

Cambridge Watershed Advisory Committee

Representing Cambridge, Lexington, Lincoln, Waltham, and Weston

Meeting Notes Tuesday February 10, 1998

Waltham City Hall

Attendance

Committee members present:

Imogene Fish
Addie Kim
Chip Norton
Jean Thurston
Caleb Warner
Mary White
Stan Whynock

Representing:

Weston Conservation Commission
Lincoln Conservation Commission
Cambridge Water Dept.
Weston Board of Selectmen
Lexington Conservation Commission
MWRA
Waltham Planning Board

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Others present:

Pam DiBona
Martin Pillsbury
Jean Rogers

Representing:

Charles River Watershed Association
Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Cambridge Water Department

617-965-5975
617-451-2770
617-349-4793

The meeting was chaired by Chip Norton.

1. Review minutes of last meeting

The minutes were approved without changes.

2. Update on the water quality monitoring program

In spite of MassHighway's program to reduce salting within the watershed boundaries, high concentrations of sodium are still found in the water supply. Therefore, concurrent with their own drainage improvement and deicing alternatives study, MassHighway is funding a Cambridge/USGS field study to determine the source(s) of sodium to the reservoirs. The study is currently funded at \$0.5million over two years; it may be extended to four years with

\$1million total funding. In addition, Cambridge is provided matching funds that will pay for installation and maintenance of three monitoring stations.

A total of eleven monitoring stations will be installed under this program, along with water quality monitoring wells. This project makes the Cambridge watershed one of USGS's most-studied areas in New England. Chip Norton reported that the project is going well. USGS is collecting baseline data that will help to highlight water quality improvements or degradation.

USGS is training Cambridge Water Department staff in how to obtain water quality data from the stations. This will ensure long-term sustainability of the project after funding for USGS's involvement ends.

Caleb Warner and Addie Kim suggested that CWD obtain data from records on private wells. Town Boards of Health (at least in Lexington) and the Department of Environmental Management both request water quality and quantity data from drillers. Chip will follow up on that. Private well data could direct USGS to appropriate locations for the monitoring wells.

3. Progress on *From the Source*

Pam DiBona reported that the second issue of the Cambridge Source Protection Program's quarterly newsletter will be out in mid-March. Advisory Committee members are invited to submit articles and/or ideas for articles for future issues.

4. Annual watershed tour

The spring watershed tour is scheduled for June 2, 1998. Participants will gather at 6:00 at 167 Trapelo Road in Waltham for box suppers and a brief introduction by Chip Norton, then all will board a bus to see three sites around the watershed, including a stop at a USGS stream gage and the Legett-MacCall site in Waltham.

Committee members discussed ways of attracting more participants than in the past, perhaps with a "celebrity tour guide." Chip and Pam are confident that with wider publicity for the event, more people will attend. CRWA will develop a flyer that CWD will distribute. The invitee list will include press contacts for print, television, and radio; watershed businesses; elected officials; and the *From the Source* mailing list. Advisory Committee members should submit additional names to Pam at CRWA (email: dibona@crwa.org; phone: 617-965-5975; fax: 617-332-7465).

5. Community exchange

Weston

Redevelopment of the Mass. Broken Stone site is still pending. Arthur D. Little, the anticipated tenant, is working with the town to answer the town's concerns. A primary concern is the serious traffic implications of the redevelopment. The redevelopment is seen as an attractive proposal otherwise, as the site currently has no drainage controls in place.

TCE has been found in some private wells on Lexington Street. Some of the homes have been hooked up to municipal water supplies, while others are receiving bottled water.

Hewlett-Packard has paid for an investigation, although no link between the company and the contamination has been made.

Waltham

Three buildings of luxury apartments will be built on the site of the Crest Restaurant. Meanwhile, an ongoing project to bring water, sewer, and storm drainage to three houses on Roberts Road has been stopped. The planning board was able to get the owner to redirect drainage that was going into the reservoir, but little has happened at the site since.

Lincoln

Nothing new to report.

Lexington

Ten years ago, an industrial site next to the Waltham post office was developed, including an extensive stormwater drainage system incorporating best management practices (BMPs). Since then, two more buildings have been proposed for the same site. Town residents have asked that the project be scaled back to one additional building. There is some question as to whether the existing stormwater control system can handle the additional buildings. Chip said that the system there is up to current BMP standards.

W.R. Grace on Hayden Ave. will be expanding on their current site. The town is requesting that the company bring the existing stormwater system up to current standards.

Cambridge

Chip distributed the Secretary's certificate on MassHighway's Final Environmental Impact Report (attached for those who did not attend February 10). Most commenters on the FEIR were concerned about the overall maintenance program. A comprehensive inspection program will drive better maintenance of the system once it is in place. MassHighway will be working with the commenters to develop supplemental information for the Secretary.

