

SOURCE WATER PROTECTION PROGRAM MEETING MINUTES

A Source Water Protection Meeting was held at the Julio H. Leandri Operations Complex on March 20, 2006 at 1:00 pm. The basic agenda for the meeting was to discuss the formation of a core working committee and discuss upcoming meetings.

- Present were:
 - Gerald Iwan DPH
 - Lori Mathieu DPH
 - Darrell Smith DPH
 - Michael Murphy TOG Planning Director
 - Mark Oefinger TOG Manager
 - Al Dion GU Deputy Director, Water & Wastewater
 - Rick Stevens GU General Manager Water Division
 - Karl Acimovic GU Consultant
 - Ron Bata GU Water Divisions Administrative Secretary

Items of discussion:

- Suggestions for DWQMP Committee Members:
 - Oefinger suggested utilizing a Chamber of Commerce representative vs. one from the Groton Business Association.
 - ACD suggested adding a member from the Ledge Light Health District since they have a vested interest in the health and welfare of Groton, Ledyard, Waterford, New London and East Lyme.
 - Iwan suggested utilizing Mayors, 1st Selectmen or other town administrators for input on who would best represent their communities.
 - Murphy commented that we should not stack the room with only those who were handpicked. Other organizations will feel their input was intentionally overlooked.
 - ACD suggested adding an Open Space representative, with Murphy commenting on someone from organizations such as the Sierra Club and Land Trusts.
 - Oefinger suggested the following:

Chamber of Commerce, Town Planners, Land Owners, Commercial and Real Estate.
- Smith stated it appears that two (2) committees are needed:
 - Technical Group
 - Three (3) Town Planners
 - Groton Utilities
 - DPH
 - CADMUS
 - Others mentioned throughout the meeting.
 - Oversight Group
 - Politicians
 - Mayors
 - 1st Selectmen

- Consultants
- RMS suggested a link on the individual Town Websites to get information to each of the communities. On this website possibly develop a questionnaire to poll each group on their idea of the goals for watershed protection and future deveopment.
 - Iwan stated there must be one focal point the website would be derived from, such as the Groton Utilities website. Each Town link would connect to the one updated site. GU should be used as the focal point due to the fact that GU is the Facilitator of the program.
- RMS recommended a chart that would graph where the program started and the process and actions taken to bring communities up to where we are as of now.
- Mathieu on CADMUS role:
 - produce a document for who the committees are and its organization;
 - mission statement;
 - oversee the first four (4) meetings; and
 - provide language for a RFQ.
- Mathieu stated that the goal of the program is to develop a plan to live with for watershed usage utilizing:
 - four (4) initial meetings
 - budgeted with \$7,500 and approximately \$1,500 per meeting.
 - First meeting utilized as Kick-off Meeting:
 - designed for how future meetings will be organized;
 - who the key players will be;
 - process and goals of the three following meetings;
 - the model of the program;
 - begin initial RFP process for a Consultant;
 - explain the model to the three (3) communities with the understanding that the community people should be heard.
 - advertisement for the three community meetings.
 - suggestions on how to inform communities about committee ideas and how to get more watershed planning.
 - Uniformity between the meetings would be essential; it would not be necessary at this time to regulate how to get key individuals to the table as long as it is completed sometime during the initial meeting series.
- Oefinger / Murphy interjected the understanding that the meetings were open community meetings.
 - It was agreed by all:
 - that the first meeting would be a Kick-off Meeting and that the following three (3) meetings would move between the three communities: Groton, Ledyard and Preston.
 - Key groups mentioned from whom input would be sought were:
 - Businesses
 - Environmental Groups
 - Property Owners
 - Farmers

- Murphy again mentioned to be cautious about stacking meetings with only supporting people.
- Iwan mentioned the first four meetings were two (2) hours in duration used as an informative tool and should not be utilized for a debate process. There will be ample time to voice each group's opinion / issues with the plan after the committee is organized and in place.
- KFA mentioned the Technical Group should be at the table for the first meeting, consisting of the following:

Initial working / technical group:

- 2 Groton Planners or Representatives
- 2 Ledyard Planners or Representatives
- 2 Preston Planners or Representatives
- 3 Groton Utilities Representatives
- 2 DPH Representatives

Potential additional representatives that could be added later on:

- Invitation to DEP Representative
 - 1 Chamber Representative
 - 1 Open Space Representative
 - Municipal leaders
 - 5 Stakeholder Representatives
 - Possibly Ledge Light Health District (involvement in two communities)
 - Possibly Uncas Health District (Preston involvement)
- Iwan stated that for the Town Planners, GU, and DPH must attend each meeting and if at all possible, use the same key players at each of them. Very important.
 - Mathieu stated in closing, the next step is an invitation letter to the community representatives for the April 19th meeting. The letter should:
 - be sent to the town politicians recommending they attend and to bring their top community influential personnel.
 - explain the program and some of its background.
 - short narrative on idea of program and where it is going.