

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

Re: Drinking Water Quality Management Plan

A Source Water Protection Meeting for the establishment of a Drinking Water Quality Management Plan was held at the Groton Utilities Operations Complex Julio H. Leandri Administration Building Conference Room on January 17, 2008 at 9:30am.

- Present were:
 - Jerry Iwan DPUC
 - Jeff Butensky EPA
 - Jeanine Bonin Vice President Milone & MacBroom
 - Dave Murphy Milone & MacBroom
 - Al Dion Groton Utilities
 - Rick Stevens Groton Utilities
 - Karl Acimovic Consultant, Groton Utilities
 - Ron Bata Groton Utilities
 - Greg Leonard SCWA
 - Edward Monahan Vice Chair SCWA
 - Deb Jones Town of Groton Planning
 - Tom Wagner Waterford Planning
 - Mike Schaefer Norwich Planning
 - Marcia Vlaun Montville Planning
 - Kathy Warzecha Preston Planning
 - Ryan McCannon Ledge Light Health District
 - Patricia Bresnahan UCONN
 - Joan Smith Groton Open Space Association
 - Sidney VanZandt Groton Open Space Association
 - Zell Steever Groton Resident

Items of discussion:

Al Dion Comment:

- Welcome everyone to the 2008 meeting.
- Introductions around the room.
- Briefly discussed the Town of Ledyard at the moment opting out of the Plan.
 - Al is working on educating Mayor Allyn on DWQMP and is hopeful once he understands region's needs it will bring Town of Ledyard back to the table.
- Briefly discussed Sally Harold working on the Saugatuck Project and GU issuing correspondence concerning the DWQMP.

Sidney VanZandt:

- Requested copy of letter to entire Committee.

Al Dion Comment:

- Update on the Consultant Procurement Selection Subcommittee.
 - Hired Geolnsight, Inc. as a consultant to assist Subcommittee in keeping on track and on a short timeline.
 - With the Subcommittee, Geolnsight wrote a RFQ and it was distributed via Internet, mailing and Hartford Courant.
 - From the distribution we received five (5) RFQ Submittals.
 - CADMUS Group did not meet all the requirements and was not included in the interview process.
 - Interviews were conducted:
 - Each Group was given time to do a presentation and a question / answer section completed.
 - A point system was used to score each Group for a fair selection.
 - Milone and MacBroom was selected to represent the DWQMP.
- Expecting the State Funding of \$200,000 at any time.
- All items are in place for the consultant selection to be passed by the:
 - Utility Commission at the meeting schedule for January 23rd, and
 - City Council at the meeting on February 4th.

Jerry Iwan Comment:

- Contract is in last stages of review and then will be released to GU.

Bob Congdon Comment:

- Congratulations to the Consultant Procurement Selection Committee for their hard work and their selection of Milone & MacBroom.
 - Milone and MacBroom guided region through SCWA process.
 - Assisted SE Connecticut with Emergency Preparedness for Thames River Interconnection.
 - Wrote the Storm Water Planning Document.

Al Dion Comment:

- Selection was tough.
- Two (2) groups stood above the others and of those two Milone & MacBroom were selected.
- Asked Mike Schaefer of Norwich to offer comments.

Mike Schaefer Comment:

- All went well for the selection.
- Close scoring among the groups.

- Looked at all qualified groups through a fair process.
- All regions with the exception of Ledyard were represented.
- Believe we made the correct selection of Milone & MacBroom.

Jeanine Bonin Comment:

- Very prepared panel.
- Questions were well thought and prepared.
- Very concise at what and where we are expected to go with the DWQMP.

Marcia Vlaun Comment:

- Rigorous interview process.
- Firms were all asked relatively same questions.
- Numerical rating system based upon:
 - Presentation
 - Content
 - Question / Answers

Al Dion Comment:

- Welcome to Jeanine Bonin and Dave Murphy of Milone and MacBroom, whom we will be working closely with to meet our timeline for getting the Plan to the State Legislation.

