



REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Regional Drinking Water Quality Management Plan Groton, Ledyard, Preston, North Stonington, Norwich, Montville, and Waterford Thursday, March 20, 2008

A meeting of the DWQMP Advisory Committee was held on March 20, 2008 at the Groton Utilities Operations Complex Julio H. Leandri Administration Building Conference Room. The meeting was facilitated by Jeanine Armstrong Bonin, P.E., Vice President of Milone & MacBroom, Inc. (MMI). Also present from MMI was Nicolle Burnham, P.E. The following members were in attendance:

Administration Group Members	Representing		Guests Present
Al Dion	PRI – Groton Utilities	X	Karl Acimovic
Rick Stevens	ALT – Groton Utilities	X	Joyce Brown, GU
Mike Murphy	PRI – Town of Groton		Ronald Bata, GU
Deborah Jones	ALT – Town of Groton	X	Jennifer Pagach, DPH
Mayor Fred Allyn	PRI – Town of Ledyard	X	Pat Bresnahan, UCONN
Mike Cherry	ALT – Town of Ledyard		
Marsha Vlaun	PRI – Town of Montville	X	
Tom Wagner	PRI – Town of Waterford	X	
Neftali Soto	ALT – Town of Waterford		
Mike Schaefer	PRI – City of Norwich	X	
John Bilda	ALT – City of Norwich		
Kathy Warzecha	PRI – Town of Preston		
1 st Selectman Robert Congdon	ALT – Town of Preston		
1 st Selectman Nicholas Mullane	PRI – Town of N. Stonington		
Gerald Iwan	PRI – Regulatory	X	
Lori Mathieu	ALT – Regulatory		
Advisory Group Members	Stakeholder Group Representation		
Gregory Leonard	PRI – Water Utilities	X	
Ed Monahan	ALT – Water Utilities	X	
Tom Seidel	PRI – Regional Planning	X	
Open	ALT – Regional Planning		
Peter Gardner	PRI – Land Owners/Developers	X	
Open	ALT – Land Owners/Developers		
Margaret Miner	PRI – Open Space/Conservation	X	
Sydney VanZandt	ALT – Open Space/Conservation	X	
Zell Steever	PRI – Environmental Groups	X	
Open	ALT – Environmental Groups		
Amy Eberly	PRI – Health Districts	X	
Steve Mansfield	ALT – Health Districts	X	
Open	PRI – Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation		
Open	ALT – Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation		



Welcome and Introductions

Jeanine Armstrong Bonin (Milone & MacBroom, Inc.) opened the meeting at 9:45 a.m. Attendee introductions were made around the table.

Project Work Plan

- Jeanine Bonin distributed and reviewed the March 1, 2008 Progress Memorandum prepared by Milone & MacBroom, Inc. In the future, such correspondences will be emailed prior to the meeting to all primary and alternate Advisory Committee members as well as the Administration Group members.
- Greg Leonard (SCWA) requested that in the future, a standing item be included on the agenda to review the previous meeting's minutes.
- A lengthy discussion ensued relative to the Advisory Committee composition, appropriate stakeholder group categories, and possible representatives. Several individuals were recommended to complete the Committee representation. Milone & MacBroom, Inc. will follow up with these individuals. Jeanine Bonin suggested that she prepare a communications memorandum to be distributed prior to the next scheduled Advisory Committee meeting to encapsulate the communications protocol and to both clarify and document the Advisory Committee members' identities, roles, and stakeholder group affiliations.

Discussion of Public Informational Meetings

- Public Information Meetings were held in Preston on Tuesday, March 11, 2008 and in Ledyard on Wednesday, March 19, 2008. The final Public Information Meeting will be held in Groton on Monday, March 31, 2008.
- The Preston public meeting was sparsely attended. In attendance were David Murphy (Milone & MacBroom), Kathy Warzecha (Preston Town Planner), Al Dion (Groton Utilities), one member of the Wetlands Commission, three members of the P&Z Commission, and one member of the Conservation and Parks & Recreation Commissions. Dave Murphy gave an informational presentation, which was followed by an open forum discussion. The meeting lasted approximately one hour. A brief summary of the meeting highlights was given. A complete report of that meeting is attached hereto.
- The Ledyard public meeting was attended by approximately 20 people. Jeanine Bonin made the formal presentation at that meeting, followed by a lengthy open forum discussion. The meeting lasted approximately three hours. A brief summary of the meeting highlights was given. A complete report of that meeting is attached hereto.

