



DRAFT REPORT OF ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Southeast Connecticut Regional Drinking Water Quality Management Plan Groton, Ledyard, Preston, North Stonington, Norwich, Montville, and Waterford Thursday, May 15, 2008

A meeting of the DWQMP Advisory Committee was held on May 15, 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 David Murphy, P.E. The following members were in attendance:

Advisory Group Members	Representing		Guests	
Al Dion	PRI – Groton Utilities	X	Joyce Brown, GU	X
Rick Stevens	ALT – Groton Utilities		Ronald Bata, GU	X
Mike Murphy	PRI – Town of Groton		Marc Cohen	
Deborah Jones	ALT – Town of Groton		Pat Bresnahan, UCONN	
Mayor Fred Allyn	PRI – Town of Ledyard	X	Jeff Butensky, EPA	X
Mike Cherry	ALT – Town of Ledyard	X		
Marcia Vlaun	PRI – Town of Montville			
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	X		
Juliet Leeming	PRI – Town of N. Stonington	X		
1 st Selectman Nicholas Mullane	ALT – Town of N. Stonington			
Robert Birmingham, AICP	PRI – Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation			
Ken Greenwood	ALT – Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation			
Jennifer Pagach	PRI – State & Federal Agencies	X		
Lori Mathieu	ALT – State & Federal Agencies			
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			
Clint Brown	ALT – Land Owners/Developers	X		
Margaret Miner	PRI – Open Space/Conservation	X		
Sydney VanZandt	ALT – Open Space/Conservation	X		
Zell Steever	PRI – Environmental Groups	X		
Open	ALT – Environmental Groups			
Ryan McCammon	PRI – Health Districts			
Amy Eberly	ALT – Health Districts			
William Sweeney, AICP	PRI – Land Use Consultants/Attorneys	X		
Tim Bates, Esq.	ALT – Land Use Consultants/Attorneys			
Deborah Donovan	PRI – Business/Industry	X		
Open	ALT – Business/Industry			

Welcome and Introductions

- Jeanine Armstrong Bonin (Milone & MacBroom, Inc.) opened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. Attendee introductions were made around the table. The new meeting format was explained. Primary advisory committee members will sit at the table with their roles identified. An additional seating area will be designated for alternates and guests.

Review of Meeting Minutes and Correspondence

- J. Bonin invited comments, questions, or discussion on the previously distributed April 17, 2008 Advisory Committee meeting minutes. None of the attendees had comments and the meeting minutes were accepted.
- M. Miner's May 10, 2008 email was distributed and discussed. Picking up a topic that was addressed at previous meetings, she believes that Eric Thomas from DEP should have a role at the table for this project. J. Bonin explained that DEP and others can be added to the distribution list as interested parties. Unless the Advisory Committee format is further expanded, DEP would be represented through the State & Federal Agency stakeholder representative. Z. Steever would prefer that DEP is invited to attend the meetings.
- J. Bonin invited comments, questions, or discussions on the previously distributed April 17, 2008 Administrative Group meeting minutes. Z. Steever had two comments. First, he wanted to make sure that a review of land use regulations was going to be included. D. Murphy assured him that such a review was included in the scope. Second, Z. Steever stated his preference for the old Source Protection logo for the project. The subsequent group discussion identified that other non-source protection aspects of the project (such as treatment) were also being considered and so a broader logo was sought.
- Z. Steever stated his strong belief that S. VanZandt should have an active role at the table. J. Bonin reminded the group that each stakeholder group was to have one representative at the Advisory Group meetings to convey the collective concerns of that stakeholder group. A strong effort was made to represent a wide range of stakeholder interests. S. VanZandt represents an interest that is being represented by M. Miner. M. Miner then remarked that perhaps S. VanZandt would be the better prime representative.
- D. Murphy distributed and reviewed the May 1, 2008 Progress Memorandum prepared by Milone & MacBroom, Inc. Z. Steever remarked that USGS and EPA needed to be interviewed. J. Butensky from EPA was present and D. Murphy committed to coordinating with J. Butensky for a subsequent interview.
- J. Bonin reviewed the updated Communications Memorandum. Z. Steever stated that it is not sufficiently clear in the memo that the Administrative Group includes some (but not all) members of the Advisory Committee, and requested that this distinction be made clear. D.

Donovan and M. Cherry both pointed out that the memo does already clarify that the Advisory Committee includes members of the Administrative Group.

