

**Wastewater Management
Commission
April 8, 2015
Regular Meeting
~ Minutes ~
Final**

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM by Chairman Thomas M. Ferrio

Attendee Name	Title	Status	Arrived
Thomas M. Ferrio	Chairman	Present	
Elizabeth V. Richardson	Vice-Chairman	Absent	
Peter Ogle	Chairman	Present	
Robert D. Frost	Commissioner	Present	
Barbara Lutzell	Commissioner	Present	
Jacob Peterson	Special Guest	Present	

II. ROLL CALL

III. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF MINUTES

1. Review and Approval of WWMC February 11, 2015 Regular Meeting Minutes

All in favor. Minutes approved as written.

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Peter Ogle, Chairman
SECONDER:	Barbara Lutzell, Commissioner
AYES:	Thomas M. Ferrio, Peter Ogle, Robert D. Frost, Barbara Lutzell
ABSENT:	Elizabeth V. Richardson

IV. COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS

1. Wastewater Manager's Report

Wastewater Manager's report was received and placed on file.

Mr. Dowling showed the Commission members the Town of Charlestown WEB GIS Interactive Mapping which shows individual property information, including OWTS information. Mr. Dowling stated that this is public information and that this is a work in progress with more information to be added over time.

Mr. Dowling suggested bringing in Ted Callendar or Art Gold to help with the Allens Cove (Green Hill Pond) shallow groundwater nutrient input study. Total nitrogen levels are high (6 ppm), nitrate levels are very low (0.2 ppm), while ammonia levels are high.

Mr. Dowling introduced Jacob Peterson as the intern for the Wastewater Management Office, holding an undergraduate degree in Political Science and a Master's Degree in Environmental Science from URI. He is helping the office with different projects, including oiling Canada goose eggs.

Also regarding the shallow groundwater study, Mr. Dowling stated that he recently got permission from Andrew Baer and Megan Moynihan, of Oyster Works, to implement the study on their property on Allen's Cove, which is in a prime location for intercepting groundwater that has passed through an extremely densely developed environment. Mr. Dowling stated that it will be really interesting to get some test wells in there and see what is happening with the shallow groundwater going into Allen's Cove. Mr. Dowling said they will then compare and contrast the data from the two other sites that they have. Mr. Dowling went on to say that with this project, there is still something happening with ammonia and nitrate and total nitrogen in the benthic sediments that he still does not understand, but that he will consult with Ted Callendar on, since Mr. Callendar is an expert on this topic.

Mr. Dowling spoke with LeeAnn Gagnon at RI Housing - \$50,000 used of the \$300,000 funding available.

The WWMO is at a point now where every cesspool in town is now being managed by either the Commission or by the Municipal Court. Some of the past hardship waivers that were granted are now expiring so these will now be handled through the court system. As the Town Ordinance considers metal tanks to be cesspools, in the rush to remove all (actual) cesspools (those made of stone and block), metal tanks were not addressed so the Town currently

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has 26 metal tanks which are required by Town ordinance to be removed and replaced. Mr. Dowling is considering sending a notice to these homeowners stating that they have one (1) year to comply with the ordinance. Mr. Ogle stated that he agrees that this is a good way to proceed. Mr. Dowling will draft a letter and send it certified to the residents of the properties that currently have metal tanks.

RESULT: NO VOTE TAKEN

2. Solicitor's Report

No report available.

RESULT: NO VOTE TAKEN

V. OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Comprehensive Plan Updates Relating to WWMC

Memo from Jane Weidman, Town Planner titled "Wastewater Management Commission Comp Plan Input" was given to all Commission members to read over.

RESULT: NO VOTE TAKEN

Motion to forward the Draft memo titled "Wastewater Management Commission Comp Plan Input" to the Planning Commission for consideration of inclusion in the Comprehensive Plan

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Peter Ogle, Chairman

SECONDER: Barbara Lutzel, Commissioner

AYES: Thomas M. Ferrio, Peter Ogle, Robert D. Frost, Barbara Lutzel

ABSENT: Elizabeth V. Richardson

2. Discussion of Recommendation Regarding Ordinance 210 Changes

Mr. Ferrio and Mr. Dowling met with the Town Administrator, Mark Stankiewicz regarding changes to the Town Ordinance 210. Mr. Stankiewicz advised the Commission to put any editorial changes on the back burner until a substantial change is needed.

