

TRI TOWN BOARD
Of Water Commissioners
Braintree, Holbrook, Randolph
Braintree Town Hall

MINUTES

December 13, 2012

PRESENT: Chairman, Joseph Sullivan, Mayor, Town of Braintree; Richard Brewer, Randolph Town Council, District 3, Kevin Sheehan, Town of Holbrook.

IN ATTENDANCE: Lou Dutton, William Phalen, Mike Walsh, Steve Olsen, Ben Ecord, Christopher Griffin, recording secretary.

Chairman Sullivan convened the meeting at 10:13 am.

MINUTES:

MOTION: by Richard Brewer to accept Minutes of October 11, 2012 meeting.

SECOND: by Kevin Sheehan

VOTE: Unanimous

Safe Yield Study: Steve Olsen, Environmental Partners

- Mr. Olsen reported that it is important to update the Safe Yield for the Richardi reservoir.
- The board reviewed the copies of the contact.
- The Safe Yield is the amount of water that can be drawn from the reservoir during the worst drought in 100 years.
- Mr. Olsen anticipates that the study can be completed in 3-4 months.
- This type of project is grant eligible and applying for such a grant has been discussed.
- Mayor Sullivan instructed Mr. Dutton to speak with Barbara Mello, the Town of Braintree's Grant Writer.
- The study will help determine future water supply targets.
- Mayor Sullivan stated that he is very comfortable with Environmental Partners doing the work.
- Mr. Brewer asked if the contract needed to be signed before the Grant Application is made. Mr. Olsen replied that it would be helpful to have a signed contract when applying for the grant.
- Mayor Sullivan stated that he was comfortable with moving forward.
- Mr. Brewer expressed concern with signing the contacts immediately but acknowledged that the study needs to move forward.
- Mr. Dutton asked if the Grant Application will come from the Town of Braintree on behalf of the Tri-Town Board. Mayor Sullivan stated that it was his understanding that it would.
- Mr. Olsen Confirmed this.

MOTION: by Mr. Brewer to enter into an Engineering Services Agreement with Environmental Partners to conduct a Safe Yield Study.

SECOND: by Mr. Sheehan

VOTE: Unanimous

The Board members proceeded to sign four (4) copies of the contract (One copy for each town and one copy for Environmental Partners.)

Great Pond Upper Reservoir: Mike Walsh

- Mr. Walsh stated that the report on Great Pond Dam almost ready for to be submitted to the state and he wanted to hear and comments or concerns from the board before submission.
- Mr. Dutton stated that concerns he had previously expressed to Mr. Walsh about the report had been addressed.
- Mayor Sullivan asked if the State Office of Dam Safety is requiring this report. Mr. Walsh confirmed that they were.
- Mr. Walsh said that the State Office of Dam safety had been requesting the status of the report and the CDM has been submitting updates to them.
- Mayor Sullivan expressed appreciation to CDM for their work. He inquired as to whether or not Dam improvements would be needed if the reservoir ceased to be the Tri-Town water supply. Mr. Walsh said they would still be needed.
- In response to a question from the board Mr. Walsh indicated that a project can be put on hold if it is the boards will to take a different course in regards to water supply.
- Mr. Brewer agreed that the report should be filed but asked whether or not MWRA would take on responsibility for Dam safety and maintenance should the board enter into an agreement with them. Both Mayor Sullivan and Mr. Walsh indicated that any decision regarding maintenance of the Dams would have to be discussed in negotiations with the MWRA.
- Mr. Phalen asked when the state had requested the report. Mr. Walsh indicated that it was about a year ago.
- Mr. Phalen stated that it was his belief that if the report indicates that repairs to the dams are needed then at least two or three proposals for the work should be reviewed.
- Mayor Sullivan stated that the Board is currently reviewing its options in regards to future water supply and that he needs to be more discussions with Holbrook and Randolph to see where they are in the process. He noted that these are serious decisions which have the potential to effect the three communities for 50-100 years. Mayor Sullivan indicated that he would consult with the Town Solicitor regarding Mr. Phalen's inquiry about soliciting bids (there was no objection).

Updated WTP O&M Cost Estimate: Mike Walsh

- Mr. Dutton had indicated that the original estimate seemed high at the October 11th meeting. He met with Mr. Walsh and the cost estimates have been revised. The estimates were distributed to the board members. The new total capital estimate is \$58,693,000 and the new operation and management estimate is \$2 million down from \$3 million.
- Mr. Dutton indicated that he was comfortable with the new estimates.

- Mr. Walsh indicated that the estimate included a 10% allowance for contingencies. This was down from 20% in the previous estimate.
- Mayor Sullivan recalled that the estimate was under \$50 million four years ago. Mr. Walsh said that the change was a result of growing construction costs.
- The cost estimate includes dredging.
- Mayor Sullivan inquired about utility costs. Mr. Dutton stated that the estimate for those costs was made by doubling the current cost of utilities.
- Mr. Phalen inquired whether dredging had to be done even if a new plant is not constructed. Mr. Walsh said yes.
- In response to a question from Mayor Sullivan, Mr. Walsh stated that the estimate is based on if the project went forward now and includes cost escalations that would occur during the project.

- Mayor Sullivan thanked everyone for all the information brought forward at today's meeting.

Other Business:

- Mayor Sullivan has been in discussions with the MWRA. There was general agreement between board members that all three member communities should have discussions with the MWRA. Mr. Phalen stated "We are not all equal."
- Mr. Brewer announced that the Town of Randolph will be meeting with representatives from the MWRA on January 10, 2013.

Next Meeting:

- Board members discussed the possibility of meeting at 10am on either January 14th or 15th of 2013. There was general agreement that members will consult their schedules and confirm a date for the next meeting over the next few days.

Motion: By Mr. Brewer to adjourn the meeting.

Second: By Mr. Sheehan.

Vote: Unanimous.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:08am.

Respectfully submitted,
 Christopher Griffin
 Recording Secretary