→ Notice of the three public meetings has been published in the New London Day. Invitation letters were sent to SCCOG and the local commissions in the Towns of Groton, Ledyard, Preston, and North Stonington. Given the poor attendance in Preston, a suggestion was made that Preston be re-invited to the Groton Meeting scheduled for March 31. Additional newspaper and public access coverage may also help attendance and should be pursued. Initial contact has been made with Groton Public Access television to request coverage of the Groton meeting. Additionally, Milone & MacBroom is planning to meet separately with the editorial staff at the New London Day and Norwich Bulletin to further explain the project. Members of the press will be invited to the future public meetings and possibly to one or more of the Advisory Committee meetings. Other media outreach conducted to date is summarized in the March 1, 2008 memorandum.

Data Collection & Analysis

- Since Milone & MacBroom was retained under contract in early February, the focus has been mainly on data collection, including gathering and review of local development plans, regulations, ordinances, GIS mapping, water quality data, and an inventory of local boards and commissions.
- The Advisory Committee members identified the need to have a clear understanding of what constitutes the watershed – existing active reservoir watersheds, future supplies, aquifers, etc. Roy Schiff, Ph.D. of Milone & MacBroom will be in attendance at the April Advisory Committee meeting and, with Jeanine Bonin will present the conceptual watershed model for consideration by the Advisory Committee. The communities will need to come to agreement on a definition of the watershed. The conceptual model will not only help to define the physical extent of the watershed, but also the character with respect to existing land uses, zoning, State Plan designations, surficial geology, flood hazard zones, sewerage areas, etc.
- Nicolle Burnham of Milone & MacBroom introduced the concept of Low Impact Development (LID) as one of the management strategies used by some municipalities to protect drinking water quality. The focus of LID is to infiltrate stormwater back into the ground as opposed to transporting it overland. A review of existing zoning and subdivision regulations in Groton, Ledyard, Preston, and North Stonington is underway to evaluate whether LID would be allowed under the existing local regulatory framework.
- Peter Gardner stated that LID is not an option in most municipalities, but should be one that is available to developers. When applied appropriately, LID is favorable to water quality and can reduce development costs by using "softscape" features such as swales and infiltration galleries as opposed to hard curbing and pipes.
- Tom Wagner noted that LID is not a cookbook formula and requires education of town staff, commission members, and developers. Long term maintenance can also be an issue that should be addressed with LID and other best management practices. Marsha Vlaun noted that the application of LID is not appropriate everywhere and that the use of retention and



detention basins needs to take into consideration where the development is physically located within the watershed. She also voiced the concern that not all Commissions base their decisions on the technical application and that can be very frustrating to developers who are "following all the rules" for environmentally sound land development and the municipal staff who are providing guidance to them. Others voiced their agreement with this issue.

- There was consensus among the group that LID is a management strategy worth further evaluation. Milone & MacBroom will assess potential application scenarios and develop recommendations for the communities' consideration.
- Mayor Allen raised the issue of sewers in Ledyard Center and the critical nature of this area to the future economic health of the Town. The question of whether sewers are congruent (or not) with protection of water quality was discussed at length by the group, with the consensus that water quality protection and the provision of public sewers in identified higher density development areas are not at odds with proper planning and application, and that the two can be mutually pursued through the DWQMP process.
- Finally, the discussion centered on the State Conservation and Development Policies Plan (the State Plan) and its restrictions of state funding to municipalities. Many of the Advisory Committee members concurred that the State Plan has, in effect become defacto state zoning. There is great interest in developing a DWQMP that provides the protection sought by the State Plan, without taking away a municipality's authority to develop within its own borders. This should be a key element in the DWQMP.

Next Steps

The next Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for Thursday, April 17, 2008 at Groton Utilities.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.