



Water System Advisory Committee Meeting

April 1, 2015 @ 7 pm

Mansfield Community Center

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John McGuire, Mansfield EDC, CHAIR
Meg Reich, Willimantic River Alliance, VICE CHAIR
Thomas Callahan, University of Connecticut
Art Hall, Coventry
Mary Ellen Kowalewski, CRCOG
Robert Miller, Eastern Highlands Health District
Diana Perkins, Windham
Shawn Santasiere, Mansfield Sustainability Committee
Michael Soares, Mansfield

ADDITIONAL STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Linda Painter, Mansfield Planning Department; Maureen Westbrook, David Radka, and Dan Lesnieski, Connecticut Water; and Jason Coite, UConn.

Welcome and Introductions: The meeting was called to order by Chairman McGuire at 7:05 pm.

Minutes of January 7, 2015: Approval of the January 7, 2015 Committee meeting minutes was added to the agenda and the minutes were approved, as revised.

Water Supply Project Status: Mr. Radka explained that following DEEP's issuance of the Notice of Tentative Determination (NTD) on the diversion permit in December 2014, the Department received the requisite number of signatures to request a public hearing. A public hearing was held at the Mansfield Town Hall on March 25th. About 20 people provided comments on the record, with a mix of those supporting the application and others with questions or concerns. Only one individual chose to be sworn in and potentially be subject to cross examination by the parties. The evidentiary hearing was conducted on March 26th at DEEP. The comment period remains open until April 25th.

Mr. Radka noted that CWC had secured other required permits, including a DEEP stormwater discharge permit for construction activities and DPH Sale of Excess Water permit for the sale of water to UConn.

Mr. Radka gave an overview of the company's Rockville Water Treatment Plant project in Vernon. The plant, located at the Shenipsit Lake Reservoir, is one of about a dozen sources that serve the 30,000 customers in our northern western division. It was built in the 1970's and is approaching the end of its useful life. It has been in the company's long range plan to upgrade the facility and we are now seeking local approvals and the plant design is under review at the state Department of Public Health. The demands for UCONN and Mansfield are included in the 50 year projections for the plant design. The plant would have required an upgrade with or without the UCONN project.

Meg Reich noted there were questions raised during the review of the diversion permit regarding overlay zones in Mansfield. Linda Painter explained that while the Mansfield Tomorrow plan does not contain specific references to overlay zones, it does refer to zoning to prevent induced development. Whether it will be accomplished with zoning designations or overlay zones, the intent is to limit growth in specific areas to what it would have been whether public water was available or not.

Dan Lesnieski, CWC, described the planned phasing of the pipeline construction, with the project anticipated to be split into four contracts, with work being done concurrently. We anticipate the construction hours will be 6 am to 2:30 pm as was done with the project last fall in Tolland. We will schedule work to avoid conflicts with major events at UCONN or in local communities. If all permits are received as anticipated, we hope to start construction in mid-July.

Mansfield Four Corners Project Status

Linda Painter gave an update on the Four Corners sewer district project and provided a handout (see attached). The scoping meeting under the CEPA process was held on March 18th and written comments will be accepted by DEEP through April 6th. The current timeline anticipates publication of draft EIE by early summer 2015; record of decision to OPM by late summer 2015; and approval from OPM and final engineering design and regulatory permitting in Fall 2015, with construction anticipated in spring 2016.

Updates on Related Activities in Member Communities/Organizations:

Mary Ellen Kowalewski gave an update on the ongoing work by CRCOG on the corridor transportation study, noting it looked at a multimodal approach to future transportation needs; and the land use implications as transportation is improved in neighboring communities.

Future Meeting Dates and Locations: Next meeting is June 24, 2015 and will be held at the Mansfield Town Hall, Council Chambers. Following that the committee will meet October 7 2015.

Other Business: None

Public Comment: None

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 7:45 pm.