



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, October 29, 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	Jon Beder
Town of Bridgewater	Shane O'Brien
City of Brockton	Pat Hill
Easton Department of Public Works	Greg Swan
Town of Kingston	Val Massard (via Zoom)
MA Department of Conservation and Recreation	Jason Duff
OCPC	Becky Coletta
OCPC	Bill Napolitano
OCPC	Mary Waldron
OCPC	Joanne Zygmunt
Town of Pembroke	Dan Sullivan
Town of Plympton	Gavin Murphy (via Zoom)
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	Kara Rozycki

Minutes:

- 1) Call to Order, introductions
- 2) Public Comment – none
- 3) Risk Considerations
 - a) Risk matrix to be shared with Steering Committee
 - b) Request to add definition/clarifying parameters for the risk categories
- 4) Updated Alternatives Scoring
 - a) Review of updated scoring with water quality metric changes. Additional qualitative score added: “Reduction in Long-Term Water Quality Risk”
 - b) Discussion of blending concern with MWRA water
 - c) Alternatives memo will be distributed in coming weeks and will include more details on all of the alternatives.
- 5) Draft Portfolio Presentation
 - a) Review of Draft Short-Term Portfolio (5 years)
 - b) Review of Draft Long-Term Portfolio (over 5 years)
 - c) Review of Draft Adaptive Management Plans
- 6) Discussion of Implementation of Best Practice Recommendations
 - a) Review of list of recommendations:
 - i) Identification and Removal of Migratory Obstructions
 - ii) Access To Clean Water for Private Well Owners - Education and Funding Assistance
 - iii) Identification of Reservoir Management Strategies
 - iv) Ecosystem Evaluation and Ecological Flow Needs
 - v) Native Landscaping Local By-Laws
 - vi) Private Well Outdoor Water Use Restrictions Local By-Laws
 - vii) Requiring Water Quality Tests of Private Wells By-Laws
 - viii) Water Demand Offset Policies
 - ix) Water Use Mitigation Program

- x) Conduct Regular Rate Studies
- xi) Inter-Municipal Agreements
- xii) Redundant Water Supply for Agriculture
- xiii) Support Agricultural Demand Side Management
- xiv) Conservation, Land, And Water Use Education Program
- xv) Regional Conservation Committee: Coordinate Protection of Shared Resources
- xvi) Conservation Resource Center
- xvii) Cybersecurity Improvements
- xviii) Regional Stormwater Plan
- xix) Regional Wastewater Plan
- xx) Regional Coordination for Local PFAS Treatment Implementation

b) Discussion:

- i) Consider regional pursuit for bylaws with the state
- ii) Standing Committee can work on items following completion of the Regional Plan

7) Report out on small group discussions

a) Group A

- i) Identification and Removal of Migratory Obstructions
 - (1) Education for dam removal is required to better understand complexities, funding, and benefits.
 - (2) Update history of dams in fact sheet
- ii) Access To Clean Water for Private Well Owners - Education and Funding Assistance
 - (1) Get together with Ipswich River group to understand how they are incorporating private well users into their plan
 - (2) Continually get the message out to private well users about testing and water quality importance
 - (3) Staffing is an issue for Boards of Health on private well user support
- iii) Identification of Reservoir Management Strategies
- iv) Water Demand Offset Policies
 - (1) Efficiency is a better term than Conservation for water users.
 - (2) Committee could help identify grant funding

b) Group B

- i) Private Well Outdoor Water Use Restrictions Local By-Laws
 - (1) Likely not an appetite in Plympton. Remove Plympton.

- (a) Consider Rocky Harvest Water Extraction/Rocky Mountain Spring Water which has an agricultural water use permit.
 - (2) Risks include compliance. How would you know who is on a well?
 - (3) Consider specifying for lawn watering (ie., not for vegetable gardens)
 - (4) Future committee can draft example bylaw and educational materials that are suitable across town lines. Coordination of consistent signage for droughts.
 - (5) Stakeholder coordination required: Water Departments, City Council, Select Boards, etc.
- ii) Water Use Mitigation Program
 - (1) Water Neutral Development
 - (2) Add Acton as example community
 - (3) Applies to all as a long-term recommendation
 - (4) Risk: Could impact future development/attainable housing
- iii) Inter-Municipal Agreements
 - (1) Future committee can draft example agreements as starting points for alternatives and recommendations from the Regional Water Plan
- c) Group C
 - i) Ecosystem Evaluation and Ecological Flow Needs
 - (1) Need to incorporate other Town boards (Conservation Commission, Planning Board, etc.)
 - ii) Native Landscaping Local By-Laws
 - (1) Provide a list of plantings
 - (2) Need to incorporate other Town boards (Conservation Commission, Planning Board, etc.)
 - iii) Requiring Water Quality Tests of Private Wells By-Laws
 - (1) Likely coming as part of real estate transactions around the country.
 - (2) Public awareness will be needed
 - (3) Need to incorporate other Town boards (Conservation Commission, Planning Board, Board of Health, etc.)
 - iv) Conduct Regular Rate Studies
 - (1) Good practice for all water suppliers to complete approximately every 5 years. Funding available.

8) Next Steps

a) Review of Schedule:

- i) Workshop 9: November 18, 2024
- ii) Draft Regional Plan issued to Steering Committee: January 2025
- iii) Public Comment Period: February 2025
- iv) Final Plan Issued: March 2025

Action Items:

Assigned to	Action Item
CDM Smith	Share Risk Matrix PDF
CDM Smith	Distribute Alternatives Memo
CDM Smith	Update fact sheets with Steering Committee comments
All	Support sharing of survey

Attachments:

- 1. Meeting Presentation Slides
- 2. Meeting Handouts

Prepared by CDM Smith.