Chip presented the next iteration of a table he uses to track development projects around the watershed (attached for those who did not attend). Several projects, marked with a star, were discussed in more detail.

6. Next meeting

The next meeting will be held on April 14 at the Josiah Smith Tavern in Weston. An announcement will follow.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Environmental Affairs
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December 17, 1997

CERTIFICATE OF THE SECRETARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS
ON THE
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

PROJECT NAME :Hobbs Brook and Stony Brook Watersheds
Highway Drainage Improvement Project
PROJECT LOCATION :Waltham, Weston, Lexington & Lincoln
EOEA NUMBER :8263
PROJECT PROPONENT :Massachusetts Highway Department
DATE NOTICED IN MONITOR :November 10, 1997

As the Secretary of Environmental Affairs, I hereby determine that the Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR) submitted on this project does not adequately and properly comply with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (M.G.L. c. 30, ss. 61-62H) and with its implementing regulations (301 CMR 11.00). For the specific reasons I indicate in this Certificate, I believe that a Supplemental Final EIR of limited scope is necessary to complete the MEPA review process. My decision today reflects my commitment to ensuring that all feasible mitigation is considered when the protection of an important water resource like the Cambridge Reservoir is at issue. I pledge the assistance of my staff in working with the Massachusetts Highway Department (MHD) as it refines this project and applies the highest standards of excellence in its design and implementation.

In the Final EIR, MHD evaluated the impacts of state highways on surface waters in the Hobbs Brook and Stony Brook watersheds, specifically including the Cambridge Reservoir, and developed a plan to mitigate these impacts. The Draft EIR examined alternatives to using sodium chloride as a deicer, construction of structural controls, and implementation of best management practices, all aimed at reducing state highway impacts on these watersheds.

I am also concerned about the lack of resolution on the issue of maintenance for the stormwater system. As MHD refines its plan for street sweeping, catch basin cleaning and outfall inspection, I expect that it will explore the possibility of semi-annual catch basin cleaning and annual drainage outlet inspection (with appropriate response when work is necessary). I encourage MHD to consult closely with the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) as it develops the plan to ensure that it sufficiently protects this key resource. I further expect that DEP will work closely with the local Conservation Commissions during their permitting processes.

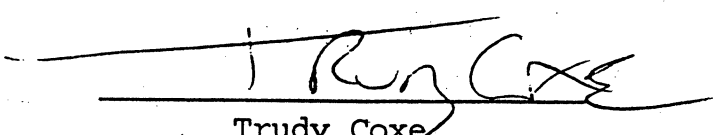
Finally, the design of the stormwater structures needs some refinement to ensure compliance with the Stormwater Management Policy's requirements for activities in critical areas. While this issue will necessarily be addressed in permitting under the Wetlands Protection Act, I believe it is important that public review of MHD's plan be facilitated with details presented in the Supplemental Final EIR.

MHD should also respond to all of the comments submitted on the Final EIR (including those referencing Draft EIR comments not responded to), regardless of whether they deal with issues that I explicitly raise in this Certificate.

Again, I commend MHD for all the work it has done to date and I look forward to working with it and commenters as the details of this project are refined and presented in a Supplemental Final EIR that helps this important project move forward to permitting and implementation for protection of a critical resource.

December 17, 1997

Date


Trudy Cox

Cambridge's Reservoirs Watershed Site Monitoring Summary Sheet

Printed 2/3/98

WALTHAM				
SITE	LOCATION	PROJECT	ISSUES	STATUS
1	Exxon Tank Farm Jones Road	Groundwater remediation (21E), stormwater management, future development	Stormwater discharge; redevelopment impacts	Property for Sale
2	266 Second Ave. Cabot, Cabot & Forbes	Site redevelopment	Stormwater, Stream bank stabilization	80% complete
3	Improvements on Bear Hill Rd. and Main Street	Road improvement, construction monitoring, and stormwater	Construction impacts	MHD funding is on hold
4	Polaroid / Leggett MaCall Winter Street	Site development, stormwater mitigation project.	Site development started Sept. 97. Stormwater improvements on Winter Street	Scope of work to be provided by Leggett MacCall by Feb. 1 for Winter St. Stormwater improvements
5	Astra Parph. 760 Winter Street	Construction monitoring, and stormwater systems	Modified site plan to be approved by CWD. Ammended O of C from Con. Comission	Site work to begin by April 98
6	GTE Slyvan Road	Stormwater Pilot Project, groundwater investigation	Stormwater pilot testing impacts from fill area	RDA filed with Con. Com. for site investigation to start by March 1
7	Roberts Rd. Stony Brook Reservoir	Site development, road widening, by-pass stormwater system	Stormwater by-pass line, damage to CWD fence	Need Waltham to fund drainage work, need contractor to install new fence
8	130 Second Avenue	Redevelopment, wetlands, stormwater	Environmental during protection	on hold for fund

