



Water System Advisory Committee Meeting

June 24, 2015 @ 7 pm

Mansfield Town Hall, Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT:

John McGuire, Mansfield EDC, CHAIR
Meg Reich, Willimantic River Alliance, VICE CHAIR
Thomas Callahan, University of Connecticut
Greg Paddick, Joshua's Trust
Diana Perkins, Windham Water Commission
Joan Buck, Mansfield Conservation Commission
Mary Ellen Kowalewski, CRCOG
Art Hall, Coventry
Kathleen Pacholski, Willington

ADDITIONAL STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Linda Painter, Mansfield Planning Department; Maureen Westbrook, David Radka, Dan Meaney, and Dan Lesnieski, Connecticut Water; and Jason Coite, UConn. Also in attendance was Vin Tursi of the Tolland Water Commission.

Welcome and Introductions: Meeting was called to order by Chairman McGuire at 7:00 pm.

Minutes of April 1, 2015: There were no comments or changes to the minutes of the April 2015 meeting; approved as submitted.

Water Supply Project Status:

- a. DEEP Diversion Permit - Mr. Radka indicated that DEEP had issued the diversion permit on May 29, 2015. There were no significant changes in the permit or conditions from the version that had been issued along with the Notice of Tentative Determination (NTD) in December 2014. In response to questions, Mr. Radka indicated the appeal period was scheduled to run until July 14, but issuance of the permit did allow the Company to initiate construction.
- b. Proposed Construction Phasing & Schedule – Mr. Lesnieski gave an overview of the construction segments, providing a map that reflected the information provided in the handout provided to members (attached). He indicated that they are currently marking the road for Call Before You Dig (CBYD) and expect to start work on July 6th. Upon a

question from Ms. Buck, Mr. Lesnieski gave an overview of the CBYD markings and how the location of various utilities (gas, electric, water) are indicated by those markings.

- c. Communications – Mr. Meaney gave an overview of the communications tools for the project, noting that Connecticut Water has set up a Projects Page on the CT Water website with regular updates on the schedule and potential traffic impacts. People will be able to sign up to receive regular updates by email or text during the project. In addition, he explained that the Town of Mansfield will have information on their website under major projects and information will be provided to the UCONN community via the Daily Digest to faculty/staff.

Ms. Westbrook indicated that a public information meeting on the first segment of construction (in the Route 195/Route 44 or “Four Corners” area to the University) is scheduled for June 30th at 7 pm at the Mansfield Town Hall. All property owners abutting the pipeline route in that area have been invited so they can get more specific information relative to their properties or traffic questions.

Members asked questions about work hours – it was indicated that work would normally be scheduled from 6 am to 2:30 pm daily, be suspended for holidays, and coordinated with the Town and UCONN regarding other key dates that could be problematic (e.g., move in days). There was also a question regarding signage and it was indicated that the Variable Message board signs will be used near the construction and possibly stationary signs at key locations on the route to direct people to the website projects page.

Mr. Tursi of the Tolland Water Commission gave positive comments on the work done by CT Water’s contractor on the pipe segment on Rte 195 in Tolland last fall. They did not receive any complaints.

Mansfield Four Corners Project Status

Linda Painter gave an update on the Four Corners sewer district project indicating that a scoping meeting under the CEPA process was held on March 18th and written comments accepted by DEEP through April 6th. The draft EIE is being prepared now and will be published for comment. DEEP is the sponsoring agency so has to review the EIE before published. They hope to have by late August or early September.

Mansfield Plan of Conservation & Development Update

Ms. Painter also noted that the public hearing on the Town’s Plan of C&D closed on June 1st. There will be a special meeting of the commission next week to review all comments received. She explained that the draft of the Mansfield Tomorrow plan will be going to a focus group within the next few weeks and likely will have public hearing on the plan in the fall of 2015.

