

Central Plymouth County Water District Commission

Minutes of August 5, 2020 Meeting

The meeting took place at GAR Hall in Brockton City Hall, 45 School Street, Brockton, MA and via Zoom video/teleconference due to current COVID-19 social distancing recommendations issued by Governor Charles Baker. Also, the meeting was shown live on Brockton Access Cable. Participants attending the meeting were Central Plymouth County Water District Commission Chair Joanne Zygmunt, Commissioner Jack O'Leary (via Zoom), Commissioner Mark Sotir, Mayor Robert Sullivan – Mayor of the City of Brockton, Shirley Asack – City of Brockton Council President, Lawrence Rowley – Commissioner of the Brockton DPW, Susan Nicastro Brockton City Ward 4 Representative, Al DeGirolamo – Legislative Aid for MA Senator Michael Brady, Mary Waldron – Executive Director of the Old Colony Planning Council (OCPC), Pine DuBois – Executive Director of the Jones River Watershed Association, and Plymouth County Administrator Frank Basler.

Chair Zygmunt opened the meeting at 6:08 P.M. with comments and the guidelines for the meeting.

Commissioner Mark Sotir led the meeting through the attached slides. Key points included:

- The Commissioners believe that working together as a district (the six towns and the city of Brockton) will lead to long term improvements and will benefit all with better water supplies;
- Problems that need to be solved collaboratively include: increasing flow to the Jones River, Herring Brook, and Stump Brook for fish passage and improved quality; preventing deteriorating water quality at Silver Lake; improving water quality at Monponsett Pond; establishing innovative, science based, good management practices for Monponsett and Furnace Ponds and Silver Lake; and finding/developing additional water supplies for Brockton
- 75% of the water that is used by the City of Brockton comes from the diversions of Monponsett Pond and Furnace Pond
- Alternative solutions should be identified to secure freshwater for residents and the region, improve fisheries and local economies, and improve eco-systems.

Chair Zygmunt then opened the meeting for comments from the attending group.

Mr. Rowley stated that CDM Smith is developing a comprehensive resource management plan that will address the flow rate from the ponds. He also stated the communications between the City and the Commissioners of CPCWDC has improved considerably. The plan has been in the works for several years due to looking into multi seasonal flow rates over multiple years. This plan will be shared with the Commissioners when completed.

Mayor Robert Sullivan welcomed all to the meeting at Brockton City Hall. He stated that water is a vital asset for all and needs to be protected for future generations. The Mayor stated that the Commissioners have an open-door policy to him in order to help all in the City and the District.

Ms. Asack thanked all for the collaboration that drove this meeting. She also stated that sharing communication and working together is key.

Mr. DiGirolamo stated that Senator Brady was not able to attend due to another commitment but has been a big supporter of the charge of the CPCWDC as he represents six of the eight communities in this District. Senator Brady has led the drive for the earmarks that have helped fund the projects and goals of the CPCWDC. Senator Brady is very committed to the goals of the District.

Ms. Waldron stated that economic development is key, and water is a foundational resource. Ms. Waldron stated that OCPC will assist with resources and assistance to help improve the District.

Ms. Dubois stated that this is bigger than just the District as it impacts the entire region. She stated that all is connected and that the current management plan can lead to long term damage to the system. There are really good affordable solutions that can be done that can make Brockton more exceptional and protect the long-term interest of the District.

Chair Zygmunt then recognized Commissioner O'Leary to speak. He reiterated that water resources are a critical asset around the world. Also, that this is a opportunity as a teaching moment with District high schools.

Mayor Sullivan asked more about the Pleasant Street well fields in Hanson. The wells could utilize manganese treatment plants to produce quality water for Brockton. The viability of this idea will be further investigated. Mr. Rowley and the Mayor will discuss this idea.

Chair Zygmunt stated the best water programs not only look at the resources but also water demand management. Water is not an unlimited resource and there is an equity issue among towns that have water restrictions, but Brockton does not.

Mr. Rowley stated that the City uses between 9 to 10 million gallons a day and currently Silver Lake is down 26". He stated that below 7 million gallons a day causes issues with the pumps at the plant. Mr. Rowley will check to see when the CDM Smith report is due.

Commissioner Sotir asked if there should be an agreement to keep the discussion moving ahead with all attending. All agreed that water will remain an important discussion between the groups.

Commissioner Sotir moved to approve the minutes of July 7, 2020. Seconded by Commissioner O'Leary. Roll call vote: O'Leary – yes, Sotir – yes, and Zygmunt – yes. Motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Basler stated that the Finance Report had no new entries since the July 7 meeting. The June 30, 2020 bank balance was \$489,220.31.

The Commissioners then discussed the CPCWDC brochure invoice from Source4 for \$255. Commissioner Sotir moved to approve the invoice. Seconded by Commissioner O'Leary. Roll call vote: O'Leary – yes, Sotir – yes, and Zygmunt – yes. Motion passes unanimously. Once the invoice is paid, 1,000 copies will be printed and distributed to the district's towns. The Chair and Mr. Basler will work on distributing the packets.

Mr. DiGirolamo said that after looking into the funding mechanisms of statutorily created commissions, most accept grants to assist in their charge. He stated that he will do additional research on the question and report back next meeting.

Ms. Dubois stated that Department of Fish and Wildlife is working to complete the preliminary engineering at the fish ladder at Forge Pond. She will give an update at the next meeting.

Next meeting of the CPCWDC will be Wednesday, September 9 at 6 PM. At Halifax auditorium. On the agenda is the hydro dredge and the focusing of the priorities of the Commissioners.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted by,
Frank Basler, Plymouth County Administrator

Handouts: CPCWDC slides, Source4 invoice