



Water System Advisory Committee Meeting

January 7, 2015 @ 7 pm

Mansfield Town Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Meg Reich, Willimantic River Alliance
Art Hall, Coventry
Robert Miller, Eastern Highlands Health District
Gene Koss, Tolland
Thomas Callahan, University of Connecticut
Joan Buck, Mansfield Conservation Commission
John McGuire, Mansfield EDC
Mary Ellen Kowalewski, CRCOG
Diana Perkins, Windham
Shawn Santasiere, Mansfield Sustainability Committee

ADDITIONAL STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Matt Hart, Mansfield Town Manager; David Radka, Connecticut Water Company; Dan Meaney, Connecticut Water; Dan Lesnieski, Connecticut Water; Pete Pezanko, Connecticut Water; and Jason Coite, UConn.

Welcome and Introductions: The meeting was called to order at 7:04 pm by David Radka of Connecticut Water Company. Committee members introduced themselves for the benefit of Shawn Santasiere, who was participating for the first time.

Minutes of October 1, 2014: Approval of the October 1, 2014 Committee meeting minutes was added to the agenda. Following discussion on suggested revisions, the minutes were approved, as revised.

WSAC Organizational Matters: After noting that Mansfield now had its full representation on the Committee, Matt Hart recommended that John McGuire serve as Chair, whereupon McGuire's nomination was moved by Meg Reich and seconded by Joan Buck. Buck nominated Meg Reich for Vice Chair, which was seconded by McGuire. There being no further

nominations, Radka closed the nominations for Chair and Vice Chair and both motions carried unanimously.

Following the election of officers, Radka turned the meeting over to McGuire.

Water Supply Project Status: Radka provided an update on DEEP's Notice of Tentative Determination (NTD) on the diversion permit, which was issued December 16, 2014. Highlights included an overview of the draft authorized activity; draft permit conditions; and timeframe and process for submitting comments to DEEP. Reich noted she had circulated the NTD and draft permit to members of the Willimantic River Alliance and had not received any feedback to date.

Radka also provided an update on other permits necessary for the project, including a DEEP stormwater discharge permit for construction activities (received), and DPH Sale of Excess Water permit for the sale of water to UConn (pending). Dan Lesnieski, CWC, then described the pipeline route and planned phasing of the various pipeline segments. In response to questions, Lesnieski indicated:

- His priority is to complete construction in the Four Corners area to avoid conflicts with the Town sewer project;
- A meeting with DOT is in the process of being scheduled and CWC hopes to be able to initiate construction within the next few months;
- Construction will be both on and off-road, but contained within the right-of-way; and
- A fire hydrant in Coventry at Jones Crossing would likely be considered consistent with the project review and conditions regarding to connections to the pipeline.

In response to a follow-up question concerning fire hydrants in the Four Corners area, Lesnieski described the hydrant siting process, which typically uses 1,000 foot spacing between units, but is ultimately determined by the local Fire Marshall.

Updates on Related Activities in Member Communities/Organizations: Matt Hart gave an update on the Four Corners sewer district project, indicating:

- The measure passed a town-wide referendum;
- Weston & Sampson were nearing completion on the design phase;
- Details regarding the force main tie-in with the UConn system were being finalized; and
- Because a portion of the funding comes from a DEEP grant, DEEP has determined that CEPA applies, but whether DEEP will require an EIE has yet to be determined and a public Scoping notice will be published and a public meeting will be held to that end.

Hart also noted that if DEEP determines that an EIE is required, the sewer project's anticipated completion date of December 2016 would likely need to be adjusted.

No other updates were provided, however, Shawn Santasiere conveyed the Mansfield Sustainability Committee's recommendation that CWC consider installing the pipeline off-pavement to facilitate the installation of pedestrian and/or bicycle lanes along Storrs Road from the Four Corners to the University.. Lesnieski and Radka indicated CWC was sympathetic

to the request and had looked for opportunities to do so, but site conditions constrained the installation largely to already paved or shoulder areas.

Future Meeting Dates and Locations: Committee members agreed to keep the April 1, 2015 meeting date, but move the July meeting to June 24, 2014 and include a meeting on October 7, 2015. Buck recommended that future meetings be moved to member towns as a courtesy. Committee members agreed to check on the availability of meeting space within their communities.

Other Business: Dan Meaney, CWC, showed a brief PowerPoint of CWC's planned communication plan for the pipeline construction. The plan would utilize CWC's website and social media to convey timely and relevant information to residents, commuters and others regarding the status of construction, traffic delays, etc. Suggestions were made to convey key information by also using local radio stations and roadside signs, the latter requiring DOT approval. Ideas were discussed for publicizing the availability of the communication plan elements throughout Mansfield and area communities at the appropriate time, including through the use of tax bill and other mailings.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:02 pm.