

Windham Economic Development Committee  
Infrastructure Sub-Committee  
Meeting Minutes, Tuesday, July 23, 2013

APPROVED

PRESENT: Sy Wrenn, Jim Coburn, Mike Oldenburg and Ralph Valentine,  
GUESTS Sarah Pillsbury and Brandon Kernan of DES arrived at 8:45  
and left the meeting 9:55.

Meeting called to order at Windham Planning Dept. by Ralph at 8:04 AM.

The minutes of May 7, 2013 were reviewed. Motion by Sy second by Ralph to table the minutes until the next meeting to clarify Pennichuck information, motion passed 2-0-2 with Jim and Mike abstaining.

New members Jim Coburn and Mike Oldenburg were welcomed to their first infrastructure sub-committee meeting.

The committee discussed the status of the Exit 3 Water Supply Demand Study. The committee is still gathering information, which will be used to ask that the study be funded ASAP. At the next meeting, a timeline and strategy with tactics for getting funding will be discussed in detail.

Ralph introduced Sarah Pillsbury and Brandon Kernan of DES to the committee; he gave a thumbnail sketch of the study's history and goals and then gave the floor to them.

DES: There was a very early 1990's study done of Southeastern NH which identified the Merrimack River as the best long term source of water going forward. The River has unusually high "low flows" meaning that even when the river is experiencing low flows, the river is still high. As evidence of the amount of water the river can supply, the City of Manchester has been approved to drill a 5M gpm i/s/o gpd well underneath the river and the Town of Bow has developed a series of wells along the river to support its commercial growth.

The DES does not believe that multiple "Dixie cup, stand alone" systems (well systems) are a very good way to support commercial development. Any request for 40 or more gpd requires a large ground water permit, which is very detailed. A "Zone of Influence" must be studied to determine among other things the impact on surface stream flow. While a sanitary well radius is about 500', the zone of influence can run into thousands of feet from the proposed well. Ongoing monitoring is required and the cost of the study can run up to \$200K.

The topography in NH is such that we have a limited amount of overburden on top of our granite base. There are very limited opportunities for water storage above the granite. What water is stored, is stored in the cracks of the granite. That water is sourced by drilled wells. Windham exhibits a high propensity of shallow overburden.

Legislation was recently passed to allow for the formation of water districts. (Jim Coburn will be providing the Bill # and a copy of the bill to the sub-committee at our next meeting for discussion.).

The Town of Salem is under an Administrative Order to source more water, but to date has chosen to source the water within the bounds of Salem.

How can the DES provide assistance to our study request?

Brendon agreed to provide a short, bullet-point report helping us to 1) quantify the impact of stand-alone well systems vs. a municipal type system, 2) outline what a future without a reliable, economical source of water will be like and 3) assess the challenges which are posed by the reliance of wells.

As for funding of the installation of a water system, Sarah mentioned our likely eligibility for a low interest loan sourced through the SRF (State Revolving loan Fund). We are eligible due to current constraints on the well(s) located between the barrels of Rte 93 which serve 500 +/- homes. Jim asked if there were any "strings" attached to the SRF funding, Sarah stated there were David-Bacon (wage rate) provisions and EPA type studies required.

There are CDBG monies, but we likely will exceed income limits.

There is TIF funding, Tax Increment Financing.

There are oil company settlement monies. \$96M is being administered by the AG office, all monies must go to those impacted. There is another \$236M due from Exxon which Exxon has appealed. These monies are a long shot.

We thanked the DES for their attendance, they left the meeting and we proceeded to schedule the next meeting for Tuesday August 6, 2013 at 8:00 AM.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 AM.

Ralph Valentine