Conceptual Watershed Model

- J. Bonin presented the updated watershed conceptual model that now includes the designated future watersheds. Questions and comments were fielded throughout the presentation.
- M. Cherry remarked that the Haleys Brook watershed is mainly "white" on the State Plan map. He remarked that the environmental groups present at the table should be recommending additional conservation in the Haleys Brook watershed.
- J. Bonin raised the remaining issues in M. Miner's May 10, 2008 email relative to the watersheds. Although some of her comments have resulted in additions to the watershed report, others are too broad or off-topic for this focused DWQMP process. A. Dion reminded everyone that there will be time after this phase of the project has concluded to deal with other interests and issues that arise.
- M. Miner asked if the future watersheds have the equivalent of Class I and II lands. A. Dion replied that they did not, but some lands have already been set aside.
- Z. Steever remarked about the poor quality of graphics. Unfortunately this is an artifact of how the documents were compressed for email distribution and for 8 ½ x 11 printing. Quality in the original graphics is of much higher quality.

Review of Regulations

- J. Bonin presented the draft preliminary review of regulations in the four watershed towns. The two main objectives at this point are: (1) the town planners should verify or check the information for accuracy; and (2) the Advisory Committee should digest the information and provide feedback. Questions and comments followed the presentation.
- Z. Steever inquired if zoning maps could be appended. Milone & MacBroom, Inc. does not currently have zoning data in an electronic format, but will continue to work with member towns to obtain that information for inclusion on the mapping.
- Mayor Allyn stated that Ledyard is already using a road salt alternative, but it won't show up in the regulations because it is an overall town policy.
- J. Bonin spurred a discussion about review of development projects as related to this topic (regulations). Because the towns would need to administer BMPs and/or principles of LID, responsibilities would come from this component of the project. It is beneficial for towns to have land use regulations that can allow an applicant to work outside (above) the regulations.

Although it is not the goal of the DWQMP to rewrite the regulations of these four watershed towns, the DWQMP will provide a toolbox as discussed during the April 17, 2008 meeting.

- M. Miner asked if it was possible to graphically depict lot coverage allowed by zoning district. M. Cherry answered that it would not be possible in Ledyard, because an applicant needs to select the zone and then check the regulations for the correct percentage applicable to the specific project.
- Z. Steever asked if wetlands could be depicted. Others agreed that this would be difficult and J. Bonin stated that it was tangential to the DWQMP objectives.
- M. Cherry remarked that Ledyard can retain engineers and environmental professionals for reviews of development proposals. Payment requirements vary case-by-case.
- Preston requires third party reviews. Selectman Congdon remarked that North Stonington is ahead of the other towns when it comes to the review process.
- J. Leeming remarked that everyone has to rely on the local commissions' understanding. Therefore, education is important, and it could occur as a result of the DWQMP process. Enforcement is also important. M. Cherry stated that the regional planning agency should provide training. S. VanZandt stated that an "academy" for plan review was going to be taking place on Saturday, May 17. J. Pagach hopes that a Land Use Leadership Alliance (LULA) session can be secured for this region. She recalled that Seth Lerman from NRCS has been coordinating the LULA.
- Mayor Allyn mentioned that the Great Wolf Resort may end up in Ledyard. If so, he hopes that the COG will conduct an independent review.
- Selectman Congdon understands that this project will result in a State model, but we need to keep focused on consistency among southeastern Connecticut municipalities. J. Bonin agreed and noted that the DWQMP state model will need to be sufficiently flexible such that it works elsewhere in Connecticut.
- W. Sweeney noted that tribal lands probably need to be excluded from the review of municipal regulations.
- Z. Steever believes that commission members need to participate in the DWQMP process.

Review of Water Treatment Plant Processes and Pending Upgrades

- D. Murphy presented the draft preliminary review of the Groton Utilities water treatment plant. Questions and comments followed the presentation.

- G. Leonard reminded the group that source protection delivers a better product than additional treatment.
- M. Miner stated that RWA's Lake Gaillard WTP has an easier time treating water than Lake Whitney due to the less developed watershed above Gaillard as compared to Whitney.

Other Business and Future Meetings

- J. Bonin discussed the overall schedule and surmised that it would soon be appropriate to collect ideas and comments from the Advisory Committee. Although the project schedule remains aggressive, there was no widespread support for more frequent meetings.
- Regarding the schedule, S. VanZandt reminded the group that the Town of Groton has retained a consultant to review and update its regulations. This project needs to be linked to the DWQMP.
- M. Schaefer asked that all documents and memos be marked "draft" before getting posted online.
- The next Advisory Committee meeting was changed to allow Lori Mathieu (DPH) to attend, and was scheduled for Tuesday, June 24, 2008. Subsequent meetings are scheduled for July 17, August 21, and September 18, 2008.
- The next meeting will be reserved for collecting feedback on draft reports and memos submitted to date; brainstorming; and/or potentially presenting information on watershed security and/or stormwater utility feasibility.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.