



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, March 18, 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 Avon	Jonathan Beder
Town of Bridgewater	Shane O'Brien
Bridgewater Engineering	Greg Tansey
City of Brockton	Pat Hill
CPCWDC	Kimberly Groff
East Bridgewater	John Haines
Easton Department of Public Works	Greg Swan
Town of Kingston	Val Massard
MA Department of Conservation and Recreation	Jason Duff
Department of Marine Fisheries	Brad Chase (via Zoom)
MassDEP	Duane LeVangie
MassDEP	Jon Hobill (via Zoom)
MA State Senate	Al DeGirolamo (via Zoom)
Pembroke Water Department	Dan Sullivan
OCPC	Joanne Zygmunt
Town of Plympton	Gavin Murphy (via Zoom)
Watershed Associations	Pine duBois
Watershed Associations	Jimmy Powell (via Zoom)

Observers	
Organization	Name
South Shore Chamber of Commerce	Peter Forman
OCPC	Bill Napolitano
OCPC	Don Sullivan

OCPC	Mary Waldron (via Zoom)
OCPC Council, President	Becky Coletta

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

Minutes:

1. Call to Order, introductions
 - a. Introduction provided on overview of the planning process. The main purpose of this workshop is to develop objectives
 - b. Discussed feedback from last meeting. Reviewed engagement protocols that the group agreed upon.
2. Public Comment - none
3. Agreement on Guiding Principles
 - a. Core values that stakeholders use to guide the development of the plan
 - b. Reviewed draft guiding principles:
 - i. Recommend sustainable water supply strategies that balance social, environmental, and economic needs for the region.
 - ii. Align with values of good stewardship and wise use of water.
 - iii. Reflect the limits of our natural resources and current/anticipated regulations.
 - iv. Incorporate uncertainties so implementation of recommendations can adapt over time.
 - v. Strive for equity and social justice within and among the communities.
 - vi. Produce a list of “early-win” projects that can be aligned with available outside funding.
 - c. Discussed potential revisions/additions:
 - i. Ecosystem

- ii. Local/regional communications
 - iii. State
 - iv. Uncertainty → adaptable plan
 - d. CDM Smith will revise based on feedback
- 4. Summary of Mapping Exercise
 - a. Reviewed regional themes from mapping exercise in last meeting: water quality, affordability, growing demand, climate change, maintaining or upgrading infrastructure, sustainable water supply, political support, funding realities, regulations, ecosystem health, and recreational issues.
- 5. Brainstorm Objectives
 - a. Quantity to meet need
 - b. Quality (especially to meet changing regulations, ie. PFAS)
 - c. Affordability
 - d. Balancing focus of supply and demand
 - e. Increasing demand (especially for MBTA housing requirements)
 - f. Differentiate between drinking water and ecosystem quality for other use goals
 - g. State's objectives vs. local objectives/local resource management
 - h. Infrastructure improvements / unaccounted for water
 - i. Stormwater and wastewater as a resource
 - j. Cost and timing of investment
 - k. Potential for partnership
 - l. Redundancy need
 - m. Public trust
 - n. Equity, social justice, and rates
 - o. Public communications on inter-community
 - p. Roadmap of where investments should be made
 - q. Water supply protection policies (ie. Salting)
 - r. Protection for degradation of existing resources. Consider MEPA and inter-basin transfer issues that would arise.

- s. Resiliency
 - i. Not having to worry to meet peak demand
 - ii. Drought conditions and extreme precipitation
 - iii. Difficulty of emergency declaration from administrative perspective
 - iv. Coordinate with Drought Management Task Force
 - t. Public support from Board of Selectmen / Decision makers (who often serve as Water Commissioners)
 - i. Will need a public education summary document
 - ii. Plan will need specific next steps
6. Refinement of Objectives
- a. Meet all current and future peak water demands and existing sources of water supply
 - b. Meet safe drinking water quality regulations, current and future
 - c. Improve ecosystem health
 - d. Prioritize alternatives with high cost-benefit value
 - e. Promote equity by incorporating affordability, accessibility, and distribution of infrastructure impacts
 - f. Consider innovative and alternative solutions such as stormwater, wastewater, and water use efficiency
 - g. Encourage sustainable economic prosperity
7. Data Needs
- a. Still missing data from some communities
8. Upcoming Technical Work
- a. Annotated Bibliography will be distributed to each community for review
9. Preview of the Second Workshop and the first Public Meeting
- a. Public outreach communications plan being developed with OCPC, CDM Smith, and RVA. Will include various components: Public meetings, public consultation focus groups, stakeholder interviews, website/e-mail blasts, etc.

Action Items:

Assigned to	Action Item
Dan, Kirk, Amara	Update Steering Committee's guiding principles and objectives

Amara	Update handout with the updated guiding principles, and definitions for guiding principles, objectives, and metrics for next meeting
Steering Committee members	Provide requested data, if not done
Steering Committee members	Review annotated bibliographies to be sent over next month for review

Attachments:

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

Prepared by CDM Smith.