

# DENNIS WATER DISTRICT

*Board of Water Commissioners*

Minutes of Meeting held

July 30, 2012

A meeting, having been duly posted, was held this date at the Dennis Police Station, 90 Bob Crowell Rd, South 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 official:

Sheryl A McMahon, Clerk & Treasurer  
David Larkowski, Superintendent

## ***Public Information & Comment***

Ms. McMahon announced that the semi-annual water bills have been printed and would be mailed shortly. The due date will be right after Labor Day.

Mr. McDowell advised that he had met with Mark Robinson of the Compact of Conservation Trusts regarding the potential purchase of acreage at Clay and Grassy Ponds. The District had been approached several months ago regarding its interest in participating in a joint acquisition project. He noted that he had previously stated that he would not interfere with the purchase in his capacity as a Water Commissioner. However, he has since changed his position. He expressed the following reasons why; 1) that for various reasons expressed by the Superintendent (available funds, etc) there was no beneficial reason to the District 2) he felt there was no value and little reason why water revenues should be diverted towards this purchase and 3) concerns over appraisals and value of the land. He did not want to broadside the other Board members because he understood that Chairman Prue steps down as he is a member of the Dennis Conservation Trust which would leave Mr. Crowell and him to take any action and he wanted them to know that he did not support the purchase.

## ***Drought Management Plan***

Mr. Larkowski advised the Board that the Draft Drought Management Plan (Plan) is part of the District's Water Withdrawal Permit application currently under review by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). He provided an information page on a monitoring well in Brewster. This well is monitored by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) and the data collected can be viewed over the internet at any time. The Plan is tied to monitoring the telemetry of this well for ground water conditions. He recommended that the Board vote to move the Plan status from *Normal* to *Advisory*. The rainfall for the past seven months has been below normal and for the past four months, the ground water level has been at or just below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. Based on the draft Plan, the *Advisory* status would mean implementing a voluntary odd-even outdoor water usage schedule. Outdoor watering has a major impact on water demands during the summer months. Chairman Prue noted that other communities are taking similar action. Mr. Larkowski advised that there are five steps in the Plan; *Normal*, *Advisory*, *Watch*, *Warning* and *Emergency*. The next step would be *Watch*. This would mean that the last six consecutive months would have to be below the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile or have experienced at least one month at or below the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile. This level would require mandatory odd-even outdoor watering. However, even if the next two months are less than the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile, he did not believe it would be beneficial to move to a *Watch* status because this would happen in September and people are no longer watering as they do during the summer. What will need to be monitored closely is the winter precipitation as this is the most beneficial time for water recharge. If the levels do not return, it may be necessary to begin next year in a conservation restriction at some level. Mr.

Larkowski advised that this draft Plan was reviewed by the Board approximately a year ago in anticipation of what the State (DEP) may require as part of the Water Withdrawal Permit. The draft Plan was in response to the State's plan to restrict outdoor watering to only twice per week from May through September. The State is proposing a Drought Management Plan that would require all suppliers to go from a *Normal* condition directly to a mandatory two-day restriction. Most Cape water suppliers are looking to implement a set of steps to respond to drought conditions which are based on current conditions. On a motion made by Peter L. McDowell, and duly seconded, the Board ***UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to modify the water conservation status, as defined by the Board's draft Drought Management Plan, from Normal to Advisory asking the public to voluntarily restrict their outdoor water usage to odd-even days.***

Chairman Prue noted that the newsletter that will be sent with the water bills includes an article on the change of status from *Normal to Advisory* and what it means to customers.

#### ***Update on Town of Dennis Solar Panel Project***

Mr. Larkowski noted that a memo had been provided to the Board from the Town of Dennis on the status of the Solar Panel Project. The total project is for 6MW which is being built in two equal phases. The Town of Dennis will benefit from the first 3MW constructed. The District and Regional School District will share the second 3MW at 1MW and 2MW respectively. The first phase is tentatively scheduled for completion by the end of the calendar year. NStar has asked for an impact study for the second phase which should be completed by the end of October. More answers will be available when that study is completed. Possible upgrades to allow the interconnection may mean an additional cost in the purchase of the net metering credits. Mr. McDowell noted that any time prior to construction the District can withdraw from the contract. Mr. Larkowski assured the Board that, once any additional costs are known, the District has the opportunity to review and make a decision on whether to proceed under the agreement with the Town.

#### ***Update on termination of current power purchase agreement and new contract with Glacial Energy***

Mr. Larkowski advised that, based on the Board's instructions last month, he has contracted with Glacial Energy for the purchase of electricity. There was insufficient time to meet the July 10<sup>th</sup> deadline for purchasing power in the next cycle. The August 10<sup>th</sup> reading will be priced under the new contract. It was noted that the penalties for exiting the previous contract would be less. Mr. Larkowski noted that he anticipated the savings at approximately \$4,000 to \$5,000. The price savings per kilowatt hour is substantial but, the penalties estimated at \$19,000 are going to impact that savings significantly.

