OLD COLONY PLANNING COUNCIL

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
Tuesday, June 25, 2024, 9:00am

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

Attendees:

Steering Committee	
Organization	**Name**
Town of Abington	Liz Shea (via Zoom)
Town of Abington	Scott Lambiase (via Zoom)
Town of Avon	Jonathan Beder
Town of Bridgewater	Shane O'Brien
City of Brockton	Pat Hill
CPCWDC	Kimberly Groff (via Zoom)
CPCWDC	Art Egerton
East Bridgewater	John Haines
Easton Department of Public Works	Greg Swan
Town of Kingston	Val Massard
MA Department of Conservation and Recreation	Jason Duff
MAPC	Martin Pillsbury (via Zoom)
MassDEP	Duane LeVangie
MassDEP	Jon Hobill (via Zoom)
Pembroke Water Department	Dan Sullivan
OCPC	Joanne Zygmunt
Town of Plympton	Gavin Murphy (via Zoom)
Town of Stoughton	Phil McNulty
Watershed Associations	Pine duBois
Watershed Associations	Jimmy Powell (via Zoom)
Town of West Bridgewater	Wayne Parks

Observers	
Organization	**Name**
OCPC	Becky Coletta (via Zoom)
OCPC	Mary Waldon (via Zoom)
Cape Cod Cranberry Growers' Association	Brian Wick

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

Minutes:

1) Call to Order, introductions

2) Public Comment – none

3) Request for feedback on metrics

    a) Discussion of water quantity and quality standards being incorporated. (example: Do the metrics include specifics on having enough supply to support the river downstream/support fish migration)

    b) Environmental roundtable will be coming up soon

    c) Communicating the water science to public will be very important

    d) Public forums upcoming to gain public input

    e) Hull, MA water demand issues mentioned

4) Demand Projections and Water Efficiency and Discussion

    a) Presentation on CDM Smith demand projections

    b) Questions and comments discussed:

        i) Question on water supply source affecting water availability – this is not incorporated into the water demand analysis

        ii) Question on water restrictions affecting the model – they are not directly incorporated into the model as they are covered by other statistically significant variables.

        iii) Question on median household income not statistically significant – this was a surprise to the group

iv) Discussion of showing summer peaks in the demand analysis

v) Discussion of MBTA and other growth being included into the stressed scenario via 10% increase

vi) Efficiencies override population growth. Projections assume current technology efficiencies.

vii) Concern with baseline on averages. Team will assess seasonal/monthly approaches.

viii) Recommendation for a rebate program for water efficiency.

ix) Projections to be reviewed in more detail with DCR.

5) Risk Analysis

a) Memos will be distributed to each municipality to review

b) Source capacity demonstrates hydraulic ability of well, or surface water infrastructure

c) Historic water use is shown in annual average.

d) Requested to add peaks into Graph A

e) Edit desalination header in risk category

f) Additional Risks discussed: politics, lack of oxygen, public acceptability

6) Introduction to Water Supply Alternatives

a) Process of alternative development and assessment reviewed by CDM Smith

b) Request to incorporate timing into the process. Could be short-term/long-term.

7) Water Supply Alternatives Small Group Discussion

a) What are you committed to right now and in the next 5 years?

b) Longer term, do you feel there is a need for redundancy for drought, cyber security, short term issues or other concerns? Are you open to the following: MWRA, Desalination, Municipal interconnections, reclaimed water for non-potable uses, other?

c) What are actions that your organization would like to see included in the Regional Water Plan?