Al Dion Comment:

- Currently watershed is at 74% impoundage.
- Rick and staff have been doing an excellent job.
- Presentation of Community DWQMP Phase I – III
- Explained each section of the handout.
 - Phase I was the conception of the Plan getting all the members together and matching up Subcommittees to best get information and communications together to bring consultant onboard.
 - Phase II is our current process of getting together the Advisory Committee, the Administration Group and Consultant.
 - Phase III will be the deliverables to the Legislation and then on to the Implementation of the Guidance Document.
- Key Focuses during this process will be the continuing need to keep open communications between all the communities, the Advisory Committee, the Subcommittees, the Administration Group, the Consultant and all other work groups as needed.

Open Discussion Concerning Phase Document.

Jerry Iwan Comment:

- Phase I is Where We Came From and Began
- Phase II is Where We Are Now
- Phase III is the Future, not too distant of a future to meet timeline.

Al Dion Comment:

- Please do not feel as though the Plan is placing issues on the communities, it is intended to be a Community-Based Plan, not to restrict community development or place unwarranted guidelines.
 - This may be Ledyard's thought process.

Joan Smith Comment:

- Question to Al of why he believes Ledyard has left the DWQMP process.

Al Dion Comment:

- Since most of the watershed is within their community, Ledyard felt as though they would build a Plan and we would continue adding to their Plan.
- To Ledyard it feels as though the Plan will restrict them and place unwarranted guidelines upon their stakeholders trying to develop.
- It has appeared that their number one goal is treatment of water from the watershed.
 - We are planning guidelines that protect run off to the water.
 - After a time it would be at a great cost if we only looked at water treatment after it enters the system to provide to the customer.
- The Plan does not mean landowners cannot develop their land; it assists communities in placing guidelines for all to follow aiding in the protection of the watershed.
- It is not targeted against any one community.
 - Community-Based is the goal.

Sidney VanZandt Comment:

- All of us including Ledyard must understand that the quality of water not only effects drinking water that we all use to live, but effects more than just consumptive life, effects:
 - Business
 - Industry
 - Ecosystem, etc.
 - The list can go on and on.

Zell Steever Comment:

- Crucial to get Ledyard back onboard and at the table.

- They are the largest community with major contact to the water within the watershed.
- The Committee should look water being transferred from one watershed to another and then returning to the watershed as sewage or run off, etc.
- Land acquisition is still the number one answer to all issues.

Al Dion Comment:

- Groton Utilities has been looking at some acquisition.
- It would be much too costly to think that is our number one priority.
- We have been looking at:
 - The Porter Property.
 - A section on Sandy Hollow Road
 - A section of Haley Brook.

Zell Steever Comment:

- Understand it is hard and costly but it is easier to protect water when land is owned and able to control all development of property.

Jerry Iwan Comment:

- We have to move forward, while land acquisition is an option it is not entirely realistic that a utility company has the funds to acquire all land surrounding its water. With that being said, the advocacy of our Plan and Process is very good.
 - We must rely on our Advisory Committee and Administration Group and the common sense that each community will not abuse the system and will bring their issues and items to the table. Then we can get a consensus and move forward with our process.

Al Dion Comment:

- We have looked at the process all along and tried to ensure it is Community-Based and not Regulator-Based.
- Al is confident that if we all keep communications open and understand the need of the communities that there will not be issues that come up we cannot face together and come to an agreement.
- We are going to have bumps in the road, we are not actually sure of the outcome of our Plan and our process; remember we are writing a guidance document to build upon. The implementation stage will bring more and more issues.

Joan Smith Comment

- Is it possible we can see in the future or use this process to see State Regulatory items updated?

Jerry Iwan Comment:

- There is a thought of enabling legislation. This would allow communities to place their own further restrictions upon their system.

Mike Schaefer Comment:

- This legislation could also work the other direction and allow communities to lessen restrictions as well.
- More state regulatory guidelines and restrictions is not the answer we are searching for. In Mike's if we as a DWQMP Committee go in search of more state regulatory issues and restrictions, more communities will pull away from the table.

Marcia Vlaun Comment:

- The state does not have the funds, time or manpower to mandate more restrictions and enforce compliance.
- Hopefully common sense will prevail and come to the table.
- She agrees with Mike adding more state mandated restrictions or more intense regulations to a process that is already in question in many communities and towns will result in more towns backing away from our Plan.
- Most towns regulate their own development now.
 - If Town Regulations are not stringent enough to meet development issues, then the Town should change their own regulations.
 - But, if you try and go above the town's regulations for state mandated regulations and restrictions you are adding more restrictions and items to procedures that are already not working or being enforced.
- We have more groups out there our process has not even began speaking with to get all opinions needed to have a Community-Based Plan. There are major groups in this area not at the table, for example:
 - Mohegan
 - Submarine Base
 - Chamber of Commerce

Al Dion Comment:

- Would like to give Jeanine a chance to share items with the committee.

