

Central Plymouth County Water District Commission

Minutes of Wednesday September 1, 2021, ZOOM EMERGENCY Meeting

The meeting took place via Zoom video/teleconference due to current COVID-19 social distancing recommendations issued by Governor Charles Baker.

Due to the impending rain from Tropical Storm IDA, an emergency ZOOM meeting was held as the Chair deems this an issue of immediate concern and potential danger. The ZOOM meeting was live broadcast on the County Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/PlymouthCountyMA> for public viewing and remains on the website.

Quorum was reached with three Commissioners voting in affirmative, roll call vote: Commissioner O'Leary – yes, Commissioner Sotir – yes, and Chair Zygmunt – yes. Three in the affirmative, the meeting began at 1:32 PM. The meeting was recorded.

Meeting attendees identified were Jonathan Hobill of the MA Dept of Environmental Protection, Pine duBois of Jones River Watershed Association, and Patrick Hill, interim DPW Director for the City of Brockton joined around 1:45 PM. Frank Basler, Plymouth County Administrator, attended and took minutes.

The Chair then asked Mr. Hobill to update the group on the situation. Mr. Hobill began by recognizing the following language from the state statute concerning the CPCWDC. "During the months of June through September, inclusive, no flow may be diverted, from said ponds except when, in the opinion of said commission, an emergency exists due to imminent flooding. At such times of emergency, for the purpose of preventing flooding and damage to property in the vicinity of said pond, the commission may, subject to the approval of the department of public health, authorize the diversion of excess waters at stated times during said months but, in no case, may the ponds be drawn down below the minimum elevations established in this section." During the last few decades, the Commonwealth has moved the "approval of the department of public health" to the Department of Environmental Protection.

Mr. Hobill then stated the Halifax Town Administrator requested that the Monponsett Ponds be lowered to minimize the potential for flooding from the rain. Mr. Hobill brought this request to the Commissioners as they need DEP approval along with their approval to complete the diversion.

The Commissioners discussed the pros and cons of the diversion. A question on the Stump Brook sluice gate and its operational ability was discussed. There was concern about the ability of Stump Brook to accept the increased flow. Also, there was concern about what nutrients might be added to Silver Lake due to the diversion. Ms. duBois stated that the increased water to Silver Lake could have a beneficial effect on the migration of spawning fish back to the ocean. Ms. duBois asked if water samples could be taken at the diversion site during the diversion. Mr. Hill stated he would investigate the idea.

The Commissioners agreed that maintenance to the sluice gate was a big miss on the Monponsett Pond Resource Plan that was recently completed by the City of Brockton.

Commissioner O'Leary moved to approve and authorize Brockton to allow a 50% diversion, for this storm only, from Monponsett Pond into Silver Lake for the amount of water to minimize potential flooding and at the same time keep the Stump Brook fish ladder full open at 15". Seconded by Chari Zygmunt. Roll call vote: Commissioner O'Leary – yes, Commissioner Sotir – abstain, and Chair Zygmunt – yes. Motion passes 2-0-1.

Mr. Hobill stated that the DEP approves of the action of the CPCWDC for diversion to Silver Lake. Brockton should start at 50% diversions per the Monponsett ACO and adjust as necessary to minimize potential flooding. Brockton is authorized to divert over 50% if necessary. Mr. Hill stated the City of Brockton would be fine with diverting water to Silver Lake and keeping the water flowing through the fish ladder to Stump Brook.

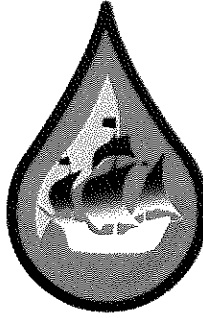
The Chair would like to see maintenance of the sluice gate at Stump Brook added to future discussions with the City of Brockton.

Meeting adjourned at 1:25 P.M.

Submitted by Frank Basler

**CENTRAL PLYMOUTH COUNTY
WATER DISTRICT COMMISSION**

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NOTICE OF EMERGENCY MEETING

DATE & TIME: Wednesday, September 1, 2021, 1:30 PM

MEETING LOCATION: Zoom video/Teleconference

This emergency meeting is due to the impending rain from Tropical Storm Ida.

The meeting will be live broadcast on the County Facebook page
<https://www.facebook.com/PlymouthCountyMA> for public viewing.

Topic: CPCWDC Advisory Board Emergency ZOOM Meeting

Time: Sep 1, 2021, 1:30 PM

AGENDA

Meeting opening

Discussion and Vote- Monponsett Pond diversion to Silver Lake

Adjourn

Posted on Wednesday, September 1, 2021, at 1:15 PM on the County web site at www.plymouthcountyma.gov