

## **Central Plymouth County Water District Commission**

### **Minutes of Wednesday December 9, 2020 Meeting**

The meeting took place via Zoom video/teleconference due to current COVID-19 social distancing recommendations issued by Governor Charles Baker. Participants attending the meeting were Central Plymouth County Water District Commission Chair Joanne Zygmunt, Commissioner Jack O'Leary, and Commissioner Mark Sotir.

Also, in attendance were Pine duBois and James Garner from the Jones River Watershed Association, Justin Evans from Whitman, and Brad Chase from the Division of Marine Fisheries of Massachusetts.

With three Commissioners voted in affirmative quorum was reached and the meeting began.

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 P.M.

Commissioner O'Leary moved to approve the minutes of October 14, 2020. Seconded by Commissioner Sotir. Roll call vote: Commissioner Sotir – yes, Commissioner O'Leary – yes, and Chair Zygmunt – yes. Motion passes unanimously.

Frank Basler gave an overview of the Finance Report as of November 30, 2020. The November 30, 2020 bank balance was \$486,283.41.

Advisory Committee appointments were discussed by the Commissioners. The below list is the confirmed appointees from each town. Mayor Sullivan will confirm the Brockton appointees and communicate to Chair Zygmunt. Nancy O'Rourke will set up an Advisory mtg in mid-January for re-organization of leadership and to vote and confirm the CPCWDC Commissioner for the next term. Commissioner Zygmunt was appointed in March 2018, Commissioner O'Leary was appointed on February 4, 2019, and Commissioner Sotir was appointed on February 24, 2020. Therefore, Chair Zygmunt's seat is the position that will be voted upon in January 2021. Chair Zygmunt is interested in extending her appointment.

- James Bragg, Brockton
- Thomas Monahan, City Councilor, Brockton
- Jason Trepanier, Water Superintendent, East Bridgewater
- Peter Veneto, Halifax
- Donald Howard, Water Commissioner, Hanson
- Sheila Vaughn, Selectman, Kingston
- Willard Boulter, Pembroke
- Carly Spencer, Plympton
- Justin Evans, Selectman, Whitman

The Chair is meeting with Mayor Sullivan next week and will also meet with Council President Asack on December 21 with the Brockton City Council.

The Commissioners discussed the new CPCWDC brochure. An order was placed for 500 brochures and are due in by mid-December. Frank will also source 15 acrylic brochure holders that will be used in each Town Hall. The County office will mail brochures to the CPCWDC Commissioners when they come in. The brochures will be mailed to the legislative delegation and delivered to each of the member town hall by the County. Councilor Nicastro will hand out the brochures at a Brockton City Council meeting when Chair Zygmunt meets with them.

The Commissioners then discussed the Hydro Dredge. Pine duBois, James Garner, and Brad Chase were online to discuss the project. Mr. Chase shared the Division of Marine Fisheries (DMF) would propose two options: one in which the DMF operates under a Memorandum of Agreement and is a partner in the process of operating the hydro dredge, and the other in which the DMF would have an MOA to receive the equipment as a primary custodian and conduct all annual O&M and storage. DMF management favors being the primary custodian. However, the details of a mutually beneficial agreement will be important for both DMF and the CPCWDC. DMF operation projects would involve regionally important diadromous fish habitats and passage improvements, some capability to use the equipment outside of the Commission's region, and agreement that project proponents (mainly Towns) would be responsible for individual project permits.

The dredge hydraulic pump is important for moving sand but will need some assistance (davit/claw) for rooted plants on the rig. The 4" machine sounds like it would take care of the projects. There is a need for an outboard engine for the barge. Also, Mr. Chase said that the DMF can customize the dredge with a hydraulic arm. The bow will need to be reinforced for supporting the piece of equipment. Mr. Garner stated the 6" is much more powerful machine as it is diesel not gas (4" is a gas dredge). The largest is faster and can lift bottles etc. on the bottom of the stream. There are several projects that will be able to use the dredge. The larger dredge might need a dedicated team. The Chair asked if there are other partners that should be contacted. Frank said the County excavator tractor can be utilized for larger projects. Comm O'Leary asked about the potential for unintended environmental damage with the dredge and Ms. duBois said that research shows that there should be no damage.

Commissioner O'Leary will work with Mr. Chase to finalize program details and bring it back to the Commissioners for a vote. The Chair said up to \$100,000 could be used for the dredge program.

The Chair then discussed using a consultant to assist with creating specs for a water quality analysis RFP. She recommended Kimberly Groff (bio in the next paragraph), with EPA and DEP background, who has a water quality background and would be interested in developing a project scope for the project and can craft an RFP. The Chair suggested asking Ms. Groff for a formal quote for the project. The Commissioners discussed different ideas about using on shelf proposals verse hiring a consultant. The Chair talked about how important getting the appropriate data and testing protocols is critical to the credibility of the work. The consultant expense should be under \$10,000 in total. Motion by Commissioner O'Leary, seconded by Commissioner Sotir, to direct the Chair to negotiate favorable terms with Ms. Groff to develop a scope of work for a water quality monitoring program and then to have Ms. Groff come before the next Commissioners meeting. Roll call vote: Commissioner Sotir – yes, Commissioner O'Leary – yes, and Chair Zygmunt – yes. Motion passes unanimously.

Kimberly Groff Consulting - Kimberly Groff, PH. D, has dedicated her 30 plus year career to advancing water quality at a project, state (Massachusetts) and regional (regional) scale. In her most recent role she served Director of the Watershed Planning Program, Division of Watershed Management with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) where she managed water policy development, Surface Water Quality Standards, ambient surface water monitoring, water quality assessment, the development of total maximum daily loads (TMDLs) and the creation of watershed plans to restore and protect water quality. While with MassDEP she earned a reputation as a strategic thinker and agent of change for improved water quality. Prior to joining MassDEP in 2009, Kimberly worked for 2 decades as a water resources engineer at AMEC Earth and Environmental, Hydro Analysis and ENSR (now AECOM), and provided assistance to a wide variety of clients and industries (e.g., energy, consumer products manufacturing, plastics, textile, pharmaceuticals, pulp and paper, transportation, academic institutions) as well as state and federal agencies. Kimberly earned her Doctorate Degree from Georgia Institute of Technology School of Civil and Environmental Engineering. She resides in Marblehead, Massachusetts and is an avid sailor.