8) Water Supply Alternatives Group Discussion

a) What are you committed to right now and in the next 5 years?

i) Municipalities:

(1) PFAS Treatment (testing, design and construction, investment)

(2) Maintaining and improving existing infrastructure

(3) Main replacement and removing lead services

(4) Water quality monitoring

(5) Addressing Water System Master Plans

(6) Expanding municipal groundwater wells

(7) Sustainable access to clean water for private well owners

ii) Watershed Associations

(1) Restoring ecosystem health through connectivity, water quality, habitats and natural flow, fish migration to recover populations, remove unnecessary obstructions

iii) Massachusetts Cranberries

(1) Research to decrease water use in agriculture

b) Longer term, do you feel there is a need for redundancy for drought, cyber security, short term issues or other concerns? Are you open to the following: MWRA, Desalination, Municipal interconnections, reclaimed water for non-potable uses, other?

i) Communities present agree that there is a need for redundancy against risks

ii) The following communities indicated they were open to considering the MWRA as a supply source for redundancy: Abington, Plympton[1], Easton, Pembroke, Bridgewater, West Bridgewater, Stoughton

iii) The following communities indicated they were open to considering more municipal interconnections as a supply source for redundancy: Abington, Plympton*, Easton, Bridgewater, West Bridgewater, Stoughton

iv) The following communities indicated they were open to considering more reclaimed water for non-potable use as a supply source for redundancy: Plympton*, Easton, Bridgewater, West Bridgewater

v) Other water supplies included:

(1) work on a regional level for green infrastructure/stormwater capture, reuse with multiple benefits

(2) For impaired sources, struggle to manage water levels. Recommend a more collaborative approach to managing ecological functions in addition to supply functions

(3) More oversight (perhaps at state level) for commercial water brokers who pump large amounts of groundwater and truck it out of the area

[1] Plympton is open to all alternatives, but cost effectiveness will likely affect decision for their 1,000 users. Having no water supply backup is a concern.

(4) Crisis prepared sharing, need to consider inter-basin transfer

(5) Improvements to desalination technology as well as using renewable energies such as solar, wind or tidal to power.

c) What are actions that your organization would like to see included in the Regional Water Plan?

i) Actions that promote sustainability and which are not piped infrastructure dependent

ii) Options for short-term and long-term solutions to water supply

iii) Resource center to reduce water consumption (potentially online website)

iv) Reliable water supply and quality

v) Sensible water consumption

vi) High / equal priority for vibrant ecosystems to sustain future and current populations

vii) More desalination development and use (powered by renewable energy)

viii) MWRA purchase of Aquaria desalination plant, upgrades it and uses it to supply multiple communities back up/ supplemental supply

ix) Reduction to water use for landscaping through education

x) More use of native landscaping, with need for workforce development with landscapers

xi) Establish minimum flows for healthy streams and wetlands

xii) Reliable water supply

xiii) Limit private well irrigation during droughts. Could be through a mandate from Boards of Health.

xiv) Open planning and decision making based on ecology which includes humans- not profit based

xv) Reductions and explanations for unaccounted for water

xvi) Consider water quality when emergency diversions occur to mitigate flooding

xvii) Unaccounted for water loss is controlled.

xviii) Costs are equalized according to revenue

xix) Maximize town / city interconnections for systems with compatible water supplies through inter municipal agreements

xx) Importance of agricultural water use in the region in terms of both quantity and quality

xxi) Opportunity for involvement in programs that may allow for decrease in water use through grants, infrastructure, and research

xxii)Reliable water supply

xxiii) Consideration of water need by growers in dam removal (nitrification?)

xxiv) Seat of agricultural users at the table in policy discussions

xxv) Support additional water sources to meet impacts of climate change

xxvi) Reinvigorate extension programs for public education

9) Next Workshop

a) 7/31/2024

Action Items:

Assigned to	Action Item
Steering Committee members	Submit final annotated bibliography comments
Steering Committee members	Respond to interview requests
Steering Committee members	Complete weighting worksheet on behalf of your community/organization
CDM Smith	Finalize memos (Efficiency, Water Demand, Individual Town Capacity/Demand) and distribute to steering committee

Attachments:

1. Meeting Presentation Slides
2. Meeting Handouts

Prepared by CDM Smith.