RESULT: NO VOTE TAKEN

Motion to hold off on changes to WWMC Ordinance 210 until substantial changes are needed

RESULT: APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]

MOVER: Peter Ogle, Chairman

SECONDER: Robert D. Frost, Commissioner

AYES: Thomas M. Ferrio, Peter Ogle, Robert D. Frost, Barbara Lutzel

ABSENT: Elizabeth V. Richardson

3. Discussion of Potable Water Working Group

Mr. Ogle presented a slide show to the Commissioners in review of the information presented by Ms. Joubert during the meeting of the Potable Water Working Group. Mr. Ogle explained that there have been four (4) meetings thus far of this group. Mr. Ogle thinks that the Commission should endorse what Ms. Joubert is saying.

Recommendations of Ms. Joubert are as follows:

For development standards the goal would be to maintain infiltration to dilute the groundwater/nitrogen:

- Protect wetlands and hydric soils because they serve as treatment zones for nitrogen.
- Limit land clearing and lawn area.
- Establish stormwater treatment and infiltration standards.
- Require use of the RI soil erosion and sediment control standards handbook.

For wastewater treatment:

- For new onsite treatment systems, alterations and repairs ensure that all those new and repaired systems are designed for denitrification but also require use of the pressurized shallow/narrow drainfields.

New onsite systems alterations:

- Reduce future wastewater levels by limiting bedrooms and living area.

Existing onsite wastewater treatment systems (OWTS):

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- Upgrade to denitrification systems based on the location within the 400 foot radius of the wells and based on well head protection area travel time.

System performance:

- Require that new and updated systems be designed for monitoring and have that data recorded through the town.
- For existing onsite systems require the owner via the service provider to provide full monitoring data.
- Authorize the town to require monitoring where the reports indicate that problems are not routine are resolved in a timely manner.

Water use and fertilizers:

- See if it is feasible to prohibit or regulate irrigation wells.

RESULT: NO VOTE TAKEN

VI. NEW BUSINESS

1. Discussion of Voluntary Well Sampling Program Status and Plans

In the present budget cycle, funding to sample private potable wells in densely developed areas of the SAMP to compare and quantify impacts to drinking water/groundwater related to density of OWTS was again funded by the Budget Commission.

Mr. Dowling presented a proposal to reach out to the Quonnie Private Well Owners Group to gauge their interest in this Voluntary program for the early summer.

Three bids for the analyses and sampling of 30 sites have been received and a laboratory has been selected.

RESULT: NO VOTE TAKEN

Motion to approve Mr. Dowling to go ahead with the funded testing and to announce it at the Potable Water Working Group first so that people hear about it before they get the letter of participation in the mail

RESULT:	APPROVED [UNANIMOUS]
MOVER:	Barbara Lutzell, Commissioner
SECONDER:	Robert D. Frost, Commissioner
AYES:	Thomas M. Ferrio, Peter Ogle, Robert D. Frost, Barbara Lutzell
ABSENT:	Elizabeth V. Richardson

2. Report on Legislative Action Resulting from the State Legislative Taskforce

Mr. Dowling stated that he has no further information on this. He has heard that the Senate Bill was held for further study but he believes that there is a complimentary House bill that is being drafted that will be brought to the committee at some point.

Mr. Ferrio stated that this is important to the commission because this will change the relationship of the Towns to RIDEM.

RESULT: NO VOTE TAKEN

VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Mr. Ogle stated that one of his neighbor's complains about being able to smell another neighbor's denitrification system. He asked Mr. Dowling if he has anything that can tell if this is a malfunctioning system. Mr. Dowling stated that this is natural. Discussion ensued regarding how these systems function. Mr. Frost stated that it may be as simple as someone installing something backwards, or not clearing a vent pipe. He further stated that a service call to the vendor would be appropriate.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was closed at 7:37 PM

Attest:

Bonnie Langlois, Recording Secretary