



OLD COLONY
PLANNING COUNCIL

Rebecca Coletta, President

Mary Waldron, Executive Director

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www.oldcolonyplanning.org

**Regional Water Plan
Steering Committee Meeting
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Monday, January 29, 2024, 10:00am**

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

Attendees:

Steering Committee	
Organization	Name
Town of Avon	Jonathan Beder
Town of Bridgewater	Bob Rulli
Bridgewater Engineering	Peter Gordon
City of Brockton	Patrick Hill
CPCWDC	Art Egerton
CPCWDC	Kimberly Groff
East Bridgewater	John Haines
Easton Department of Public Works	Greg Swan
MA Department of Conservation and Recreation	Jason Duff
Pembroke Water Department	Dan Sullivan
Plymouth DPW Water Division	Peter Gordon
Town of Plympton	Brian Vasa
Senator Mike Brady's Office	Karla Kahale (via Zoom)
South Shore Chamber of Commerce	Peter Forman (via Zoom)
Stoughton Water & Sewer Department	Philip A. McNulty
West Bridgewater Water Department	Wayne Parks
Town of Whitman	Noreen O'Toole
U.S. EPA Region 1	Margherita Pryor
Watershed Associations	Pine duBois

Observers	
Organization	Name
MAPC	Martin Pillsbury (via Zoom)

OCPC	Bill Napolitano
OCPC	Don Sullivan
OCPC	Mary Waldron
OCPC	Joanne Zygmunt

Consultants	
Organization	Name
CDM Smith	Tarun Gill
CDM Smith	Amara Regehr
CDM Smith	Kara Rozycki
CDM Smith	Kirk Westphal
Regina Villa Associates	Keith Sonia
Regina Villa Associates	Kyle Olsen

Minutes:

1. Call to Order
2. Old Colony Planning Council Overview
 - a. Introduction to Regional Water Plan Project provided by OCPC
 - b. Funding partners provided: U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA), Central Plymouth County Water District Commission (CPCWDC), South Shore Chamber of Commerce, State of Massachusetts Economic Development Earmark, Narragansett Bay Estuaries Program, CDM Smith R&D
3. Introductions
 - a. CDM Smith team introduced, along with subconsultants: Alliance for Water Efficiency, Regina Villa Associates (RVA, present), and UMass Amherst
 - b. Stakeholder introductions
 - c. Review of CDM Smith and RVA Team qualifications. Joanne to distribute CDM Smith proposal to Steering Committee.
4. Orientation to the Planning Process
 - a. Overview of 12 meetings anticipated throughout the project duration
 - i. Meeting 1: Introductions/Process
 - Meeting 2: Perspectives and Opportunities
 - Workshop 1: Consensus Building Process
 - Workshop 2: Objectives
 - Workshop 3: Performance Metrics
 - Workshop 4: Water Supply Alternatives: Local, Regional, External
 - Workshop 5: Comparison of Alternatives

Workshop 6: Short-Term and Long-Term Supply Portfolios

Workshop 7: Adaptation and Implementation Planning

Meeting 3: Draft Plan

Meeting 4: Implementation Strategy and Priorities

Meeting 5: Final Plan

- ii. Goal is to have a tangible product to have a plan and be able to apply for future grants/next steps to implementation.

b. Review of project roadmap

- i. Example project provided from Regional Water Project in Florida
- ii. Technical work in project scope has some flexibility based on the needs outlined during the project. Technical experts in particular areas can attend meetings as necessary.
- iii. Metrics for assessments will be qualitative and quantitative.
- iv. Alternatives will not be discussed until Workshop 4.
- v. Solution will not be the same in each community.
- vi. Question regarding reuse as an alternative. Everything is on the table. MassDEP reviewing regulatory framework for indirect and direct potable reuse. Comment that non-potable reuse exists at Gillette, Wrentham Outlets, golf course irrigation, and other locations in MA.
- vii. Discussed importance of adaptive planning. Example project in Texas reviewed project every five years to reassess how plan is performing.
- viii. Discussion of new MBTA housing requirement. Demand is there, but communities are water stressed to meet current demands. Concerns that state interests are conflicting.
- ix. Public input on the project will include two public meetings and other outreach (website, email, etc.)
- x. Regulatory hurdles, permitting, and feasibility will be considered in alternative assessments.
- xi. Request to bring in additional folks to stakeholder meetings: Department of Marine Fisheries, MassDEP, State Legislators. Any other requests can be sent to Joanne.
- xii. Pace of project will be different for everyone. Team asks that everyone respect the process over the next 12 months.

5. Roles and Responsibilities

- a. CDM Smith and subconsultants are not advocating. Here for facilitation and to provide technical support.

- b. Steering Committee roles and responsibilities were provided in Terms of Reference handout.
- c. Public Comment roles and responsibilities – 10-15 minutes at each meeting. Steering Committee can decide how to address questions.
- d. Public Outreach: Overview of Plan by RVA. Will include public meetings, interviews, education, and more. Languages will be available.
- e. Overview of data needs for project. Amara will be distributing individual data requests to each stakeholder to upload to a shared site.
 - i. Add Capital Plans to request list
 - ii. Files can stay confidential if requested by community

6. Concept of Consensus or Agreement

- a. CDM Smith reviewed MVPs, and there is already some shared consensus on water issues: availability of water during droughts, economic development/water quantity, PFAS, algae blooms, saltwater intrusion. This Regional Water Plan process will continue to identify individual and regional interests.

7. Discussion and List of Issues to Address

- Balance between demand and finding the resource
- Water quality, PFAS, Iron/Manganese. Towns don't always have the ability to upgrade facilities
- Regional benefits
- Management choices effect on environment to understand devastation
- Maintaining water quantity and being a good water neighbor. Compatibility considerations
- Learn local issues to support regional priorities and solutions. State tries to not be a barrier.
- Being prepared for future, putting tools in toolbox now
- Sustainable water supply, regulatory issues, timing, concern with using funds appropriately
- Getting political buy-in
- Silver Lake, Integrated issues and vulnerabilities, quality and quantity
- Costs, regulatory approval, environmental protection
- Public outreach to educate citizens on well issues
- Working regionally to supply and protect water resources
- Regional support and development choices
- Affordability
- Support between regional agencies
- Climate/drought, regulations, infrastructure, keeping up with capital projects, staffing
- MBTA housing requirement
- Land Use Planning, Resource protection

8. Schedule for Future Meetings
 - a. Meeting invitations will be distributed via email.
 - b. Requested that each community have a representative at every meeting.
9. Public Comment
 - a. None

Action Items:

Assigned to	Action Item
Joanne	Distribute Proposal
Amara	E-mail data requests
Kara	E-mail meeting invitations
All	Provide requested data
Kara	Distribute slides and meeting summary
Joanne	Invite additional stakeholders to future meetings: DMF, MassDEP, and any others requested

Attachments:

1. Meeting Presentation Slides
2. Terms of Reference
3. Example Data Request
4. Meeting Sign-In Sheet

Prepared by CDM Smith.