



**OLD COLONY**  
PLANNING COUNCIL

Rebecca Coletta, President

Mary Waldron, Executive Director

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[www.oldcolonyplanning.org](http://www.oldcolonyplanning.org)

**Regional Water Plan  
Steering Committee Meeting  
MINUTES OF THE MEETING  
Monday, November 18, 2024, 10:00am**

Location: Virtual (Zoom)

Attendees:

Steering Committee	
Organization	Name
Town of Abington	Liz Shea
Town of Abington	Scott Lambiase
Town of Bridgewater	Shane O’Brien
Town of Bridgewater	Greg Tansey
City of Brockton	Pat Hill
CPC	Kim Groff
East Bridgewater	John Haines
Easton Department of Public Works	Greg Swan
Town of Kingston	Val Massard
Town of Kingston	Chris Veracka
MA Department of Conservation and Recreation	Jason Duff
OCPC	Mary Waldron
OCPC	Bill Napolitano
OCPC	Elise Prince
OCPC	Joanne Zygmunt
Town of Pembroke	Dan Sullivan
Town of Plympton	Gavin Murphy
Town of Plympton	Brian Vasa
Town of Plymouth	Peter Gordon
Watershed Associations	Pine duBois
Watershed Associations	Jimmy Powell

<b>Observers</b>	
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>
MA Division of Marine Fisheries	John Sheppard
MassDEP	Jon Hobill
MassDEP	Duane LeVangie
Senator Brady's Office	Al DeGirolamo

<b>Consultants</b>	
<b>Organization</b>	<b>Name</b>
CDM Smith	Grace Houghton
CDM Smith	Kirk Westphal
CDM Smith	Amara Regehr
CDM Smith	Grace Inman
CDM Smith	Kara Rozycki
CDM Smith	Dan Rodrigo

## **Minutes:**

1. Introduction, Call to Order
2. Public Comment
  - a. Matt Penella, Town of Kingston Conservation Agent, expressed concerns with draft rating results rating MWRA lower than other options. Concerned with two issues (1) ecological issues/degradation of Silver Lake and (2) safe drinking water to Brockton and its customers. Interested in seeing more diversification of water supplies.
3. Discussion on Regional Portfolios
  - a. Abington discussed pursuing both desalination and MWRA sources
  - b. Brockton management strategy is needed to manage water between Silver Lake, desalination, etc. More clarification is needed to better define.
  - c. Plymouth has two sources in the Buzzards Bay Basin as well as the sources in the South Coastal
  - d. Town of Plympton: Emergency well is more dependent on finding a suitable location and funding
  - e. It is not clear how what is outlined will address ecological concerns
  - f. How will these uses be monitored for compliance with the regional matrix of decisions that will protect surface waters
  - g. MWRA connections should be projected soon as other south shore communities (Weymouth, Plymouth) are considering a connection.

- h. Is desal an option for Easton?
  - i. Is Avon evaluating MWRA?
  - j. If Abington/Rockland becomes MWRA member, what becomes of their source in the Town of Pembroke?
  - k. Abington would pursue either desal or MWRA, whichever is available first and feasible
  - l. DCR will have grant available for water conservation soon. Notice of Intent is currently available.
  - m. OCPC can support on the Committee to continue the Regional Plan and support the recommendations
  - n. Regional and local pesticide needs
  - o. For Agricultural demand side management, consider impact on river flows/timing seasonality and impact on water quality
  - p. Packaging of recommendations requested so communities could work on bylaws/policies
  - q. Abington working with Rockland (and open to joining with other communities) on stormwater grant. OCPC has certified culvert inspector on staff.
  - r. Recommended to add to Best Practice Recommendations: Pesticide/Mosquito Management. Program needed to define the problem and manage mosquitos.
4. Discussion on Decision Points and Monitoring Data Collection
- a. New or changing regulations that could impact the supply and resource system
  - b. Ability to meet demand or state requirements
  - c. Ability to meet daily demand needs
  - d. Additional regulation chemicals in the water
  - e. Are we meeting demand and maintaining ecosystem? Are there changes in population or crashing environmental resources – whether water availability (drought) or vanishing fisheries. How is climate impacting regional/local resources – flooding, drought, disease, fire, greater consumption? Are we adapting and accommodating change or suffering?
  - f. Discussion of environmental dashboard
  - g. Monitoring data collection
    - i. DMF has herring river count data
    - ii. There are additional streamflow gauges
5. Next Steps

- a. Draft Regional Plan issued to Steering Committee: January 2025
- b. Public Comment Period: February 2025
- c. Final Plan Issued: March 2025

**Action Items:**

Assigned to	Action Item
CDM Smith	Incorporate Steering Committee comments into portfolios
All	Support sharing of survey

**Attachments:**

- 1. Meeting Presentation Slides

*Prepared by CDM Smith.*