

White's Pond Study Committee

Minutes of April 11, 2011

Members present: Dick Downey, Ellen Duggan, Paul Boothroyd, Peter Reed, Herb Symes, Jim Fulton, Eugene Redner, Jason Kreil

Others in attendance: Jerry Flood, Bob Chapell (Woodard&Curran), Tom Sheridan

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

Motion made to accept April 4, 2011 minutes by Ellen Duggan.

Motion seconded by Jim Fulton.

Motion to accept the April 4, 2011 minutes passes unanimously.

Bob Chapell of Woodard & Curran distributed four printed handouts to the committee which are reviewed under the following topics by Woodard and Curran:

Review of Progress and Status of Work Being Done by Woodard & Curran

Replacement of Transmission Main

Bob stated that the transmission main across the government land from White's Pond would have to be replaced regardless of whether the water came from surface water or ground water sources at White's Pond. Replacement would be required. Bob further recommended that the current pipe be replaced with a 12" pipe. Bob stated that the 12" pipe would be sufficient versus a 16" pipe capability. The 12" pipe would also be less expensive. The installation would have a need of 14,300 linear feet of 12" pipe from White's Pond to Winter Street in Maynard.

Routing: Bob stated that the best route would be to stay on the existing roadway across the government land. The line would skirt the wet lands to try and avoid other issues. The pipe at the Assabet River end crosses FEMA property and even though we have an easement to maintain the existing line, he would recommend re-routing to come out onto River Road. FEMA has not been very responsive and communicative to date. The avoidance of the section across FEMA property may help in expediting the project. Bob stated, that this is a unique project in the sense that we have to deal with other towns, the Dept. of Conservation, the Assabet Wildlife Refuge, FEMA and Track Road being under Chapter 97 conservation. All of these entities combined complicate the process.

Dick noted the elevation at White's Pond at 206 feet and at the end of the process also being around 206 feet. Bob said that there is a nice even rise along the route to the main and that the line would have to be pumped and is not a gravity fed line.

Dick asked if an archaeological study would be necessary? Bob responded that if we stay on disturbed property (the current road) then no study would be required.

A question was asked if we have found any easements granting the town of Maynard access rights? Other than the two easements across limited sections of the government land no other easements have been found, to date. Bob further stated that Woodard and Curran are checking with one last federal source. Bob said that it is his understanding that the DCR section would require legislative approval from the State. The entire project will be quite a process with so many agencies to deal with.

Water Treatment Plant Site Location Evaluation

Bob stated that if we were to site the plant in Maynard, there are two town owned sites in the vicinity of Winter Street.

PARCEL 24-15

Consists of 17.5 acres off of Boeske Avenue. The site does have vernal pools and some wetlands but appears to be suitable as a site for the treatment plant. It has good access to sewer, water, and is town owned. Mass GIS has no recreation area. It is located 2,000 linear feet from Winter Street. Bob said the treatment plant itself would need 3-5 acres of land for construction.

PARCEL 28-1

This parcel contains 64.3 acres, is 6,000 linear feet from Winter Street and is a priority habitat area.

Ellen asked why not use an existing treatment plant instead of building a new plant?

Bob replied that surface water from White's Pond would have to have its own treatment plant. On the other hand, well water pumped from White's Pond could possibly be treated at an existing well water plant.

Peter asked if there was any advantage to one parcel versus the other? Bob stated that the only advantage was less pipe cost for Parcel 24-15 (2,000 feet) versus Parcel 28-1 (6,000 feet).

Peter asked about staffing needs at plants. Jerry Flood stated that DEP requires staffing of 4 hours per day during week days not week ends. DEP requirements are for each plant. Bob stated that day tanks force towns to check in on treatment plants on a daily basis. Bob further stated that operational costs will be looked at for the facility. Staffing costs would come later in the process.

Dick felt that this set up was not good for us as a committee. We need to understand which plant would have a lower cost. Bob replied that W/C would give the committee a comparison cost of treating surface water versus treating well water. He thinks that treating surface water may be in the range of 1.5 times the cost of treating well water but W/C will provide more substantial numbers.

Evaluate Developing Groundwater Supply at White's Pond

The amount of available land is limited by a 150 foot setback requirement. Bob stated that we try to site the wells outside the 150 foot set back. The DEP would require

additional testing for any wells sited closer than the 150 foot setback. Not a lot of space to site a well. The setback requirement will require the use of a well field. Sensor testing on the east and west sides of the pond looks promising. They did not find any rock. Found 30 feet of saturated thickness. After a test well is dug a flow and quality determination will be made. Well fields do not need a 400 foot radius. Well fields typically have a 2.5" to 6" diameter. Single wells typically have a 24" to 36' diameter. Yield from a well field can yield the same as a single well. A surface treatment plant located in the northwest corner would not need setback requirements.

Herb asked if we decide to use well water from the White's Pond instead of surface water, could some other town come after the rights to the surface water? Bob replied that anything is possible but that protections around well sites may possibly prevent that from happening.

Tom Sheridan asked, isn't selling water an important factor? Dick replied that we did not want to rattle area towns prematurely. We prefer to look at water sales later in the process.

White's Pond has a 1,000,000 gallon per day capacity. But DEP sets the 65 gal./person/day rate based upon a towns total available water sources. DEP can institute water bans if a town is exceeding that limit, even if there is plenty of available water. Looking into MWRA as a resource, the DEP requirement would still apply.

Jerry Flood would welcome any committee members to come to his office to research any old water reports.

Assessment of Water Resources Map

Woodard and Curran provided this map for the committee's information and for the committee to peruse.

Gantt Chart

Dick would like W/C to provide sub topics under the 21 items listed on the Estimated Project Schedule. Bob said W/C will provide the sub topics

Dick noted that the May 9, 2011 meeting will be moved to May 11, 2011. Starting in May, the WPSC meetings will move from Mondays to Wednesdays.

Jared asked W/C if when doing the test well water analysis, could W/C also test the surface water at White's Pond? W/C and Jerry responded that there is currently data pertaining to the surface water at White's Pond.

Selectmans Meeting

Dick reported that he met with the selectmen to report on our progress. He assured the board that we were not expanding our scope, and that we would stay on budget and on time. He reported to the board that we were looking into all areas not just White's Pond and we were looking at our current sources also. We need to see the big picture and to look into our future needs as well as our present needs. Dick informed the committee that we were not looking into the current infrastructure of the water system. That was not our role. The only infrastructure we would study would be for any replacement of the line crossing the government land and any possible treatment plant. He reported that the Selectmen appeared okay with his report to them.

- ACTION ITEM

Ellen and Paul to go to Jerry Floods office to search for any information pertaining to water usage.

WAVM

Ellen's posting is up and running on WAVM.

Past Action Items

Jerry e-mailed the study from USGS regarding the Rockland Ave Well Study.

Dick will re-send Attachments 1 thru 3.

Jason e-mailed current Mass water regulations, future water regulations and the possibility of new regulations over the next 50-100 years.

Committee will meet 8:00 a.m. Saturday April 16th at the parking lot of the Municipal Building to begin a tour of White's Pond and various well sites.

Motion made by Jim Fulton to adjourn.

Motion seconded by Jason Kreil.

Motion passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

Next Meeting Scheduled for Monday April 25, 2011, 6:00 p.m. Gianotis Room
Municipal Building.