

White's Pond Study Committee

Minutes of March 21, 2011 Meeting

Committee members in attendance: Dick Downey, Ellen Duggan, Jim Fulton, Jason Kreil, Paul Boothroyd, Eugene Radner, Herb Symes – Absent: Peter Reed

Also in attendance: Jerry Flood, Tom Sheridan, Walter Sokolowski, Vic Tomy, Barry Heinnonen

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Meeting called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairperson Dick Downey

Jim Fulton asked for a correction of the March 7, 2011 minutes. On page 4, paragraph 3, a statement was wrongly attributed to Jim Fulton. He wished that this be corrected.

A motion was made by Jim Fulton to accept the corrected minutes of the March 7, 2011 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ellen Duggan. Motion passed unanimously.

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Dick Downey asked for a report on the action items from the meeting of March 7, 2011.

Action item #1 – Gantt Report from Woodard and Curran.

Jerry Flood reported that he has not yet received the report from W/C

Action item #2 – Woodard and Curran was to find report of Rockland Ave. well study, from USGS or Corp of Engineers.

Jerry Flood has not yet received this information from W/C.

- ACTION ITEM – Jerry will ask Woodard and Curran to get the Rockland Ave. Well Study from the USGS or the Corp of Engineers, for the committee.

Jerry Flood voiced his concerns to the committee, that he believes the committee is getting far afield from the scope of work outlined for Woodard and Curran and for himself.

Jim Fulton expressed that the committee's tasks have evolved beyond what many on the committee had expected. Jim stated that he is sensitive to Jerry's concerns but he believes that we should study the well fields. As a committee we have to look at all the alternatives. We have to look at economic details. We need to know what it costs to pump from the wells, in order to arrive at reasonable conclusions and decisions.

Ellen Duggan then read the original charge given to the committee from the board of selectmen.

Jerry stated that W/C's scope is to look at existing well fields, White's Pond and will look at cost estimates for the various alternatives.

Eugene Radner asked if it was too much to ask W/C to provide a Gantt Chart?

Jerry replied that in his opinion (not Woodard & Curran), it is too much but that he would ask W/C to provide the Gantt Chart to the committee.

Dick Downey expressed his sensitivity to Jerry's concerns but stated that he did not believe the committee was expanding the scope of the study. Keeping W/C on track is a reasonable expectation of this committee. We need at least some reasonable operational costs in order to provide voters with a well investigated process. Is W/C working their tasks aggressively?

Jerry responded that he believes that W/C is on target with their tasks. In order to support this assertion, Jerry then reviewed his March 18, 2011 Status Report outlining the tasks performed to date. This status report had been e-mailed to all committee members prior to tonight's meeting.

Dick stated that he fully expects a Gantt report from W/C.

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Paul Boothroyd reported that he has found two easements for the water line. These easements went into effect before the government took the land. We have not yet found any recorded easements with the government, regarding the water line.

Jerry mentioned that Fish and Game will not allow any waste water at White's Pond to flow through the old water line across their land.

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Review of Report submitted by Walter Soklowski and Tom Sheridan to the committee.

Committee members whole heartedly thanked Walter and Tom for their efforts and expertise in compiling this report for the committee.

Tom Sheridan stated that he felt the committee was heading in the right direction with its work.

Herb Symes poised this situation to Walter and Tom. If the committee was to decide to not bring White's Pond back on line and to place its emphasis on well development. What would the town do if we had a major contamination or a supply problem to the Rockland Ave. wells and lost the ability to provide water ?

Walter replied that the committee has to look at all alternatives and all costs and then make a determination as to where the town should go and then sell it to town meeting.

Herb stated that cost alone should not be the sole determiner. Going the route of the lowest bid scenario may not be in the town's best interest.

Tom stated that as he and Walter put this report together, today everything is based upon cost. We feel that the current wells have the capacity to provide the town with its water needs but monies to have to be expended to maintain that capacity. We believe that the wells are the cheapest way but there are also other directions to consider and move towards. There is no question that the water quality at White's Pond is much better than treating the well water. Surface water is more costly to treat because it is subject to more contamination. But who knows, maybe technology will change regarding treatment bringing down costs.

Eugene Radner stated that MWRA surface water does not have to be filtered. They use an ozone treatment.

Dick asked, what is the EPA's future regulations regarding treatment of well water? Maybe we should look into any planned future regulations? With a 100 year view on this , if in ten years wells are going to be more tightly regulated, maybe wells won't look as good, as an option.

- ACTION ITEM – Jason Kreil to look into the possibility of any future proposed EPA regulations regarding well water treatment.

Dick stated to Jerry that we need historical water use rates.

Ellen Duggan expressed concern that we could develop wells and that they could dry up.

Eugene Radner stated that no one really knows where the water comes from that supply the Rockland Ave wells.

Walter said that the town uses observation wells to monitor the water levels at Rockland. Jerry said that we have seven monitor wells at Rockland Ave.

- ACTION ITEM – Jim Fulton to get information from MAGIC to see if MAPC has any area growth reports of surrounding towns that could impact the supply of water to our Rockland Ave. wells. Would like to see projections out to 100 years but will take whatever information they may have.

Tom mentioned that the gravel packed wells that we have, run 42 to 45 feet deep. When drilling you drill to a point of refusal and then put a screen and unit into the well. In the future we may use smaller but more numerous wells.

Vic Tomyl mentioned the perched Quirk wells (pumped no more than 6 months per year), which the town later acquired at Old Marlboro Road site.

Herb Symes asked Tom who Ted Morine is ?

Tom stated that Ted was a geologist who did most of Maynard's test wells. He would be a great resource if a water search is expanded. Would be good to have him come and meet with the committee.

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Citizens Input- Dick stated that to date we have only heard input from one citizen.

Ellen reported that the information placed with WAVM is up and running.

Vic Tomyl expressed to the committee his concern that the committee has gone beyond its charge. Vic stated that regardless of cost, White's Pond is one of our best sources of water and that he has no objections to having excess water. Water is a finite commodity.

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Dick asked all committee members to review all data that we have to date and see if any extra research is needed. Look this over for our next meeting.

Jerry said he will get a Gantt Chart from W/C before next meeting.

Tom Sheridan stated that he and Walter Sokolowski would be glad to come to any future meetings if needed, by the committee.

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Motion made by Paul Boothroyd to adjourn. Motion seconded by Jim Fulton. Motion to adjourn passed unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Next meeting April 4, 2011 – 6:00 p.m. at the Municipal Building – Gianotis Room 201