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**Regional Water Plan
Steering Committee Meeting
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Wednesday, February 28, 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	Bob Rulli
Bridgewater Engineering	Greg Tansey
CPCWDC	Art Egerton
CPCWDC	Kimberly Groff (via Zoom)
East Bridgewater	John Haines
Easton Department of Public Works	Greg Swan
Town of Kingston	Val Massard
MA Department of Conservation and Recreation	Jason Duff
MassDEP	Duane LeVangie
MA State Senate	Senator Michael Brady (via Zoom)
MA State Senate	Al DeGirolamo (Via Zoom)
Pembroke Water Department	Dan Sullivan
OCPC	Joanne Zygmunt
Town of Plymouth	Kendra Martin
Town of Plympton	Brian Vasa
Stoughton Water & Sewer Department	Philip A. McNulty
Town of Whitman	Noreen O'Toole
U.S. EPA Region 1	Margherita Pryor
Watershed Associations	Pine duBois
Watershed Associations	Kimmy Powell

Observers	
Organization	Name
MAPC	Martin Pillsbury (via Zoom)
OCPC	Bill Napolitano
OCPC	Don Sullivan

Consultants	
Organization	Name
CDM Smith	Dan Rodrigo (via Zoom)
CDM Smith	Kirk Westphal
CDM Smith	Tarun Gill
CDM Smith	Amara Regehr
CDM Smith	Grace Inman (via Zoom)
Regina Villa Associates	Keith Sonia
Regina Villa Associates	Kyle Olsen

Minutes:

1. Call to Order
2. Introductions
3. OCPC Comments and Overview on Public Outreach
 - a. There is a public outreach meeting scheduled for March 19th, 5-8 pm at Bridgewater State University.
 - b. There will be interviews of each municipality separately, conducted by Regina Villa Associates and OCPC.
4. Public Comments - There were no comments.
5. Guiding Principles
 - a. Overview of 12 meetings anticipated throughout the project duration.
 - i. Meeting 1: Introductions/Process
Meeting 2: Principles, Common Issues (current)
Workshop 1: Objectives
Workshop 2: Performance Metrics
Workshop 3: Water Supply Alternatives: Local, Regional, External
Workshop 4: Evaluation
Workshop 5: Comparison of Alternatives
Workshop 6: Strategic Portfolios
Workshop 7: Adaptative Strategy
Meeting 3: Draft Plan

Meeting 4: Implementation Strategy and Priorities
Meeting 5: Final Plan

- b. Review of Engagement Guidelines:
 - i. All participants agreed to abide by the following, presented on slides:
 - 1. We agree that there will be one voice for each organization.
 - 2. We will actively listen to others and take turns while speaking.
 - 3. We will represent our organizations, as well as those with similar challenges, and the region
 - 4. Regulators will join us to provide feasibility insights, lessons from other regions, guardrails and their own education about the needs in the region
 - 5. We will seek to arrive at a point where we can advocate for the plan.
 - 6. As a group, we will make recommendations, not necessarily decisions.
 - 7. We will be patient with the pace of this project.
 - 8. For resolving conflict: We will recommend what we agree on, based on regional progress toward objectives. We will forge “pathways” for next steps on issues not resolvable within this timeframe. We will document opinions on all sides of unresolved issues in the plan.
 - ii. While recognizing that this process will involve debate and disagreements as part of consensus building, in the interest of making forward and constructive progress, collaborating as colleagues, and focusing on the driving issues, CDM Smith and OCPC have added the following engagement protocol for future meetings:
 - 1. Debate and disagreement are part of this process, but they must be constructive, forward looking, and respectful.
 - iii. Sustainability: Balance social, economic, and environmental issues.
 - iv. Understand the limits of our resources.
 - v. Consider equity between and among communities.
 - vi. Plan for uncertainty.
 - vii. Consider innovative and alternative solutions.
 - viii. Support and promote growth and economic development of the region.
 - ix. Identify fundable and permissible alternatives for OCPC to champion.
 - x. Align with existing regulations while influencing application and interpretation of the Water Management Act
- c. Comments
 - i. How can we regenerate resources we know we are going to use unsustainably?

