Old Colony Planning Council
Due to COVID 19
Executive Committee meeting as the Council
Agenda

Agenda for Meeting No. 565
March 25, 2020

The listings of matters are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair, which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.

1. Call to Order, 7:00 PM
   Ms. Christine M. Joy, President

2. Roll Call of Members
   Ms. Sandra M. Wright, Secretary

3. Minutes of February 26, 2020 Meeting
   Ms. Sandra M. Wright, Secretary

   Treasurer

5. Staff Report
   Ms. Mary Waldron, Executive Director

6. Regional Clearinghouse Reviews
   Industrial Revenue Bonds
       None
   Environmental Notifications
       EEA #16162 – Bridgewater Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan – Recommended Plan (Bridgewater) (ENF)
       EEA #16161 – High Street Dam Removal & Bridge Replacement (Bridgewater) (ENF)

7. Old Business
   A. None

8. New Business
   A. Appointment of Treasurer and Secretary (due to resignation of David Klein).
   B. Review and consideration of the FFY 2020-2024 Old Colony Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) Amendments 3, Mary Waldron, Executive Director.
   C. Audit Subcommittee Report.
   D. Information Technology Strategic Plan 2020 - 2025

9. Community Concerns

10. Other Business

11. Visitors Comments/Questions

12. Adjournment

FUTURE MEETINGS: April 29, 2020 Annual Meeting - TBD
(Executive Committee Meeting would be convened in the absence of a Council quorum)
Industrial Revenue Bonds (Council Action)
None

Environmental Notifications (Information only)

EEA #16162 – Bridgewater Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan – Recommended Plan (Bridgewater) (ENF)
The Town of Bridgewater is developing this 20-year plan for town-wide wastewater management for continued environmental protection and to be fiscally responsible with regard to future permit requirements. Bridgewater’s Board of Water and Sewer Commissioners has been evaluating wastewater management needs and options for over 30 years and has supported the implementation projects to address much of the need previously identified. The last comprehensive study completed for the Town was the Sewerage Needs Analysis, December 2000. In March 2001, an Environmental Impact Report for Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan was submitted for review under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) process. Since that time, many of the recommendations made in that study have been implemented to improve the level of wastewater treatment and disposal for more than a third of Bridgewater’s developed properties.

In light of changes in the environmental, regulatory, and land use needs over the past 16-year period, it is time now to re-evaluate wastewater management needs and alternatives for the two-thirds of Bridgewater properties who continue to rely on individual on-site (septic) systems for wastewater treatment and disposal. Similarly, for the residents who rely on the centralized system and those who will in the future, evaluation and upgrade of the existing wastewater treatment plant is needed to meet more stringent discharge permit requirements from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In addition, this CWMP process also includes integration of water management items as well as related stormwater management items for a more comprehensive water resources project perspective.

The re-evaluation process to develop this Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan, or CWMP, as a guide for town-wide wastewater management for the next 20-years includes:

- Documentation of the Existing and Future Conditions in the Planning Area
- Needs Assessment
- Alternatives Analysis
- Recommended Plan Development
- Costs, Cost Allocation and Project Financing
- Implementation
- Public Participation

To find the most appropriate solutions to Bridgewater’s wastewater management concerns, the following principles were emphasized throughout the planning process:

- Detailed, scientific-based wastewater needs information as a solid base for planning.
- Thorough and thoughtful review of appropriate alternatives.
- Recognition of the importance of maintaining local water balance when feasible.
- Selection of a recommended plan that benefits the entire Town.
- Public participation and stakeholder involvement.

The CWMP’s recommended plan includes two distinct project types: upgrades to Bridgewater’s Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF) and sewer expansion to residential needs areas across town. Upgrades to the WWTF will be maintained within the boundary of the existing WWTF. Sewer extensions are proposed for residential areas and will be mainly limited to existing roadways.