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Printed 2/3/98

WALTHAM (contd.)				
SITE	LOCATION	PROJECT	ISSUES	STATUS
9	80 Second Avenue Coca-Cola	Replace existing facility with a new office building	Redevelopment, wetlands, stormwater	On hold: legal issues
10	Nursing Home Trapelo Rd.	Building expansion, existing sewer water system, boundary encroachment	Disconnect stormwater discharge to reservoir	Work started Fall 97
11	Thermo Electron 85 First Ave	Groundwater remediation	NPDES exclusion permit issued May 21, 1997	Monitoring progress
12	Hewlett Packard/Beacon 175 Wyman Street	Site Redevelopment	EIR sotrmwater discharge	ENF Certif. of Compliance issued Dec, 10, 1997. DEIR by June, 98
13	Trapelo Rd./Smith St. Gas Station	Groundwater remediation (21E)	Groundwater quality	On-going
14	Bear Hill Village development	Stormwater, groundwater	Impacts during construction, changes in stormwater system	Reviewing drainage modification. Review project changes for O of C

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WALTHAM (contd.)				
SITE	LOCATION	PROJECT	ISSUES	STATUS
15	590 Lincoln Street Arkwrite	Site redevelopment	Stormwater performance standards	Planning phase
16	600 Winter Street Exodus	Site redevelopment	Soil and groundwater quality	Monitoring
17	Smith/Trapelo Rd Snow Property	Housing Development, 3 houses	Stormwater Management Site Monitoring	Monitoring, 80% complete
18	200 West Street Little Brown Boston Properties	Re-development	Rivers Bill; Sewer; Parking; Traffic; stormwater	Planning; RDA for site demo
19	Smith/Trapelo Rd Marriott	Hotel Development	Stormwater; wetlands; traffic	Planning
20	330 bear Hill Road	Re-development	Stormwater improvements	Planning
21	840 Winter St	New England Baptist Hospital	Stormwater performance standards	Applied for special use permit with Waltham; file NOI by Feb 15
22	Winter St. Bay Colony	Final Phase Development	Impacts during construction	50% complete

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LEXINGTON				
SITE	LOCATION	PROJECT	ISSUES	STATUS
23	Stride Rite 191 Spring Street	Redevelopment, stormwater improvements	Impacts during constructin	90% complete
24	131 Spring Street Raytheon	Operations and Maintenance Plan	Salt use; BMPs, Geese Management	On-going
25	Sheraton Hotel - Flatley Company	Hotel Renovation	Impacts during constructin	On-going

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Printed 2/3/98

WESTON				
SITE	LOCATION	PROJECT	ISSUES	STATUS
27	Sibley Road Gas Station	Groundwater remediation (21E)	Soil and groundwater contamination	On-going
28	Mass Broken Stone	Redevelopment, site monitoring, stormwater improvements PIP/21E Site	Planning and permitting	Sewer agreement; Order of Conditions; 401 Water Quality Certificate; traffic; EIR

Cambridge's Reservoirs Watershed Site Monitoring Summary Sheet

Printed 2/3/98

MASS HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT				
SITE	LOCATION	PROJECT	ISSUES	STATUS
36	Routes 128, 2 and 20: highway drainage improvement	Hobbs Brook and Stony Brook watersheds highway drainage improvements	Salt reduction; drainage improvements; maintenance program; Haz-Mat	FDIR Certif. issued Dec. 31, 97. SDIR is required. CWD developing maintenance plan
37	MHD maintenance facility	Facility renovations, PPP	90% complete	100% complete, Certificate of Compliance; Monitoring
38	Marrett Road improvement project	Road construction, site monitoring, stormwater, wetlands, replication	Memorandum of Agreement signed Oct. 95; Impacts from blasting	On hold for funding
39	Roy Rogers/MHD Rt. 128	Stormwater improvement, Haz Mat containment Groundwater remediation	MHD has agreed to develop a pollution prevention plan for the site	On hold for funding

Comm. & Rpts. from other
Officers #5

S-173

A communication was received from
Mayor Duehay, transmitting a memo-
randum fromt he Cambridge
Watershed Advisory Committee,
regarding meeting notification for
Tuesday, February 10, 1998 at Waltham
City Hall.

In City Council March 16, 1998

PLACED ON FILE