



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
April 17, 2025
7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, Matt Mostoller, Mike Geis, Joe Robb, and Dave Boccuti

Chairperson: Joe Robb

Clerk: Ron Parenti

Others in Attendance: Alissa Nicol (Select Board Liaison), Kim Kastens, and Corey Godfrey

1. Opening

WRAC chair Joe Robb opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

2. Regular Business

- A. Public Remarks/Comments – Water District Manager Matt Mostoller informed the Committee that the Commissioners have voted to restrict the outdoor use of water to one day per week due to the lack of rain and the current drought conditions. The day designated for water use depends on the location of the residence, as indicated on the Water District website. Alissa Nicol suggested that a notification of the restrictions be placed in the Municipal Monthly.
- B. Review of WRAC Meeting Minutes from 1 April 2025 – A motion to approve the minutes for 1 April 2025 was made by Matt Mostoller and seconded by Mike Geis. The motion to accept the minutes was approved unanimously by roll call vote.
- C. Discuss Questionnaire for Webpage and Outreach Meeting Poster – Members verified that the Town does not have a SurveyMonkey account and that a different approach would be needed to obtain online public feedback. The use of Google Forms was suggested, and will be investigated along with a few other potential survey methods.

Dave Boccuti reviewed his draft of a survey, which was briefly discussed at the previous meeting. It was suggested that the survey include questions that would gauge the public's current knowledge of the stormwater system. The members agreed that the form needed more work, but decisions on content did not need to be made immediately since the intent was to distribute the form in late May when the Stormwater Outreach Event is held. The possibility that a person might submit a questionnaire multiple times was discussed, but it was agreed that it was not likely to have a significant impact on the survey results.

Ron Parenti showed three feedback poster board mockups that he had prepared, which covered the following topics:

- 1) Responder demographics
- 2) Unresolved questions about stormwater-related topics



3) Preferences for funding and managing stormwater system improvements

People would respond to the listed questions by placing stickers on the appropriate box on the poster, which is an approach that has been used at previous forums run by Town committees. There were questions about ways to correlate the answers given by each respondent, but this would require individualized stickers. Members agreed that this was a good starting point, but that there is considerable room for improvement.

D. Discuss Preparations for Outreach Presentation Dry Run and Outreach Event – Joe Robb discussed each of the slides in his latest version of the outreach presentation, which included several revised charts. He has replaced most of the illustrations that had been downloaded from the web with sketches that he has generated and pictures that he has taken. Several of the charts in the revised presentation were discussed in detail, including the charts that describe Acton's capital improvement plan, stormwater programs in other Massachusetts towns, and the review of potential funding structures. The point was made that the content of the presentation charts, poster boards, and the online questionnaire must all be in good alignment. It was also noted that neither the talk, nor the stormwater report, include mention of the dams in town. However, it was decided that dams are usually not considered to be part of a stormwater system.

Several questions were generated during this discussion that the DPW may be able to assist with; these include: 1) the frequency of street flooding in Town following a storm, 2) the amount budgeted by DPW for emergency stormwater system repairs, 3) the possibility of generating a high resolution map of the stormwater system using the Town's GIS data, and 4) what action needs to be taken by WRAC to use the electronic signs to announce the stormwater outreach meeting.

E. Discuss Status of the Stormwater Feasibility Study Draft Report – Due to lack of time the status of the Stormwater Report was only briefly discussed. A question was asked about the draft of Section 3.1, which deals with stormwater-related state and federal regulations. Matt Mostoller, who is responsible for that section, indicated that a draft is nearing completion.

F. Any Other New Business – Mike Geis informed the Committee that announcements for the Stormwater Outreach event had been distributed at the Candidates Forum, and that he had also distributed about 30 announcements to businesses in Acton. The Committee discussed several other announcement opportunities, including a notice in the Acton Exchange, A-frame poster boards placed along Main Street, and the use of the electronic alert boards that are often placed at the transfer station.

3. **Adjournment**

A special WRAC meeting has been scheduled for 24 April to hear a presentation of the proposed DPW building project, which voters will be asked to approve at the Town Meeting in May. Committee members agreed to hold their next regular meeting on 15 May 2025 at 7pm to discuss preparations for the Stormwater Outreach Event to be held on 29 May. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt Mostoller and seconded



by Ron Parenti. This motion was unanimously approved at 9:05 pm. All documents referenced during this meeting can be found on DocuShare at <https://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-19116>.