1. Part of this process will include completing a supply and demand gap analysis to better understand the limits of the water resources.
 - ii. MTBA communities are worried about balancing economic growth with demand. There are also concerns about economic growth impacts on environmental health.
 - iii. How can we incorporate agricultural/industrial users in this process?
 1. Cranberry growers should be included in the steering committee.

6. Second Example of the Planning Process: Regional and Local Benefits
 - a. Dan describes the planning process of a Regional Water Supply plan in Austin, TX. Describes Austin's Guiding Principles and Public Outreach goals and the evaluation framework used to develop their plan.
 - b. Austin implemented incentive programs to help houses install decentralized infiltration and treatment systems.
 - c. The core stakeholder task force is still functioning and advising the plan. However, Austin Water oversees the actual implementation. Their plan is adaptive and active.
 - d. One of the goals of these meetings is to make a standing water resource committee to continue to provide oversight and guidance.

7. Themes from Meeting 1
 - a. Focusing on long-term horizons
 - b. Regulations (especially chapter 40b)
 - c. Affordability
 - d. MTBA Requirements
 - e. Water Quality
 - f. Funding realities
 - g. Recreation use
 - h. Growing Demand
 - i. Climate Change
 - j. Maintaining and upgrading infrastructure
 - k. Link to economic development
 - l. Sustainable water supply
 - m. Political support
 - n. Environmental impacts
 - o. Comments:
 - Include funding realities, recreational issues, and update environmental issues to be more specific, something like Ecosystem Health.
 - Many of these issues are all tied to meeting demand.

8. Common Themes Discussion
 - a. Mapping of Common Themes
 - i. Stakeholders Map
 - ii. Water Supply Map

- iii. Purchased Water Map
- iv. Themes Maps
 - 1. PFAS
 - 2. Water Quality
 - 3. Environmental Issues
 - 4. Climate
 - 5. Regulations
 - 6. MTBA Growth Requirements
 - 7. Coasts and Infrastructure
 - 8. Supply and Demands

- b. Comments
 - i. Agreement on the common themes as being regional issues relevant to the Regional Water Plan.
 - ii. There is universal concern about stricter PFAS regulations.

9. Update on Data Gathering

- a. CDM Smith is awaiting data from some towns, including Avon, Bridgewater, Duxbury, Hanover, Hanson, Kingston, and Whitman as well as from the Jones River Watershed Association.

10. Discussion of Uncertainties

- a. We want to create a list of elements of uncertainty that the plan could attempt to address.
 - i. Climate change
 - ii. Rate of economic growth
 - iii. Costs
 - iv. Unplanned regulatory changes
 - v. PFAS and emerging contaminants
 - vi. Political uncertainty- who manages the water
 - vii. Demographic changes
 - viii. Invasive Species
 - ix. Drought
 - x. Public health issues
 - xi. Decisions by neighboring non-OCPC communities
 - xii. Population
 - xiii. Changes in how homes are built

11. Closing Remarks

- a. At the next meeting, the steering committee will work to develop a list of meaningful objectives, with Dan Rodrigo attending in person to support. The next meeting will be on Monday, March 18th from 9 am to 12 pm. The public meeting will be Tuesday, March 29th from 5 pm to 8 pm at Bridgewater State University in the Maxwell Library Heritage Room.
- b. Survey handed out.

Action Items:

Assigned to	Action Item
Amara	Provide maps, survey to online participants and summary meeting notes following the call
Dan, Kirk, Amara	Finalize the steering committee's guiding principles
Amara	Create a handout with the vision statement, guiding principles, and definitions for guiding principles, objectives, and metrics for next meeting
Steering Committee members	Provide requested data, if not done
Joanne/ Kara	Ongoing: Invite additional stakeholders to future meetings: DMF and any others
RVA	Coordinate with steering committee members to set up interviews

Attachments:

1. Meeting Presentation Slides
2. Maps
3. Meeting Sign-In Sheet
4. Feedback Survey

Prepared by CDM Smith.