

Town of Ashland, Massachusetts



Department of Public Works

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Ashland Water Policy Committee

August 16-2016, 7:00 PM

Room A

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Wayne, Kathy, Jeff, Rajitha

1.
 - Call to order @ 7:02 WB
 - a. Approve previous meeting minutes
 - b. Motion to approve as printed by JL, Second by CR, 3-0

2. Q/A with Jeff Fournier, Ashland Water Treatment plant official
 - a. At plant since 2009
 - b. Plant designed to treat surface water (not well water)
 - c. Well field contains 5 gravel packed wells
 - d. Treatment removes heavy metals, such as manganese
 - e. Finished water meters to Ashland & Hopkinton re-calibrated annually
 - f. Embankment filtration is how the wells are replenished
 - g. 292' (above sea level) is the Hopkinton Reservoir level that will begin to cause damage to well pumps
 - i. Current level is 294.75', and Rajitha is starting to draft emergency request letters to MWRA and Southborough BOS
 - ii. Wells 7/8 would suck air at this level, but they have to be shut off at 295.35' per DEP/DCR
 - iii. Wells 4/5/6 speed is lowered, causing lower output
 - iv. Normal yield is ~6 MGD when the reservoir level is healthy

- v. Safe yield when reservoir is low is ~3.1 MGD
- vi. August demand for Ashland + Hopkinton = ~1.8 MGD
- vii. As reservoir gets lower, pump output lowers, the longer it takes to fill Cedar/Woodridge
- viii. Well depth is ~30ft, but water cannot be dropped below ~5ft as the steel screens in the well will be exposed to air
- ix. Need to balance pump output, with well water depth, along with residence time in water tanks
- x. Jeff starts to get concerned about system pressure around 30 PSI (measured at Russett Hill pump station)
- xi. 67' Cedar correlates to 30 PSI (without pumps maintaining pressure)
- xii. Woodridge is tougher to calculate because it's base is much higher than Cedar
- xiii. 10 PSI drop in 3 minutes constitutes a main break
- h. When do we open a potential supplemental water connection?
 - i. **Action Required to Rajitha: Contact Southborough DPW to see what kind of pressure the supplemental connection can deliver to the Ashland distribution network**
 - i. Motion by WB to use conditions i, ii, and iii below as the MWRA Water Use Policy, second by CR
 - i. 292' Hopkinton Reservoir depth
 - ii. 295.35' Hopkinton Reservoir depth and 10 PSI drop indicated at Russett Hill pressure station for continuous period of 5 minutes
 - iii. Russett Hill pressure station drops below 20 PSI for any period of time
 - j. Discussion to motion:
 - i. These criteria will authorize, but not require, DPW to access MWRA connection
 - ii. DPW to notify ATM, BOS, WPC when a condition has been met
 - iii. DPW to notify ATM, BOS, WPC when a connection is opened
 - iv. DPW to provide ATM, BOS, WPC weekly status updates while connection is open
 - k. **Vote on motion: 3-0**
 - l. Motion by CR to change Stage1 Hopkinton Reservoir level to 296.35, second by JL
 - i. Kathy's intent is to start conservation sooner,
 - ii. Stage1 this year started on July 25, Stage 2 started on August 2
 - iii. **Action required to Rajitha: Obtain from Jeff Fournier conservation data to support/combat this motion.**
 - iv. Motion is tabled for continued discussion at next meeting, pending available data
 - m. Warrant for Fall Town Meeting is open in 2 weeks
 - i. WPC will sponsor two articles
 - ii. One to approve funding for connection construction
 - iii. Other to vote on MWRA water use policy partially described above
- 3. Upcoming meetings:
 - a. September 6:
 - i. Finalize MWRA water use policy
 - ii. Other tabled agenda items
 - b. September 20:
 - i. Duane Levangie accepted our meeting request
- 4. Motion to adjourn at 9:26 by WB, second by JL, 3-0