

DENNIS WATER DISTRICT

Board of Water Commissioners

Minutes of Meeting held

July 22, 2010

A meeting, having been duly posted, was held this date at the Dennis Police Station, Martin Training Room, 90 Bob Crowell Rd., S Dennis. The meeting was called to order by Paul F. Prue, Chairman at 6:00 PM. Also in attendance were Charles F. Crowell and Peter L. McDowell and the following District officials:

David Larkowski, Superintendent
Sheryl A. McMahon, Clerk & Treasurer

PUBLIC INFORMATION & COMMENT:

A reminder to the public that the Town of Dennis will be holding its annual Household Hazardous Waste Collection Day on Saturday, September 11, 2010 from 9: AM to 1:00 PM.

CUSTOMER ISSUES: None

FY 2010 PRELIMINARY YEAR-END CLOSING

Ms. McMahon advised that the very preliminary year-end closing indicates that despite a revenue deficit of approximately \$256,286 there were turn backs and miscellaneous revenues of approximately \$499,217 leaving a positive net surplus of approximately \$242,931.

Mr. McDowell noted that the District's cost for electricity for the fiscal year was approximately \$232,000 compared to last year which was approximately \$243,000. This reduction reflects a decrease in usage due to a fairly wet and cool summer in 2009. Mr. McDowell noted that being able to generate our own electricity will help reduce or at least stabilize the water rates.

UPDATES:

Wind Energy Feasibility Study: Mr. Larkowski reported that he and Ms. McMahon met with Tom Michelman of Boreal Renewable Energy Development, consultant for the study to discuss some of the lingering questions about the potential project. Based on a consensus of the Board, Ms. McMahon has reserved the Selectmen's Hearing Room at Town Hall for Tuesday, August 10 at 6:00 PM. This will enable the Board to hear the presentation of the study by Boreal, to hear public comment and to broadcast the presentation live on Channel 18. Mr. McDowell pointed out that a 600 KW turbine is not sufficient to meet the District's energy needs and provide enough surplus power to meet the debt service. The question to ultimately be decided is how large a turbine will be necessary to meet the needs and pay for the cost of construction.

FIRE PREVENTION ON DISTRICT- OWNED PROPERTY

Mr. Larkowski distributed a satellite map indicating ancient ways through the "Green Belt" area of District owned property which lies between Airline Road and Old Chatham Road. In accordance with a fire prevention plan adopted by the Town of Dennis, the Superintendent is proposing to "open-up" some of the old roads to their original width. Some of the walking trails were also noted

but he felt that that would take more time and may not be possible. Mr. Larkowski stated that the work would be done by District personnel (most likely just one machine operator) during regular hours. It was noted that these ancient ways (District property) are already gated to prohibit vehicular access and will remain so. In terms of materials removed from the roadways, unless there is such excess to be a problem, they will be left to decay naturally. There was no objection by the Board with the Superintendent's proposal.

REVIEW OF WATER QUALITY SAMPLING PROGRAM AND PUBLIC NOTIFICATIONS

The Superintendent provided a comprehensive overview of the sampling procedures for water quality sampling in light of recent "boil water orders" that have been issued by various water suppliers on Cape Cod. He described the differences in circumstances involving the e-coli event in Falmouth, which obtains 75% of its supply from surface water; Centerville-Osterville Marstons Mills which had one bad sample from one well which triggered the order; and, Barnstable Village which apparently had an e-coli hit in a water tank and it took approximately a week to confirm and has since been resolved.

Could it happen in Dennis? Although it is possible, Mr. Larkowski says that Dennis' risk is somewhat reduced because the system is chlorinated at all times. There is residual chlorine in the tanks which the staff strives to maintain at a sufficient level to minimize the risk. The problem lies in the fact that in the summer the water temperature gets very warm. Because the tanks are in the sun all day, the water at the top can reach nearly 90 degrees. Currently, he is observing temperatures approaching 64 degrees in the distribution system. That is considered a favorable temperature for bacteria growth. In general, the wells are well protected because of the amount of surrounding property owned by the District.

Mr. Larkowski went on further to explain the new "Groundwater Rule" as issued by the Environmental Protection Agency. The rule requires that e-coli hits result in an immediate boil water order for public safety. Effective January 1, samples testing positive for total coliforms will need to comply with all groundwater rule events and require further testing.

Chlorine is used as an oxidizer for the iron and manganese removal treatment process and is added at the source to enhance contact time. It is also added as a measure of protection due to the iron settlement in the mains. It was previously only added just before, during and immediately following the District's flushing program. A number of years ago the Board voted to chlorinate year-round.

The Superintendent noted that the number of samples taken is based on population. Because Dennis' population fluctuates seasonally, during the summer there are 104 samples taken monthly with 72 from the distribution system across the entire town compared to 48 samples taken during the winter months.

Adding chlorine is necessary for safety of the public water supply and the District strives to add a sufficient amount to maintain a safe residual but not so high as to become objectionable to the consumer.

In the summertime, staff often adds chlorine directly to the water tanks to maintain a sufficient residual in the distribution system.

The District's Emergency Response Plan provides for the following notification protocols:

1. Contact the Department of Environmental Protection
2. Contact public safety and local officials
3. Radio Stations for public broadcast
4. Reverse 911 – It was noted by Mr. Larkowski that in the recent Cape events it was discovered that the County Reverse 911 system is very slow and he understands that the Town of Dennis may want to partner with the District to share the cost of its own Reverse 911 system in order to give more timely notice
5. Television stations
6. Newspaper
7. Channel 18 (rolling billboard) and video taped public announcements
8. District and Town websites
9. High priority call list – high consumption users to the message out to the most vulnerable citizens of the town.

Mr. Larkowski did note that it does take time to get the message out to the public once an order has been issued and every effort will be made to expedite the release of information and updates.

The Superintendent did mention that there are two distribution systems within the town; one for the north side and one for the south side. He noted that it would be unlikely that a “hit” would occur on both sides of town simultaneously. Under a boil water order, it would be important to note which system individual properties received their water from. He said that during an event it may be possible to pass out bottled water or have sites available for people to obtain water. He also noted that the Federal Emergency Management Agency also has the means of delivering potable water to the town but, their response time may vary depending on the type and scope of the emergency.

On a motion made by Peter L. McDowell, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn the meeting at 6:45 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl A McMahon, Clerk