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**Regional Water Plan
Steering Committee Meeting
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Tuesday, August 27, 2024, 9:00am**

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

Attendees:

Steering Committee	
Organization	Name
Town of Bridgewater	Shane O'Brien
City of Brockton	Pat Hill
Central Plymouth County Water District	Kimberly Groff
Easton Department of Public Works	Greg Swan
Town of Kingston Water Commission	Bob Erlandsen
Town of Kingston	Keith Hickey
Town of Kingston	Val Massard (via Zoom)
MA Department of Conservation and Recreation	Jason Duff
MassDEP	Duane LeVangie
MassDEP	Jon Hobill (via Zoom)
Pembroke Water Department	Dan Sullivan
OCPC	Bill Napolitano
OCPC	Joanne Zygmunt
Town of Plympton	Gavin Murphy (via Zoom)
Town of Plymouth	Peter Gordon
Watershed Associations	Pine duBois
Watershed Associations	Jimmy Powell (via Zoom)

Observers	
Organization	Name
MA Division of Marine Fisheries	John Sheppard
Metropolitan Area Planning Council	Martin Pillsbury

Consultants	
Organization	Name
CDM Smith	Grace Houghton
CDM Smith	Kirk Westphal
CDM Smith	Amara Regehr
CDM Smith	Grace Inman
CDM Smith	Kara Rozycki

Minutes:

- 1) Call to Order, introductions
 - a) Reminder: Steering Committee Score Sheets due Tuesday 9/3/2024.
- 2) Public Comment – none
- 3) Upcoming Climate Risk Assessment
 - a) Incorporating future climate risks into Regional Plan
 - b) Dr. Casey Brown advising on climate aspect of demand analysis, models, drought tool, and risk assessment for alternatives
 - c) Identification of hazards, including heavier rainfall, extreme heat and how these interact with the Regional Plan
 - d) Regional Stormwater discussion – recommendations around this are requested
 - e) Mosquito treatment – recommendations around this topic are requested
 - f) Saltwater intrusion – Plymouth has not seen impact to municipal wells, but this could become a serious issue in the future. Private wells closer to the coast are at higher risk.
- 4) Water Supply Augmentation Discussion
 - a) Meeting with each community today to identify water supply target to use for alternatives analysis. Could be a buffer on operational capacity, could be what portion of your supply is at risk from PFAS, or another constraint in community requiring additional volume. That volume will be used to cost and score.
- 5) Qualitative Scoring Activity
 - a) Reviewed updates to alternatives
 - b) Projects were identified to be included in report as recommendations, so they will not be scored: Native Landscaping (include climate resistant options), Private Well Restrictions, Conservation, Land, and Water Use Education Programs, Regional Conservation Committee (request to expand to include education), Conservation Resource Center, Cybersecurity Improvements, Stormwater Recharge Regional Plan. Steering Committee agreed to include these as Report Recommendations
 - c) Review of Short-Term Alternative ST-11: Ecosystem evaluation and ecological flow needs (Taunton River Watershed, Jones River, Silver Lake, Stump Brook). Steering Committee agreed to include this as a Report Recommendation and to not include as an alternative.

- d) Split into three groups to rate alternatives for two qualitative alternatives and begin considering risk and uncertainty for each alternative.
 - i) Improve ecosystem health
 - ii) Encourage sustainable water use to meet the needs for housing and economic prosperity
 - iii) Overall Risk Assessment

6) Qualitative Scoring Activity Report Out

- a) Ecosystem Health Objective
 - i) Scores based on aggregate positive / negative impacts
 - ii) Public wells – medium to higher scores
 - iii) Long Term Regional Alternatives – higher scores, with the exception of LT11 (Expand and/or Rehabilitate Interconnections with Inter-Municipal Agreements) and LT12 (Reclaimed Water for Non-Potable Uses)
 - iv) Short Term Local alternatives – higher scores, with the exception of ST5 (Access to Clean Water For Private Well Owners – Education and Funding Assistance) and ST7 (New Public Wells)
 - v) Short Term Regional Alternatives – higher scores
- b) Efficiency & Adaptability Objective
 - i) New wells, MWRA, and Aquaria were generally low score due to high difficulty for implementation, but high score for flexibility because of the increase in water that would be provided
 - ii) Group identified a few alternatives that are recommended to move to the Recommendation List versus scored alternatives (ST6 (Identify Reservoir Management Strategies), LT13 (Identification and Removal of Migratory Obstructions), ST11 (Ecosystem Evaluation and Ecological Flow Needs))
 - iii) Group recommended removing ST9 (Utilize Aquaria Desalination Water connections for communities with existing connections) due to redundancy, since Abington does not have a direct connection to the desalination plant
- c) Overall Risk Assessment
 - i) Always risks for every alternative, even those with substantial benefits
 - ii) Time and money are consistently risks
 - iii) Sacrificing what you have worked so hard for already
 - iv) Unintended consequences
 - v) Regionalization concern about chemical compatibility of water
- d) CDM Smith will combine scores from all three groups, and Steering Committee will have opportunity to review all scores and provide additional comments.

7) Next Workshop: 9/24

Action Items:

Assigned to	Action Item
Steering Committee members	Complete weighting worksheet on behalf of your community/organization

Attachments:

1. Meeting Presentation Slides
2. Meeting Handouts

Prepared by CDM Smith.