes conservation, and improves relative affordability for customers with only basic indoor use

**Potential demand reductions**: Demand reductions will vary. Poorly designed structures will not reduce demands and well-designed structures **can reduce demands by 10% or more and be revenue neutral**. Revenue and demand impacts of a given rate structure can be estimated as part of a rate study that accounts for price elasticity and strength of the conservation signal.













### Hypothetical Alternatives ("Projects/Policies") for OCPC

#### Supply Side

- MWRA for all communities
- MWRA for communities abutting Stoughton and Weymouth
- MWRA for communities abutting Weymouth
- More MWRA for Stoughton
- Desalination at max capacity to supply X communities
- Desalination at 80% capacity to retain buffer
- Centralized PFAS treatment facilities
- Decentralized PFAS treatment programs
- Interconnections: A, B, C, D, E, F, ....etc.
- Brackish groundwater
- Stormwater capture
- Reclaimed water for non-potable uses
- Additional operational staff

#### Demand Side

- Conduct, Validate, and Act on Annual AWWA Water Loss
   Audits
- Adopt AMI and Monthly Billing
- Implement Customer-Side Leak Program
- Improve Tiered Rate Designs



### **Discussion Questions**

- 1. What are your reactions to these preliminary recommendations?
- 2. Are there demand side management strategies your community already has in place?
- 3. Are there recommendations that you think your community is more likely to implement?
- 4. Are there any demand side management that you don't think seem feasible for your community?
- 5. Are there other demand side management strategies you would like to hear more about?
- 6. Do you have any additional questions about the recommendations for demand side management presented today?

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OCPC Regional Water Plar

























## Upcoming Schedule

WHEN	DETAILS
Tuesday, June 25 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Workshop 4
Wednesday July 31 <sup>st</sup> 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Workshop 5
Tuesday, August 27 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Workshop 6
Tuesday, September 24 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Workshop 7
Tuesday, October 29 <sup>th</sup> 9:00 am – 12:00 pm	Meeting 3
Monday, November 18 <sup>th</sup> 8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Meeting 4
Tuesday, December 10 <sup>th</sup> 8:00 am – 12:00 pm	Meeting 5











