



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes

April 1, 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), YuTao Wang, Brewster Conant Jr., 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 introduced Corey Godfrey, who is the new Deputy District Manager.
- B. Review of WRAC Meeting Minutes from 20 March 2025 – A motion to approve the minutes for 20 March 2025 was made by Barry Rosen and seconded by Ron Parenti. The motion to accept the minutes was approved by Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, Mike Geis, Joe Robb, and Dave Boccuti; Matt Mostoller was not present at that meeting and abstained.
- C. Discuss Status of the Outreach Webpage and Questionnaire – Dave Boccuti reviewed his first draft of a questionnaire that will be added to a webpage that will be appended to the DPW website. The questionnaire begins with a brief stormwater tutorial section, and is followed by questions intended to elicit opinions about the preferred method to fund stormwater infrastructure improvements. There is also a section that allows the public to request additional information about the stormwater infrastructure. Committee members discussed the wording of the tutorial section, but were primarily focused on the content and organization of the funding preference question. The current version of the questionnaire lists three options:
 - 1) General Fund (status quo not sustainable)
 - 2) Revolving Fund (new fees)
 - 3) Stormwater Utility (new fees)

Committee members questioned public's ability to understand some of the legal terminology, such as the distinction between the general fund and a revolving fund, but it was noted that the questionnaire would appear at the end of an informational document that would explain these terms. The more significant concern was the formulation of the funding options, which is a topic that members have discussed at several recent meetings. Some members suggested that there should be at least two sets of infrastructure



preference questions; the first relating to funding sources (taxes or fees), and a second that addresses management options (DPW or a commission-run utility). Parenti suggested that it would also be useful to include a slide in the informational presentation that summarizes funding decisions made by other towns. Brewster Conant urged the Committee to construct a matrix that would include information about how the money for stormwater spending would be raised, how spending would be governed, what mechanism would be used to stabilize funding, and what the total budget would be for appropriations that would be made over multiple years. The Committee did not reach a consensus on the structure of the funding and management matrix for the questionnaire, but members did agree on the importance of formulating the questions properly. It was also agreed that a further review of this topic would be the primary agenda item for the next WRAC meeting.

Ron Parenti presented his draft of the informational webpage, and asked Committee members for their assessment of the technical level of the material and the document length. A few wording changes were suggested, but members agreed that after the recommended changes were made the webpage should be posted on the DPW website. Since a major change to structure of the DPW website would be difficult to implement on short notice, it was decided that a link to a PDF version of the informational document from the existing webpage would be the most efficient way to provide access to this information. Parenti also reminded the members that the webpage, and the stormwater report, still contain several images of system components that have been downloaded from the web, and that an effort should be made to replace these images with pictures taken by Town residents of local features.

- D. Review of the Stormwater Outreach Presentation Slide Deck – Joe Robb briefly reviewed his latest version of the presentation that will be made at the outreach meeting, which was discussed at length at WRAC's previous meeting on 20 March. A few changes were suggested, including a recommendation to redraw a map showing the location of high-risk culverts to make the symbols more visible. The most significant discussion focused on the final chart that describes the pros and cons of the stormwater funding options. It was noted that features, such as the constraint to comply with Proposition 2 1/2, could be seen as a pro or a con depending on one's point of view. Robb agreed to delete the pro and con headers, and simply list the characteristics of each funding option. A dry run of this talk with the Finance Committee has been scheduled for 13 May.
- E. Comments on the Completed Sections of the Draft Report – Discussion deferred until the next WRAC meeting.
- F. Any Other New Business – Mike Geis confirmed that Room 204 in Town Hall has been reserved for the outreach event on the evening of 29 May. Geis also confirmed that he has submitted a meeting announcement for the next edition of the Municipal Monthly.

3. **Adjournment**

Committee members agreed to hold their next meeting on 17 April 2025 at 7pm. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Matt Mostoller and seconded by Barry



Rosen. This motion was unanimously approved at 8:50 pm. All documents referenced during this meeting can be found on DocuShare at <https://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-19088>.

Meeting Chat File

19:30:43 From Matthew Mostoller to Host and panelists:

Here is a short summary of a revolving fund from the MA Division of Local Services Revolving Fund – A fund that allows a community to raise revenues from a specific service and use those revenues without appropriation to support the service.