

MINUTES
Henniker Conservation Commission
Water Resources Subcommittee Meeting
June 23, 2008
7:00 PM Henniker

PRESENT: Holly Green, Mark Mitch, Ron Taylor, Megan Mulcahy, Spencer Bennett, Chris Fox, Rick Patenaude, Dana Myskowski

1) Review and approve minutes for the 5/19 meeting:

It was decided that the minutes of both the May and June meetings will be e-mailed to all subcommittee members for approval at July's meeting.

2) Groundwater withdrawals:

Holly Green shared the handout "Groundwater Conference: Meeting Summary." We discussed the 1998 legislation that requires DES to permit any new withdrawal projects that will exceed 40 gallons per minute (or 57,600 gallons daily). Below those figures, no permits are needed for withdrawals from the public water supply, however a request for minor withdrawal designation needs to be filed with DES.

3) Updates to Water Resources Management Plan:

The Well Delineation Report has not yet been found on file. Our task is to obtain the number of the town well closest to the Jeannes Family Market (formerly the Craney Hill Market), a business which was built--including underground gas tanks--in the 1970s, before the well-head protection act was enacted. Then the protection area can be further examined and explored by the subcommittee.

Ron Taylor presented a through 3-page handout outlining the Public Water Supply System, a list of Underground Storage Tank Information for Henniker, and information on the Wastewater Treatment Facilities. Ron pointed out that the town's records indicate 47 buried tanks in the old report and that now, twenty years later, there are 12 remaining. Of those 35 tanks, most have been removed while some have been updated to secondary containment systems.

- a. The question was posed: how long does a business (or homeowner?) have to remove unused tanks?
- b. The concern was raised about spill-off from old and existing single-hulled tanks, e.g. the DOT's 15-year-old 1,000 gallon composite tank that is currently being used for diesel.

4) *Other Business*

- a. Water meters – it was decided that the subcommittee would be willing to write a letter in support of a water meter program once the details of such an initiative have been drawn up by the water commissioners.
- b. Surface water – Spencer Bennett brought a list of ponds and lakes near our town that are on the DES list of surface waters that have been contaminated by invasive species (such as Hopkinton Lake, Drew Lake, Masasecum, and St. Paul’s School Pond). The concern is that our own ponds and lakes will become contaminated if boaters do not follow proper clean-off procedures after boating elsewhere and before launching in a new pond, lake or stream. Our own volunteer “Weed Watchers” program in town is effective when volunteers are able to staff boat ramps, but coverage by inspectors is sparse and intermittent. It was suggested that a few of us meet with area lake associations to discuss the problems and possible solutions so that the neighbors who live on the lake can know what to look for on a boat that is about to put-in on their lake. It was also suggested that we look into posting pictures of the various invasive species at each of the town’s boat ramps.
- c. Septic tanks – We discussed basic septic tank maintenance procedures and how we could look into an educational strategy to help homeowners realize the overall cost and environmental benefits to routine maintenance.
- d. Reduce contamination risk – It was suggested that we might look into ways to help people above the town aquifer contain spills before they happen, to reduce risk of contamination to our water supply.
- e. Volunteer areas – Holly will look over the 1989 “Water Resource Management and Protection Plan” and e-mail areas that committee members can volunteer to help research and work on. We’ll discuss these at our July meeting.

The subcommittee decided to adjourn at 8:35. It was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Dana Myskowski
July 9, 2008