

# MADISON WATER POLLUTION CONTROL AUTHORITY

March 28, 2018

## MINUTES

Time of Meeting: 6 pm

Location: Meeting Room B

1. **Attendance: Present:** Tom Hansen, Mark Aron, Graham Curtis  
**Absent:** Peter Pastore  
**Others:** Trent Joseph, Abigail White, Tom Banish
2. **Minutes:** No minutes were reviewed and approved. The minutes from November 27, 2017 were already posted
3. **Citizen's comments:** Nancy and John Leckerling of "Shoreline Indivisible" were present and advised the WPCA of the proposed fracking waste ban that is now before the Board of Selectmen for action. The fracking process is used for fossil fuel extraction and it generates a waste stream. CT has no formations where fracking is used but it is used in nearby states such as PA and NY. There is toxic and radioactive material in the slurry. Often, this waste is placed in drying ponds or recycled for reuse for road deicing or fill material. This presents the threat of waste getting into the groundwater. It is not regulated by DEEP or the EPA. The proposed ban will be similar to other ordinances passed by 42 towns. The ordinance will ban the import or use of fracking waste in Madison. The Leckerlings are seeking support from the WPCA and hoping to educate the town on the potential impact of handling such waste.
4. **Membership:** Review of membership changes and current terms of office. Abigail White has resigned. She does not reside in Madison at the moment. Tom Dolan has resigned. Mark Aron was introduced as a new member to replace Tom Dolan.
5. **Tom Banish, First selectman:** Discussion of various topics and shared objectives.

Banish reports that the BOS has taken the fracking waste ban under advisement. After a brief discussion, it was concluded that WPCA would not take a position on the ban unless requested by the BOS. The BOS is confident the DEEP and EPA guidelines would be followed with regard to fracking waste. Since no such waste is generated in Madison, it does not fall under the control of the WPCA.

Banish discussed the wastewater management opportunities that have been presented by the Academy School development proposals. Sewering of the downtown area continues to be a high priority economic development initiative and the town is trying to leverage the redevelopment proposals to possibly provide this service. Hansen indicated that this would require establishment of a public sewer utility if the Academy system is expanded to include other properties.

Hansen reminded Banish that the town's Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) recommends a sewer study for the downtown area. It would seem that such a study would benefit the long term plan for sewerage downtown. And it may help such a project obtain funding under the state's Clean Water Fund (CWF).

Hansen also brought up the need to update the town's Wastewater Facilities Plan. The current plan was approved in the 1980's and is outdated. The plan would mostly address unsewered areas of town and develop programs to maintain and improve on site septic systems. But the downtown area sewerage initiative could also be a part of

the plan. The plan update was also recommended in the 2013 POCD. The WPCA has gone on record advising the town of the need for the update the plan.

The Selectmen and the WPCA will continue to share information and assist one another with projects and initiatives as they arise.

- 6. Madison Water Pollution Control Plan:** Discussion of the current plan and recommendations for modifications, enhancements, etc. Last updated in 2015. The WPC Plan includes operating guidelines and programs in place to meet the town's responsibility of ensuring that all wastewater generated in town is properly managed in a manner that does not create a pollution problem OR lead to a condition where pollution may occur. The Plan is updated from time-to-time as approved by the WPCA. The Plan is carried out by the Director of Health.

The 2015 plan was discussed and some updates/clarifications were proposed.

- Revise sections 2 and 3 to delete references to Garnet Park. This area was never sewered because public water was installed
  - In section 2, revise the wording for the "Downtown Water Restriction District" to more accurately describe the approval process
  - In section 4, update the list of Community Systems referred to as Attachment A.
  - Other edits and clarifications as deemed appropriate by the Health Director and other WPCA members.
- 7. WPCA Mission and Responsibilities:** Discussion. Review of DEEP guidance for Municipal Wastewater Planning and Management. Hansen distributed copies of DEEP "Municipal Primer" regarding the management of wastewater. Key responsibilities of the WPCA include: 1) management of all wastewater generated within the Town boundary; 2) development and update of a Water Pollution Control Plan; 3) developing a Municipal Wastewater Facilities Plan and 4) comprehensive long term planning for wastewater management.

#### **8. Health Director's Report: Trent Joseph**

Trent Joseph advised that he has reviewed and approved one winterization request. There are no failures or code violations to report.

Hansen inquired about the approval process for the new restaurant on Wall Street. Joseph advised that he was applying extra scrutiny towards the design flows anticipating that the applicant may come back in the future to request an increase in seating capacity.

Hansen asked about the community system's compliance with the WPC regarding the annual reports on operation and funding. Community systems are required to maintain a special fund for upgrades, operation and repair of community systems. This protects the town from having to raise funds should the systems go into non-compliance and need to be taken over. Joseph will check into the files and report back.

#### **9. Old Business:**

- Wastewater Facilities Planning update. No action from the BOS for funding the update. The WPCA plans to conduct another presentation in the future. Also, low level meetings with individual selectmen might help.

- Discussion of draft program standards for Wastewater Management District(s). A draft of the standards was distributed but discussion was deferred in the interest of time.

**10. New Business**

- Fracking waste- see items 3 and 5, above
- CT Association of Water Pollution Control Authorities (membership and upcoming programs). Next workshop is on Friday May 4<sup>th</sup>.
- Privatization of wastewater facilities – Tabled for now
- Ideas for future programs – send ideas around for discussion and input.

**11. Citizen Comments - none**

**12. Adjourn – 8 pm**