Updates on Related Activities in Member Communities/Organizations:

Ms. Reich asked Mr. Callahan to comment on the June 30th meeting regarding the State Water Plan. Mr. Callahan indicated that legislation required the Water Planning Council (comprised of state agencies – Department of Public Health, Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, Public Utilities Regulatory Authority and the Office of Policy and Management) to develop a State Water Plan. The WPC has established a Steering Committee with a variety of constituencies represented as first step in the process. That group will meet at Rome Hall on June 30th – meeting is open to the public. He noted that the University, under an agreement with the WPC is not developing the plan, but providing project management services to the WPC for this effort.

Mary Ellen Kowalewski gave an update on the ongoing work by CRCOG on the corridor transportation study in Rte 195. She noted that participation on the WSAC was helpful as it informed their decision to get traffic counts before the construction of the pipeline began.

WSAC Review Role for Specific Projects

Ms. Westbrook provided a handout (attached) that outlined the process for review of water service requests in Mansfield, and specifically which types of requests in Mansfield that would be forwarded to the WSAC for review as follows:

- Request made for a water service connection for an existing or proposed permitted use - CWC shall confirm with the Town that the use is consistent with zoning and does not require approvals from local land use commissions or review by the Water System Advisory Committee before approving service connection. A 'verification form' will be developed to facilitate review by the Town's Planning office.
- If use requires approval by local land use commissions, CWC will confirm the availability of supply for the applicant so it can be demonstrated for purposes of the local land use review process that public water supply will be available. Approval of the service would only be permitted after project receives all required local approvals.
- Town will refer applications that require a main extension or approval by a local land use commission to the Water System Advisory Committee

It was further explained that the WSAC shall receive, review and report to the Mansfield Director of Planning on the following requests for water service in Mansfield:

- Connections to the CWC System in Mansfield, whether a new use or change to existing use, that require a change in zoning or approval by a local land use commission; and
- Any extension of the CWC System in Mansfield after the Completion Date.

The mechanics of the process for the WSAC review would be as follows:

- Mansfield’s Director of Planning shall advise CWC and Advisory Committee chair of a request for water service that requires review by WSAC providing:
 - information on when application will be heard by local land use commission(s)
 - statutory deadlines for action by the commission.
- The WSAC shall meet and provide any recommendations regarding such requests in a way that neither unreasonably delays nor withholds review.
- WSAC NOT intended to duplicate local land use commission review or jurisdiction, but offer input on water use, conservation opportunities and such considerations

Upon discussion with the members, it was agreed that an application “verification form’ will be developed as well as a form that would indicate the nature of items that the WSAC would review when a request is forwarded to the committee. The form should reflect the committee’s focus on water related impacts or potential conservation opportunities for a specific project and not otherwise duplicate local land use commission reviews and judgments. The chair agreed to work with the Town Planner in developing the form.

It was discussed that the local land use process typically involves a two step process for water – initially requiring an indication that the water is available to serve the project, with any approval conditioned on having water available and then an actual water service request when they want to connect the project.

Chairman McGuire affirmed the role of the WSAC was advisory in nature only and Ms. Painter noted the Mansfield Land Use office was the entity being advised with respect to water service connections.

There was discussion that there continue to questions/concerns from some individuals about development at the Four Corners and an interest in an informational forum on change and development. Ms. Reich noted that the WSAC may be asked to participate in such a forum. It was the group’s consensus that it was not WSAC’s role to initiate an informational meeting related to development in the Four Corners area, but if such an event is organized it may be appropriate for the group to participate.

Future Meeting Dates and Locations: Next meeting is October 7, 2015 and will be held at the Mansfield Town Hall, Council Chambers. Following that, meetings are scheduled for January 6, 2016 and April 6, 2016.

Other Business: There was some discussion of whether the WSAC might host or be part of a meeting with local residents regarding the Four Corners area, but it was agreed that while we could provide water information for such an event, it was not really our role to organize or host something like that.

Public Comment: None

Adjourn: The meeting adjourned at 8:10 pm.