

MINUTES
Henniker Conservation Commission
Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting
May 19, 2008
7:00 PM Henniker Grange Hall

PRESENT: Holly Green, Mark Mitch, Ron Taylor, Megan Mulcahy, Spencer Bennett, Dana Myskowski

1) Mission Statement:

The Subcommittee reviewed the statement (as prepared by the Henniker Conservation Commission) –

“The purpose of the Water Resources Management Subcommittee is to:

- research current legal and physical inventory of Henniker’s water supply;
- identify current governances, policies and regulations;
- identify potential threats, and
- report its recommendations to the Commission.”

The subcommittee reviewed maps of the aquifer, public drinking water wells and their surrounding wellhead protection areas, as well as sources of possible contamination risks.

We discussed the need to determine what water protection policies are currently in place and where various entities currently draw their water for other uses besides drinking water.

2) Prospective Members:

Dana Myskowski and Rick Patenaude are the latest volunteers/prospective members to come forward, who will each need to be approved by the Henniker Conservation Committee.

3) Appointment of Officers:

In a unanimous and uncontested “race” it was voted that Holly Green would serve as Chair, Mark Mitch as Vice-chair, and (pending approval by the Henniker Conservation Committee) Dana Myskowski as Secretary.

4) Water Resources Management Plan:

The subcommittee reviewed the April 1989 "Water Resource Management and Protection Plan" as prepared for the Town of Henniker by the Planning Board with the assistance of the Central New Hampshire Regional Planning Commission.

Next steps for updating the plan were determined.

First Track –

Look at the delineation report on file at DES for the wellhead protection areas and see how the boundaries were determined

Identify potential water resources from the zoning map

Identify risks

Identify strategies for minimizing risks, including identifying opportunities for land conservation in wellhead protection areas

Second Track –

List/learn the State and Federal Regulations

Identify need, if any, for additional local regulations

Tasks were assigned:

Obtain copy of the WHPA delineation report(s) from DES – Holly

Use info from DES One Stop Reporting Web page to update the information, such as underground storage tanks, in the 1989 report – Mitch

Investigate Public Water Supply Systems, bottom of page 22 from the 1989 report, and Wastewater Treatment on page 23 – Ron

5) Other Business:

1) The subcommittee discussed the DES Drinking Water Source Protection Conference that had taken place earlier that day and which was attended by some of the subcommittee members. Some of the sessions, such as gravel excavation and water conservation, were discussed. Holly, who is the DES Water Supply Land Grant Coordinator, gave a presentation at the conference on grants that are available to municipalities and public water suppliers to conserve land for the purpose of protecting drinking water sources. She

updated the subcommittee on the review process and criteria for these grants.

2) The subcommittee discussed the town wells and how much water is being pumped out of the wells. Ron Taylor pointed out that graphs from studies show that in the winter the town residents use less water; it spikes about ten times the winter amount in summer when residents water their lawns.

3) The Subcommittee also briefly discussed septic systems: the nature of new vs. outdated ones and contamination risks associated with old systems and what could be done to assist homeowners and businesses with replacing potentially threatening systems.

4) It was suggested that the subcommittee visit the Town of Henniker Water Supply System Storage Facilities and send a letter requesting tours of them, of Cogswell Springs, and of the water treatment facility.

It was decided that all will report back findings next meeting: Monday, June 16, 2008, at 7 PM in the Grange Hall.

The subcommittee decided to adjourn at 8:30. It was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Myskowski
May 21, 2008