Jeanine Bonin Comment:

- There will be two tracks:
 - Work schedule which includes:

- Municipalities
- Stakeholders
- State and Local Governments
- Chamber of Commerce
- And others.
- Information Circulation:
 - Web Page
 - Public Meetings
 - Notifications
- To accomplish this Milone & MacBroom will use all their staff and seek people in communities that are best fit to assist.
- Have work meetings such as this with the entire committee and work meetings with the Administration Group.

Al Dion Comment:

- Can we agree with the Phase Document of Phase I being establishment, Phase II of present and Phase III being future Guidance Document and deliverables? This will allow someone coming into the process to understand where we are in the process now.

Rick Stevens Comment:

- We are in Phase II now document is already in motion.

Zell Steever Comment:

- Only problem with the document is in Phase I Groton Utilities is turning over to the community the process of protecting a commodity that Groton Utilities or the municipality has the responsibility to perform.

Jerry Iwan Comment:

- When appropriate people will come to the table with experience, leadership and common sense will prevail. The Phases are well written and will work.

Marcia Vlaun Comment:

- Lets acknowledge, we are at Phase II.
- The Consultant is onboard.
- Phase I is complete.
- Lets move past this, the document is already a matter of record.

Al Dion Comment:

- Would like Jeanine to explain where we go from now moving forward in the process.

Jeanine Bonin Comment:

- Described who will be working on the project.
- Firm organization and who the key players will be.
- Project Scope Elements:
 - Four (4) major tasks to ensure success:
 1. Data Collection and Analysis
 2. Meetings and Interviews
 3. Management Strategies
 4. Deliverables
 - Two (2) major documents:
 1. Region DWQMP
 2. Model for the State
 - Items to assist:
 1. Monthly meetings with Advisory Committee to provide updates.
 2. Monthly meetings with Administration Group to act upon updates and information from the Advisory Committee.
 3. Build a strategic schedule.
 4. Public / Committee input is critical.

Al Dion Comment:

- Public awareness is critical.
 - Notification for meetings.
- Would like in the future to move meetings to different communities.
- Use of our web page.
- Discussed the pressures that exist for recreational use of the watershed and open access.

Marcia Vlaun Comment:

- Need to use the Norwich Bulletin or The Day as well as the web page to publicize meetings.
 - There is more distribution in the local newspapers than on the internet.

Jeanine Bonin Comment:

- Each utility should look into bill stuffers.

Jerry Iwan:

- It is time to begin looking into more press releases. It has been a year or more since the Committee name has been in a release.

- Press releases will get the attention of the public.

Marcia Vlaun Comment:

- Ensure you meet with the Editorial Boards. They have the most gain from the press.

Al Dion Comment:

- We have come to the point in the process where we must cut back on the Advisory Committee.
- The plan would be to have one lead member from each core group that is on the Phase Plan who speaks at meetings.
- We just do not have the time for many members to speak out their opinions at the meetings.
- Not to say that more than just the lead member can attend the meetings but only one will be speaking.
- Each core group must decide who will be their primary speaker.

Subcommittee Updates:

Communications: Rick Stevens

- Model Plan developed and in Draft.
- Working with Atlantic State Rural on Web Site Page.

Land Information: Marcia Vlaun

- Data acquisition is available.
- SSCOG library report is available.
- CERC population document.

GIS: Karl Acimovic

- SSCOG building GIS Library.
- Meetings with Milone & MacBroom and their GIS.

Open Discussion of other Groups needed at the table:

- Chamber of Commerce
- Home Builder
- Affordable Housing
- Community Economic Commission
- Community Planning Commission
- Norwich Public Utilities
- SCWA
- Mohegan
- Submarine Base

Al Dion Comment:

- Ron will send out an email when we discuss with Jeanine of meeting schedules.

Meeting adjourned.