

**MINUTES OF  
BARNES AQUIFER PROTECTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**DATE:** 9/1/09

**LOCATION:** Easthampton Municipal Offices, Easthampton

**MEMBERS AND DESIGNEES PRESENT:**

J. Barrett, Holyoke	A. Zoeller, Holyoke	J. Burkott, Holyoke
K. Taylor, Westfield	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> W. Darling, Westfield	C. Seklecki, Easthampton
T. Newton, Easthampton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> R. Newton, Easthampton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> S. Beckley, Easthampton
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> M. Czerwiec, Easthampton	J. Slattery, Southampton	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> A. Capra, PVPC
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mark Girard, Southampton		

Others Present: Buttrick, Easthampton Aquifer Committee; Mark Reed, Heritage Survey

**TIME OF CALL TO ORDER:** 3:30

**TIME OF ADJOURNMENT:** 5:00

**1. Adoption of June 2, 2009 Minutes**

Minutes adopted unanimously.

**2. Review of Developments of Regional Impact**

Proposed Car Wash, 23 College Highway, Southampton

Mark Reed of Heritage Surveys presented plans for a proposed commercial car wash facility on a 1.2 acre parcel at 23 College Highway, Southampton. The facility consists of four bays, two automatic and two self-serve, and an office with bathroom. All wash water from the car washing bays will be collected and recycled through three concrete tanks. The remaining effluent from the recycled graywater and sanitary wastewater from the bathroom will be collected and pumped to the Easthampton Wastewater Treatment Plant by way of a sewer station at Coleman Road and College Highway. The stormwater management system consists of three new catchbasins with oil-water separators draining through a gate valve to a detention basin with forebay. The project has already been permitted through the Conservation Commission and Planning Board and an Operation and Maintenance Plan for the stormwater system has been recorded with the deed.

The project meets BAPAC's requirements for commercial facilities by offering treatment of runoff from impervious surfaces prior to infiltration. Anne Capra commented that it would have been preferable for BAPAC to review the plans prior to issuance of the Special Permit by the Planning Board as well as recording the O&M Plan with the deed. Because this work had already been done, if BAPAC had any comments that conflicted with the Special Permit, it would have created a potential hardship and extreme inconvenience for the applicant to address BAPAC's comments. BAPAC seeks to perform expeditious review of plans to facilitate, not hinder, the permitting process.

Northampton Landfill Expansion

The proposed expansion of the Northampton Landfill has generated great public debate. BAPAC has remained somewhat on the fringe of this debate with the noted exception of Bob Newton's presentation of his GIS-based model of the Barnes Aquifer to the City of Northampton, MA

DEP, and other stakeholders. Since BAPAC's last meeting, the City Council has been acting as the judicial board identified to determine the outcome of the Special Permit. As such, the City Council is unable to discuss the landfill expansion with its constituents outside of council meetings. This situation has inspired opponents of the landfill to seek a ballot question at the upcoming election about whether or not people support expansion of the landfill over the Barnes Aquifer. The status of the ballot question is unclear at this point. Anne Capra was contacted by one of the organizers of this initiative who asked for assistance in phrasing the question but was only able to recommend that no matter how the question is phrased, education regarding the question needs to be performed beforehand.

Therefore, Anne Capra recommended that BAPAC issue a formal position regarding the landfill expansion. BAPAC has already commented in opposition to the landfill expansion under the MEPA EIR. BAPAC will develop a position paper stating the following:

If a landfill did not currently exist over the Barnes Aquifer, under no circumstances would we consider locating one there. The current landfill has already caused contamination to Hannum Brook and surrounding private wells. BAPAC believes that the oldest, unlined cell of the landfill is the likely source of the contamination. Although the liner technology proposed for the expansion is considered "state of the art", it will inevitably fail someday, causing contamination of a public drinking water supply. When the liner fails, it will likely be long after those in a position today to make this decision are living; but, it will fail. Therefore, BAPAC does not support the expansion of the Northampton Landfill over the Zone II recharge area of the Barnes Aquifer. BAPAC also recommends that the City begin to remediate the existing contamination by removing the waste from the unlined cell. Global warming forecasts for the Northeast indicate that precipitation will increase in the region, potentially increasing groundwater levels, creating greater opportunity for migration of contaminants from the unlined cell to the surrounding environment.

Stuart Beckley will begin drafting the position paper and circulate to the rest of the committee for comment. BAPAC would like to issue the paper as soon as possible. Anne will investigate any upcoming opportunity for BAPAC to comment on the Special Permit, MEPA filings, or any others.

### **3. DRI Review and Comments**

Anne passed out BAPAC's existing DRI review procedures and standard comments relative to land uses. This has been BAPAC's policy since 1999. Committee members are to review the information and bring any comments to the next meeting.

### **4. New MA DEP Groundwater Rule**

MA DEP is proposing to amend the Drinking Water Regulations 310 CMR 22.00 with the new so-called Groundwater Rule. Woody Darling provided a summary of the new rule. The major focus of the proposed revisions to 310 CMR 22.00 is to incorporate Federal Safe Drinking Water Act amendments into the Massachusetts Drinking Water Regulations. These amendments include one new rule, the Ground Water Rule (GWR), and minor revisions and corrections to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR). The GWR is intended to increase protection against potential viral contamination in public water systems (PWS). The majority of PWSs will be required to test their source water and if necessary install or increase treatment. LCR revisions include

changes to content and delivery of public education materials, compliance calculations, and monitoring and reporting requirements. The GWR will apply to all public water systems using ground water sources (1,400 PWSs) and the LCR will apply to all community and non-transient non-community systems (800 PWSs).

DEP estimates that approximately 50 out of 1,400 PWSs will be required to install treatment facilities, however, suppliers are concerned that many more will be required to do so at great cost to their communities. If GWR treatment is required, costs could range from \$10,000 and greater depending on the system size and type. DEP estimates costs for LCR compliance to be minimal. One of the many concerns is the availability of a lab to perform the analysis within the timeframe specified in the rule.

Westfield's Shaker Road Well #3 has had bacteria levels in excess of allowed levels in August even though the well is chlorinated. The city is investigating the source of contamination. Monitoring wells had tested negative but surface water in Great Brook and catchbasins in the area tested positive for Enterococcus. Samples have been sent to the lab in Lawrence for Enterococcus speciation.

#### **5. Other Business**

Darleen Buttrick asked Bob Newton if he would consider presenting his research on the impacts of road salt and the Barnes Aquifer to the Western Mass Water Works Association. She will get dates and info to Bob for consideration.

#### **Next Meeting:**

Tuesday, October 6, 2009 @ 3:30 PM  
Easthampton Municipal Office Building  
50 Payson Avenue, Easthampton