

WELLHEAD PROTECTION COMMITTEE

The Wellhead Protection Committee (WPC) was formed by the Board of Water Commissioners in November 2007 with the mission to further the Town's commitment to protect all sources of drinking water, provide a safe and reliable water supply, and promote the responsible use of this valuable resource. The Board appointed Sherre Greenbaum (chair), Linda Segal, Tom Sciacca and Don Millette, to three-year terms at that time. Jennifer Riley was appointed in October 2008. Kurt Tramosch was appointed in June 2009 to replace Don Millette. The terms of the five members expire on November 30, 2010.

WELLHEAD PROTECTION PLAN

Capture zone analysis

Accomplished:

The first major project undertaken by the WPC was a capture zone analysis of the Town's existing wells. Working with the Water Superintendent and the Board, the WPC authorized EarthTech AECOM to proceed with Phase I of the analysis to delineate the capture zones largely using pre-existing data. Upon completion of this study in October 2008, the WPC walked all capture zones noting potential threats to the wells. The Happy Hollow (HH) wells were identified by the hydrologist as the primary site of concern with respect to water quality. In an effort to prioritize further study, Phase II including monitoring wells for the Happy Hollow wellsite was then authorized. Town approvals for installing the monitoring wells were obtained. The wells were drilled in March and April 2009. Drill points within the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction were approved in April 2009 and installed by hand later that month. The project is scheduled for completion in October 2009.

Public education

Accomplished:

- sponsorship of Drinking Water Forum On April 29 with League of Women Voters, use of town's website & tax bill inserts for publicity
- continued co-sponsorship of Organic Demonstration Lawn at Mellen Green with op ed in *Town Crier* newspaper & handouts
- met with Westford Water Department's Environmental Compliance Officer to discuss outreach for water conservation
- letter to top tier water users (approx 455) with tips to reduce usage
- handouts at Town Building and Town Meeting to promote smart water use & sustainable landscaping
- contacted science teachers (Ken Altschuler, etc) regarding environmental science outreach to high school and middle school students
- *Town Crier* WPC guest columns on sustainable lawncare

Future:

- follow-up letter to top tier water users with indoor water saving tips
- arrange environmental science demonstration program with high school &/or middle school using model aquifer
- plan for fall forum, e.g. possible tour of new Baldwin plant

- ask WayCam to rebroadcast water forum during 2009 (powerpoint presentation currently on Water Dept webpage)
- messages for town's tax bill insert
- additional *Town Crier* guest columns
- promote DEP's annual Water Week
- promote EPA "water sense" program information

WPC training/education

Accomplished:

Attended University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center workshop June 25, 2009
Restored missing Fortin plates I-VIII to town's records

Future:

Fall training offered by Westford environmental compliance officer
Join EPA "water sense" program
Attend trainings offered by other towns, e.g. Westford, Concord

Other funding sources

Accomplished:

Partnered with SuAsCo Watershed Community Council seeking Nyanza Restoration funding to create model water conservation education program. Grant application submitted, awaiting response

Future:

Apply for DEP revolving fund program
Make recommendations regarding future use of MTBE litigation funds (over \$500K)

UST status

Accomplished:

- Discussed record keeping with Fire Chief and reviewed Fire Department records to determine what documentation exists for USTs, particularly near wells
- Began investigating USTs located in capture zones

Future:

- Work with Fire Chief to update UST records & contact homeowners
- Work with Town Surveyor to map USTs in Zones I and II on GIS

Sonar application in Dudley Pond to control invasive weeds

Accomplished:

Memo to ConCom in 2008 with concerns about potential effect on HH wells

Ongoing:

SWQC to provide monitoring for potential impacts to wells

Wellhead visit

Accomplished:

Toured all wells and Reeves Hill tank area with Dept. Foreman Don Millette in 2008

Public water source protective warning signs

Ongoing:

Review & install signs around wellfields as needed

Consider message painted next to storm drains

Birch Rd. wells

Ongoing:

Followup on Framingham's application with DEP to reopen wells & participate in MEPA review based on potential effect on aquifer

Old Conn Path drainage

Accomplished:

Discussed serious drainage issues in this area & suggested possible upgrades due to current conveyance of largely untreated stormwater directly to HH well area.

Future:

Work with Highway Division which has active stormwater program to redirect drainage and upgrade catchbasins

Private wells

Ongoing:

Work on issue of private irrigation wells in cooperation with other depts. that have common interest (BOH, ConCom) in protective town bylaw

Testing protocol

Future:

Monitor testing program due to salt concerns at HH wells

Improvements at high school site

Future:

Monitor site work required by DEP to protect HH wells (funding approved at April 2009 annual town meeting)

Work with HSBC

Investigate whether HH treatment plant is necessary

Protect zone I sand pit

Wellhead Protection Plan document

Future:

Develop & submit Wellhead Protection Plan to DEP including review of 2002 SWAP report for compliance together with recommendations and strategies for inappropriate land uses (target date: September 1, 2009)

Website

Future:

Restore water dept. website information on town website e.g. post system's history, public education, EPA & DEP info, test results, useful info links, etc.

Emergency planning

Future:

Find out Wayland's backup plan for water supply in event of an emergency

Sharing expertise

Future:

Determine feasibility of sharing a water compliance expert with another town's DPW

Potential additional Raytheon monitoring wells to protect Baldwin

Future:

Follow up on installation of any additional monitoring wells as proposed by Raytheon in its Supplemental Environmental Project (SEP) to ConCom, probably on Cow Common (between hazmat site & Baldwin), town's LSP to review data as part of ongoing PIP oversight role

Land Use Committee

Future:

Network with Land Use Committee

(Revised & voted approved at June 17, 2009 WPC meeting)