

Lost Lake Watershed Advisory Committee (LLWAC)

Town of Groton, Groton, MA 01450 978-448-1111

Meeting Minutes - June 9, 2016

At Town Hall

Present: Mark Deuger, Susan Horowitz (BOH), John Petropoulos (BOS), Arthur Prest (Finance Comm.), Alex Woodle

Not present: Tom Orcutt (Groton Water Dept.), Michael Rosa

Recorder: Stephen Legge

Visitors: Henry Amistadi (resident of Lost Lake area)

Call to Order: Chairman Prest called the meeting to order at 7:03 PM.

Discussion of ESS Group, Inc. Sampling and Analysis Plan, dated Sept. 9, 2015:

Mr. Woodle cited his email to Carl Nielsen of ESS, dated May 27, 2016, which asked four questions about the submitted plan. Mr. Nielsen has provided answers to all four questions in writing.

Mr. Deuger said, regarding sampling of storm water runoff effects, collection of samples must be deployed immediately in front of a storm (time-wise) and samples collected in the first 30 minutes of a storm.

Mr. Petropoulos asked if sampling at different times and at different locations can produce a body of data which is comparable.

Mr. Deuger asked, what is the goal of groundwater sampling? In the plan important details are left out. He is not sure what they are doing. He thinks we need to know why a particular sample is being collected and how it fits into the context of the overall effort.

Mr. Prest: Work will not begin by ESS until the LLWAC approves the Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) and the Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP).

Mr. Deuger cited his email to the LLWAC, dated May 24, 2016, which commented on the SAP and raised five questions for consideration. Mr. Deuger asked in Question #4, about the sampling of groundwater and the use of seepage meters. He wants to know the protocol for where and why they are to be used. He believes there will be significant differences in flow rates. Mr. Deuger questions the value of measuring groundwater at all and thinks it might be best to scrub this whole segment of the plan. Six samples are not enough to tell us a meaningful story.

Mr. Petropoulos had to leave the meeting to attend another meeting.

Mr. Prest laid out a timeline for how business would proceed with the project:

1. ESS must first wait for the LLWAC to approve the SAP.
2. ESS will then develop and deliver the QAPP.
3. LLWAC will approve the QAPP.
4. ESS will commence to sample and collect data, hopefully by early fall.

Mr. Woodle said he wants us to accept the SAP now and get moving on the project.

There was a discussion about Mr. Deuger's readiness to conditionally accept the SAP and raise his specific questions after the QAPP is delivered. It was mentioned that the committee had previously accepted the basic premises upon which the SAP was based. Mr. Deuger offered his resignation from the Committee, due to differences of opinion about matters of importance. After further discussion Mr. Deuger withdrew his offer to resign.

Ms. Horowitz argued for approval of the SAP now, but to be prepared to examine the detailed plans expected in the QAPP more critically and diligently, before approval of that document and commencement of the project.

Mr. Deuger wants to resolve issues and problems at this stage before approving the SAP.

Visitor Mr. Amistadi discussed details of the SAP document with Mr. Deuger.

Mr. Deuger responded the SAP should list what samples are to be collected, why, and what the goals are specifically for each recommended sampling group. The QAPP document is expected to answer the question, how the data will meet quality objectives, with names of laboratories to be used, etc. It is expected to be more a formality than a provider of a new detailed perspective on the sampling plan.

Mr. Woodle asked again for the Committee to approve the SAP.

Mr. Amistadi asked if approving the SAP now locks us into anything we may not want in the QAPP. Mr. Woodle answered we will not waste the taxpayers' money by approving the SAP because the project cannot proceed, and we will not pay ESS, until we are satisfied with the QAPP.

Mr. Woodle moved to accept the SAP presented by ESS, with the caveat that the QAPP will provide detailed answers to all of the Committee's questions about sampling protocols and justifications, including Mr. Deuger's questions in his email of May 24th. Ms. Horowitz seconded. A vote was taken and the motion passed 3 – 1 with Mr. Deuger voting no.

Administrative Issues and Approval of Minutes:

Minutes of previous meetings were not discussed or approved.

The purpose of the next meeting, in two weeks, will be to review ESS's QAPP, which should be in hand by then.

The meeting was adjourned with unanimous consent at 8:15 PM.

**** The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 23rd, at 7:00 PM. ****