

**Mystic River Watershed Steering Committee  
Municipal Subcommittee  
Meeting Notes  
Thursday, January 14, 2010, 1:30 pm  
EPA New England, 15<sup>th</sup> floor, Court of Appeals  
5 Post Office Square, Boston, MA**

**Municipality Perspective and Call for Action**

- Municipal governments need to be the key people represented on the steering committee because they are the regulators and partners of development.
- Individuals with technical expertise need to be involved, but they should convey the interest of the Steering Committee in the involvement of municipal managers, administrators, and mayors.

**Logistics and Organization of the Subcommittee**

- The municipal subcommittee will have tremendous influence on the impact of water quality in the Mystic River Watershed
- Municipalities have total control over zoning and land-use.
- The decision of who would best represent the issues of each community was left to their respective chief executives.

**Logistics Topics Discussed and Proposed**

- **How Frequently should the subcommittee meet?**
  - Should reflect timing of steering committee goals.
  - Every other month after the steering committee meets is considered reasonable.
- **What should be discussed?**
  - Ensure that municipal reps on the steering committee know the positions municipalities are looking to promote and know how to speak on policies that come up in discussion.
  - How the subcommittee and communities can help in the efforts that are going on in the bigger picture, and what has to happen to protect and promote the watershed.
  - Water Quality is a major priority of EPA, DEP and MyRWA. This requires awareness within the subcommittee as well as the municipalities of WQ issues, especially in Chelsea with business groups. A business subcommittee is in the works.
    - DEP is critical for WQ and is represented on the steering committee by Kevin Brander who works closely with EPA's permitting and enforcement staff.
- **Where?**
  - The steering committee meets out in the watershed which is both convenient, and allows for familiarization with the various areas and issues on the ground.
  - Woburn is willing the host the first meeting in April.

- **Who should convene the subcommittee?**
- **Should there be a rotating chair and vice chair?**
  - Mel Kleckner and Jay Ash currently serve in the municipal seats on the steering committee for the interim. The group is comfortable with them in these positions.
- **Over how long should the subcommittee operate?**
  - **Where should the committee go in the future?**
- **The Metropolitan Area Planning Council could be a potential resource and connection.**
- **More sharing of resources and coordination could help lower the costs of testing.**
  - The sharing of ideas and tools might help get to places that enforcement might not reach as well.
  - The steering committee understands that those businesses that are trying to get to the right place are “key players.” By assessing their intent and actions they can be identified as such, and enforcement can be avoided for those making concerted efforts.
  - Issues may transcend one community, and the necessary officials can be invited and brought to meetings.

**Announcements**

- **MS4**
  - As soon as a draft permit is ready it will be sent to each community. It will also be presented at the MA municipal environmental committee in February highlighting the comment period and public hearings etc. Following the comment period an assessment of the final comments is made before the permit is issued.
  - Information on the cost of implementing the permit is available and considered throughout annual reporting.
  - This should be presented to the steering committee.
- **The next meeting is scheduled for April in Woburn Topics to be discussed:**
  - EPA’s RARE presentation
  - Creation of a mission statement

**Mystic River Watershed Municipal Subcommittee Sign-in Sheet  
January 14, 2010**

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