#### ***Review completion of Old Bass River Tank painting and maintenance project and review next phase of Tank Power Washing and Maintenance Project***

The Superintendent advised that there is just some very minor work left. The original estimate for the cost of painting the outside of the Old Bass River Tank was \$185,000 plus an additional \$27,000 for inspectional services while the project was undertaken. He estimated the final costs of all of the in-house work, including the cleaning and repairs on the inside as well as repairs to tank bolts, lighting and electrical wiring and vent cover, to be \$70,000. He expressed appreciation to the staff that did the work. He further noted that the Route 28 tank will need considerable work. The last time the tank was painted

was in 2001 and there were considerable difficulties with wrapping the tank for containment. He originally thought that some power tooling and touch up painting would be sufficient. Upon further inspection, he believes that it will require additional work. He anticipates doing the work the following fall.

### ***Review of Depot Street Transmission Main Project***

The Superintendent advised that he anticipates beginning the transmission main project on Depot Street after Labor Day. He described the need for eliminating the bottle neck of water in trying to distribute water to Dennisport. By commencing the project this fall, he could coordinate the work with the Town due to the reconstruction of Upper County and Route 28 bridges. Phase I was funded at the Annual District Meeting at \$450,000. Depot Street will require 5,000 feet of 12" water main to be installed. The project will take approximately two months and will require closing the road to general traffic.

He further noted that the getting water from Eagle Pond Nursing home to Great Western will involve acquiring water main easements across four parcels. There is one of unknown owners, one owned by the Town of Dennis as well as two others owned by private individuals. He invited the Board members to view the proposed route of the transmission main on a sketch plan in the office.

### ***General overview of the District's water production and distribution system infrastructure and operational systems***

Mr. Larkowski reviewed some of the items that are being worked on by staff. The replacement of standby engines with generators will be complete with the installation of two that were authorized for purchase at the April meeting. He described for the Board a program called Demand Response. The program was initiated by ISO New England. It contracts with high-demand users that have the capacity to generate their own power and thereby disengage from the grid and produce their own power when called to do so. The intention is to initiate the Demand Response program instead of having rolling brown-outs. He anticipates the District will receive approximately \$8,000 for participating. He noted that the receipt of these funds will help off-set the cost for contractual maintenance of the generators and will be shown in the next budget cycle.

SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) radios are used to communicate between the main station and all pumping, chemical feed stations and the treatment plants. The system used to be based on phone lines. The radio antennas are mounted on a 10 foot mast on the roofs. However, tree growth is causing a problem with communications and it will only get worse. Mr. Larkowski is working on a plan proposal to purchase 60-foot poles to mount the antennas on at the facilities. They are about \$3,000 each installed.

KOH tanks are being replaced over a three year plan. The last two are to be installed this year. They are being replaced as the tanks drain down over the next couple of months.

Mr. Larkowski anticipates that, although July may be a record month for pumping, the entire year will be within the permitted amount of 1.189 billion gallons.

Lastly, even though the ground water levels in the District wells are about average for this time of the years, two wells are being impacted because of clogged screens. Wells 15, 8 and 11 will need to be cleaned. Funds are available. Well 15 is within 3 feet of the screen when being pumped. It cannot be pumped at 700 gallons per minutes or it would pump the water down to the screen. Most are impacted by high iron except for Well 8 which is high in manganese. They will be done in the fall. Production evaluations are done in the spring to anticipate which wells will need work the following fall. The wells are cleaned by taking the pump out and breaking down the buildup of iron with acid. The well is then surged to break up the material. A new pump is installed and the well is pumped to waste until all of the debris is removed. Or, there is a new method which uses CO<sup>2</sup>. The well is plugged, pumped with CO<sup>2</sup> and then mechanically surged with a temporary pump to break up the iron. The well is then pumped to waste to remove the dislodged debris. Generally, \$80,000 is appropriated annually for cleaning and pumps repairs. Pumps are replaced on a 10-year cycle.

Mr. Larkowski noted that while there is not a lot of new service work, there are a lot of renewals and relocations. He also noted that there is a two-inch line servicing about 15 homes in West Dennis that needs to be replaced as part of the Water Rehabilitation program.

Mr. Crowell has noticed fire hydrants having been recently painted. Mr. Larkowski noted that one person can do about 20 hydrants per day. As many hydrants are painted as possible on an annual basis. It is about a four-year cycle.

***Minutes: 1/27/11, 8/25/11, 9/22/11***

***On a motion made by Charles F. Crowell, and duly seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to accept the minutes of January 27, 2011 as printed.***

***On a motion made by Charles F. Crowell, and duly seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to accept the minutes of August 25, 2011 as corrected.***

Having just been presented to the Board this evening, the minutes of September 22, 2011, were deferred to the next meeting.

***On a motion made Peter L. McDowell, and duly seconded, the Board UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 PM.***

Respectfully submitted,

Sheryl A McMahon, Clerk