Comments Due: 3/31/2020
For Copies: Jonas Kazlauskas (508) 697-0910
MEPA Analyst: Anne Canaday (617) 626-1035
EEA #16161 – High Street Dam Removal & Bridge Replacement (Bridgewater) (ENF)
The High Street Dam (also known as Jenkins Pond Dam) (National ID: MA00327) is a privately owned run-of-river structure located on the Town River in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, and is classified as a Significant Hazard Dam in Fair Condition, and requires significant repairs. The project also includes the replacement of the High Street Bridge (MassDOT Bridge No. B-23-010-9P5) upstream of the dam. The High Street Bridge was constructed in 1790, and must be replaced prior to or concurrent with dam removal. High Street will be redesigned in accordance with MassDOT Complete Streets guidelines to improve accommodations for pedestrians and bicycles from the intersection of High Street and Route 28 northeastern for a total distance of approximately 1,750 feet.

The primary dam structure is approximately 12.5 feet high and 80 feet wide. The dam lies approximately 100 feet downstream of the Town-owned High Street Bridge. The original bridge structure was constructed around 1790 and was widened in the mid-1800s. Although referred to as a bridge, the roadway crossing of the Town River is actually comprised of four stone box culverts (each under 8 feet in width), the openings of which are undersized for natural river flows. The dam impoundment submerges the bridge/culvert openings under almost all flow conditions. The High Street Dam includes a concrete fish ladder that is managed by the Town River Fishery Committee in accordance with a DMF Fishway Operations and Maintenance Plan 1 during the diadromous fish migratory seasons. The High Street Dam is the first significant barrier from the ocean on the Town River and Taunton River system. There is only one other dam on the system, the War Memorial Park Dam, located 2.6 miles upstream of High Street, as other obsolete dams along the Town River have been removed. The owner of the dam is currently working with the Division of Marine Fisheries to improve fish passage at the War Memorial Park Dam. Once both projects are completed, fish passage will be restored to 354 acres of diadromous fish spawning and rearing habitat in Lake Nippenicket, located upstream of the War Memorial Park Dam.

The High Street Dam is associated with a historic mill site that has since been converted into public open space called Stanley Iron Works Park. The Town River flows along the eastern side of the park. Upstream of High Street, a canal diverts water westward and away from the Town River. This mill race flows parallel to Town River to the west on the opposite side of the park. The High Street Dam impounds water for approximately 2.5 miles upstream to War Memorial Park in West Bridgewater, Massachusetts. The impoundment is generally bordered to the east by the West Bridgewater Country Club, and to the west by low-density residential homes. A long High Street within the project limits, the land use is predominantly single- and multi-family residential. The Advanced Pollution Control Corporation (APC) and Lincoln Athletic Association (LAA) properties are classified as industrial and commercial, respectively. A private residence is located on the impoundment northeast of the High Street bridge, and the Town of Bridgewater Highway Department maintains a facility to the southeast of the dam. Although well beyond the limits of the project site itself, the project also involves placement of scour protection to protect bridge abutments associated with a MassDOT-owned structure along Route 28 in West Bridgewater.

The preferred alternative involves the complete deconstruction and removal of the dam and the restoration of the channel through an approximately 200-foot-long segment of the former impoundment to a fish-passable configuration. This alternative would improve fish passage and eliminate the risk of dam failure. Lowering the water surface in the formerly impounded area will increase channel velocities that will be addressed through bank stabilization, select armoring, and replacement of the over 200-year old High Street bridge. The High Street Bridge will be replaced with an adequately sized structure.

Replacement of the structure would in turn necessitate complete streets implementation and reconstruction of utilities that cross the river in the vicinity of the bridge. Reconstruction of the bridge and its approaches may occur under different construction contracts, administered by the Town of Bridgewater, either prior to or largely simultaneous with dam removal and riverbank restoration activities. The project also involves the addition of scour protection to a bridge in West Bridgewater than carries Route 28 across the Town River just south of the town center.

Construction will require temporary impacts to Stanley Iron Works Park as well as an undeveloped parcel owned by the town to the northeast of the bridge. Elimination of the impoundment will ultimately allow for an expansion in the area used as parkland as well as improved access along the river.

Comments Due: 4/10/2020
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