



**WATER SUPPLY PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES**  
**SEPTEMBER 16, 2021**  
**8:00 AM**

This meeting of the Water Supply Protection Committee was conducted **virtually**.

**In attendance:** Lyons Witten (chair), Anna Martini, Linda Arsenault, John Tobiason, Brian Yellen, Chris Cianfrani, Jack Jemsek, David Ziomek, Amy Rusiecki, Jason Skeels, Beth Willson.

**Meeting topics:**

1. Water supply status
  - a. Plenty of water

Willson presented data from the Water Supply Status webpage. It's been a very wet year, Atkins Reservoir levels are high. Notes have been added to the reservoir level chart to clarify that water levels at Atkins are managed, therefore, are not a natural indicator of drought. Water use has increased in August as students return. Water use has been lower than the ten year average every month so far in 2021. Precipitation has been above average, similar to 2018 recorded levels.

- b. Conservation request due to Well #4 production decrease

Rusiecki stated the Town recently issued a water conservation announcement to public media. With Centennial WTP being offline and the declining production of Well #4 we're concerned about the water supply as students return this fall. Due to Covid there has been a delay in getting materials for the installation of Replacement Well #4. We're watching consumption numbers and tank levels closely, especially during predicted hot weather.

Martini asked if there is a threat that colleges would have to send students home due to a water shortage. Rusiecki responded some modeling has been done of worst case scenarios, and it is very unlikely we would get to that point.

Tobiason asked what is the current water supply capacity of Well #4. Rusiecki responded about 150 gpm, it used to be 1,000 gpm. Tobiason asked if Town could switch Atkins to full capacity, three trains? Rusiecki responded we looked at that, all SCADA data set for two trains, so would take a lot to re-program. Cianfrani asked what the timeline is for fixing the situation. That's next agenda item.

2. Water infrastructure projects update
  - a. Replacement Well #4

The pump and motor are on order. The Replacement Well is installed and has been developed and sampled. Including sampling for PFAS. All materials for connecting the well to the main have also been ordered by the Town. Optimistically hoping early November well will be connected and operating. The pump manufacturer has not given us a confirmed delivery date.

b. Water line extension - Leverett

Contractor (Baltazar) has installed approximately 5,000 linear feet of pipe in a month. Once main is in they will install services and fire hydrants. Hydrants are on back order, supply chain issues. JS Ray currently drilling under Cushman Brook, have hit hard rock, had to order new drill bit. Drilling going very slowly. New main is 12" ductile iron. Sections bored under the brook are HDPE, 12" under East Leverett Rd and 2" under Teawaddle Hill Rd. Contractor estimates five more weeks of work.

c. Centennial WTP

Contractor bids went through a pre-qualification process over the summer. The project is going before the Pelham Planning Board next week. We are hoping to bid the project in late fall once all the permitting is complete. The estimated timeline for construction is one to two years.

3. PFAS sampling

a. April & July POE sampling results (Well #4 also)

The Town sampled for PFAS at our five points of entry (POEs) to our distribution system in April and July 2021. There were no detections above the laboratory reporting limit of 2ppt during either sampling event. The Town also sampled for PFAS during development of Replacement Well #4, again, no PFAS was detected above the reporting limit.

Yellon asked the difference between reporting and detection limits. Willson replied the reporting limit is the concentration of an analyte that the lab is confident in reporting, detection limits are what the lab equipment can detect. PFAS regulation requires labs to report to 2ppt for all PFAS compounds. Tobiason added that UMASS is doing a lot of the QA/QC of the lab data for the current state wide PFAS sampling.

Jemsek asked if Amherst Fire Dept ever did training in Amherst? Rusiecki said from her experience working for the Fire Dept., fire fighting foams have been used, and were tested off of Tillson Farm Rd. This location is not near any of our water sources.

MADEP regulations allow towns with two rounds of PFAS sampling with no detections to apply for a waiver from further quarterly sampling. Amherst has applied. If approved Amherst won't need to sample at POEs again until 2024.

b. Rain water sampling – Witten

Witten is participating in a state wide rainwater PFAS sampling program organized by the LSP community. He has collection station in his backyard, there are approximately 200 stations

across the state. Should have results by our next meeting. Trying to determine if rainwater is a source of PFAS in any part of the state, the lab is Alpha Analytical.

4. Lawrence Swamp spring monitoring well sampling

Willson shared spring 2021 Lawrence Swamp monitoring well data. Six monitoring wells were sampled for chloride, TDS, conductivity, pH, hardness, nitrate and ammonia. Data all consistent with previous years. Willson shared chart of chloride data in three shallow wells, MW1-89 off Southeast St consistently has higher levels of chloride than two wells off Hulst Rd.

5. Watershed projects

a. Atkins Dam inspection results

Atkins Dam had a Phase I inspection done in fall 2020. Hill, Hawley, and Intake Reservoir dams were inspected last week. The inspections are done by a consultant, Tighe & Bond. Atkins inspection gave the dam a rating of Fair due to some embankment seepage. Tighe and Bond recommend conducting a study of the seepage, possibly installing monitoring wells and a weir to monitor seepage, and doing ground penetrating radar of the dam structure. The Town would like to apply for a grant to conduct this work in the next couple years. Yellon asked if the Atkins dike also gets inspected. Rusiecki responded yes, it's not rated as high of a hazard so is not inspected as often as Atkins but is on an inspection schedule.

Tobiason asked if the inspections take into account climate change and increased extreme storm events. Willson responded yes, the Tighe & Bond reports discuss flood storage and dam response to flood events.

6. Select date for next meeting

Thursday, January 27, 2021.

7. Other items not reasonably anticipated 48 hours before the meeting