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www.oldcolonyplanning.org

**Regional Water Plan
Steering Committee Meeting
MINUTES OF THE MEETING
Tuesday, September 24, 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	Shane O'Brien
Town of Bridgewater	John Haines
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	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 (via Zoom)
OCPC	Mary Waldron
OCPC	Joanne Zygmunt
Town of Plympton	Gavin Murphy (via Zoom)
Town of Plympton	Brian Vasa (via Zoom)
Town of Plymouth	Kendra Martin
Town of West Bridgewater	Wayne Parks
Watershed Associations	Pine duBois
Watershed Associations	Jimmy Powell (via Zoom)

Observers	
Organization	Name
MA Division of Marine Fisheries	John Sheppard (via Zoom)
MA Cranberries	Brian Wick (via Zoom)

Consultants	
Organization	Name
CDM Smith	Grace Houghton
CDM Smith	Kirk Westphal
CDM Smith	Amara Regehr
CDM Smith	Grace Inman
CDM Smith	Dan Rodrigo
CDM Smith	Kara Rozycki
UMass Amherst	Dr. Casey Brown

Minutes:

- 1) Call to Order, introductions
- 2) Public Comment – none
- 3) Prioritization Background Information
 - a) Review of alternative changes made
 - b) Review of objectives and metrics
 - c) Review of example alternative scoring for Alternative LT-2 – New Public Wells
 - d) Review of alternatives against each metric
 - e) Discussion
 - i) Distribution of weighting by stakeholders – water suppliers make up majority of steering committee, therefore drinking water quality was weighted highest. Sensitivity analyses to be discussed later in meeting and results from running with equal weighting across all objectives.
 - ii) Direct relationship between scoring and costs. Concerned for this to lower environmental scoring.
 - iii) LT-10 – Includes PFAS removal through the desalination process.
 - iv) Reminder of projects that are recommendations, and not being scored.
- 4) Summary of Ranking Results and Initial Steps in Portfolio Development
 - a) Review of Weighted Results

- i) Discussion
 - (1) Risk Assessment to be presented at next Workshop 8
 - (2) Private Well Connections – questions regarding reliability
 - (3) MWRA for all – Drinking Water Quality does not score because it could not come on quickly enough to meet 2029 PFAS regulations. Discussion of separating out short term and long term water quality goal through adding another qualitative metric for this objective.
 - ii) Review of results using equal rates
 - iii) Sensitivity Bar Graph emphasizing Ecosystem Health Objective
 - iv) Sensitivity Bar Graph emphasizing Cost Effectiveness
 - v) Sensitivity Bar Graph removing Cost Effectiveness
 - vi) Sensitivity to Stakeholder Weights
 - vii) Discussion of MWRA for Adjacent Communities- agreed that this could come online to avoid local PFAS communities for communities neighboring Stoughton’s exiting MWRA connection
 - viii) Consider combining target supplies over 20 MGD into one category instead of specifying values over 20 MGD
 - ix) Update Water Quality Metric Scoring: short term (quantitative 1-3) and long term (qualitative 1-3)
 - x) Discussion around uncertainty with demand projections declining due to state housing policies including Additional Dwelling Units, and MBTA communities regulation
 - xi) Uncertainty of DEP approving interbasin transfer associated with MWRA alternatives
- 5) UMass Supporting Climate Risk Assessment
- a) Introduction by Dr. Casey Brown
 - b) Discussion of uncertainty of climate change
 - c) Modelling future conditions uses three different pillars: theory, model, historical observations – looking to where they line up
 - d) Casey will be supporting on risk assessment
 - e) Variability of events? Observationally, flood trends of actual events– no clear signal of worsening. Models may suggest otherwise. In Northeast, seeing increasing intensity of storms, at rate faster than other parts of country. Consistent theory that it may be tied to climate change. Drought is less clear.
 - f) Climate migration effects on population?

- g) Variability between dry and wet periods? Short term events need to have long term impact over time to achieve statistical significance.
- h) How will climate uncertainty be incorporated into the Final Plan? As part of the Risk Assessment, and hydrologic assessment for the Taunton and South Coastal watersheds.

6) Next Workshop: 10/29

- a) Portfolio Development, Adaptation, Implementation

Action Items:

Assigned to	Action Item
CDM Smith	Update scoring of alternatives to include updated metric for long term water quality
All	Support sharing of survey

Attachments:

1. Meeting Presentation Slides
2. Meeting Handouts

Prepared by CDM Smith.