



Manchester-By-The-Sea Meeting Posting

Notice of Public Meeting – (As required by M.G.L.Ch.30A §18-28)

Board/Committee: Water Resources Protection Task Force – Contaminants Working Group
Day & Date: Wednesday, March 22, 2023
Time: 7:30pm
Location: VIRTUAL
Signature: Jessica Lamothe

MINUTES

Members present – Gordon Turner, Randi Augustine, Jessica Lamothe, Lynn Atkinson

Non-member present – Steve Gang, Chair of Water Resources Protection Task Force

New PFAS Regs Gordon asked Randi to review the new regulations. She stressed that they are not enforceable yet and that the MA DEP is in a comment period. Here are the new regs – taken from the MA DEP website:

On March 14, 2023 EPA released proposed National Primary Drinking Water regulations for PFOA, PFOS and four other PFAS. EPA is proposing to set a Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 4.0 parts per trillion (ppt) for PFOA and 4.0 ppt for PFOS and is proposing to address four additional PFAS (GenX, PFBS, PFNA, and PFHxS) as a mixture using a Hazard Index. A Hazard Index accounts for the increased risk from mixtures of PFAS. Additionally, EPA is proposing Maximum Contaminant Level Goals (MCLGs) for each of the six PFAS. A breakdown of the MCLs and MCLGs is shown in the table below.

PFAS Compound	Proposed MCLG	Proposed MCL
PFOA	0 ppt	4.0 ppt
PFOS	0 ppt	4.0 ppt
PFNA	1.0 (unitless Hazard Index)	1.0 (unitless Hazard Index)
PFHxS		
PFBS		
HFPO-DA (GenX)		

- These new numbers will certainly pose a problem for the Lincoln Street Well (LSW) where PFAS/PFOAS have tested around 11 ppt. The numbers at Gravelly Pond (GP) and the Water treatment plant have been lower and below the proposed limits.
- Randi and Steve discussed that there will be workshops for the public to ask questions about this during the comment period (one will take place on 4/11) and that the regulatory task is very difficult with this as there are so many PFAS chemicals.
- Randi agreed that much is unknown and that they will may regulate other chemicals in the future.
- Steve commented that the 4 ppt is really low – the lowest detectable limit.
- Gordon said that it would appear we will have to be treating LSW sooner rather than later.

- Randi brought up Chuck Dam's mention of possible blending of the 2 water supplies, but Gordon stressed the challenge and upheaval that would cause to create a system to get all the water from LSW to the GP Water treatment facility.
- Steve said that if the Town were really thinking big they could do that work as those roads need new water mains anyway. But all agreed that might be unlikely to all happen.
- Lynn brought up the turf fields and her concerns about the PFAS and other chemicals coming off those fields, but Steve said the data is inconclusive on where the PFAS at the LSW are coming from.
- Lynn stressed that there must be an obvious source and said that she had added a segment in our report about doing forensic studies for PFAS.
- Steve said that before this threshold change, there were rough estimates of 95 cities and towns in MA that had issues with PFAS. Now it is up to 169 public water supplies (some municipalities have more than 1 in them). These were estimates from the Sierra Club website.
- We agreed that these new thresholds do not change anything we have written in our report, but that the PFAS levels will need to be updated and Gordon will add new graphs on what specifically is being regulated.

Gun Club lead bullets threat?

WRPTF member David Lumsden had emailed us concerns about the lead bullets from the Hamilton Rod and Gun club being a threat to GP if the bullets remain in the ground and the lead eventually gets into our water supply.

- Gordon said that the water testing the town does at people's taps has not shown lead contamination, but that monitoring wells near the gun club and landfill could give us good data. If we could get the numbers from Hamilton's monitoring wells it could be helpful.
- The challenge is that they are a private club, in Hamilton, and we do not know anything about their practices, what happens with bullets that were used, etc to know if it is a problem or not.
- Lynn got online and read a study that said that lead doesn't move much in the soil.
- Steve mentioned that our water is more basic than acidic, and acidic water generally conducts lead better.
- The White Paper that David Lumsden sent us is very hypothetical. View it here: [LeadPollutionAtOutdoorFiringRanges.pdf](#)
- Gordon stated that our recommendation on this should be that monitoring wells looking at lead near GP would be a good idea and will add a statement to that effect into our report.
- Jessica asked that Gordon send a new link of the report to make sure we are all reviewing the most current copy.

Review of Task Force Executive Summary – Helen

Helen was unable to make the meeting, so we asked Steve to email the most current copy to our group so that we can suggest edits via email.

Discussion of new data regarding synthetic turf playing fields

Lynn discussed new research showing that a compound known as 6PPD-Q which comes from the recycled tires used as the infill in synthetic turf fields has been found to be responsible for killing salmon in the northwest, especially when there has been large runoff from big storm events. There is no evidence of detriment to human health at this time, but Lynn expressed her concern for the trout that are right there in Sawmill Brook.

- Steve said that the new synthetic turf fields at the High School are a fait accompli unless some really bad, new public health information comes out. The conditions with the Conservation Commission are that an independent, third-party lab has to test and prove that there are NO PFAS in any of the materials to be used BEFORE the field goes down.
- All agreed that Lynn should forward this new study and information to the Conservation Commission.

Approve Minutes

10 Central Street, Manchester-By-The-Sea, MA 01944 – 978.526.2000 – www.manchester.ma.us

Gordon moved and Randi seconded to approve the minutes from 1.3.2023 as amended by Randi. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Gordon moved and Randi seconded to approve the minutes from 1.17.2023. The minutes were unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:30pm.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Jessica Lamothe.