

Water & Wastewater

Editor,

If your readers watched the August 26 BOS meeting, they will understand the email below sent to the Board following the meeting where the potential Nyanza mitigation funding opportunity was presented. For those who did not see the meeting, there is a brief summary of the opportunity following the email

----- Original Message ----- Subject: Thank you
From: "Cedar Swamp Conservation Trust" <trustees@csctrust.org>
Date: Tue, August 26, 2008 11:26 pm
To: "Cedar Swamp Conservation Trust" <trustees@csctrust.org>
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Board Members,

Thank you for the invitation to speak with you about this opportunity tonight. While the Elmwood Park site may not have been the chosen location for the Town's WWTF the support for the Nyanza project potential funding would seem to have only benefits and no risk to the Town you represent.

We would hope to hear from you soon with a positive response. I would be willing to meet with the Town Manager to help draft a basic support letter which can be included with our application.

I respected the timing and the agenda of your meeting in which I could not respond to the DPW Chairman's assertions so I include the following comments for your consideration.

If the DPW Chairman has the data and analysis of soils, soil grain size, test pits, boring logs and depth to groundwater for the Elmwood Park site which were not included in the MEPA filings it would be beneficial to all parties if it was supplied. During our site visit we saw no signs this work had taken place. Many from this organization and others have studied the MEPA filings and do not believe they exist.

Early in the appeal process both Cedar Swamp and Mr Morrison offered a solution to the DPW Chairman which would have resolved this matter immediately.

The solution was simply to locate the WWTF and its disposal beds a minimum of 500 feet from the wetlands and waters of the Whitehall Brook. While this is not the best environmental resolution we felt this would offer both parties an agreeable solution. I hope that you realize by now that the soil characteristics are not as has been represented at the current site and hundreds or thousands of yards of soil will need to be brought to the site. This depth to groundwater at the site can be gleaned from the MEPA reports. The DPW Chairman has refused to consider this option so now the DPW has the Town about eighteen months into a multi-year appeal process. As you should be aware the DEP has stayed the two appeals filed by CSCT pending the resolution of the wetlands appeal filed by Mr Morrison and the Hopkinton residents so I would expect we are four years or more from completion if no additional court action is taken at a federal level. You should also know the Outstanding Resource Waters are protected under federal statutes as well as state regulations.

My experience, as is likely that of many of you, is to attempt to settle these types of disputes. I expect this was likely the recommendation of your attorney and we have done our part.

Lastly however you resolve your DPW organization issues we hope it will lead to a more efficient operation. We review water and wastewater records for the towns of the upper Sudbury River Watershed. You have seen our data on the extremely high levels of I & I in the Town's current sewer system. Recently we have reviewed the 2007 water statistical report published by the DEP and Hopkinton's municipal water system has unaccounted for water at 29%. Think about that number, in last years "drought" 29,000 gallons of every 100,000 gallons pumped by the wells was lost, the town did not know where it went. The I & I and the UAW cost the town significant dollars as well as straining the watershed. Both the I & I and the UAW are the highest by far of the towns we monitor.

We look forward to hearing from you.

John C

Cedar Swamp Conservation Trust is your organization working to protect the Outstanding Resource Waters in the area of the Cedar Swamp ACEC the headwaters of the Sudbury River, which support our Water Supplies and the area's Wildlife & Habitat.

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The project manager and trustees for the Nyanza Super Fund mitigation funding for projects in the Sudbury River Watershed have held a number of meetings which Cedar Swamp Conservation Trust representatives have attended. Following the Trustees original meeting, CSCT emailed the BOS Chairman on June 13 that there was an opportunity for

collaboration with the Town which should be discussed. Unfortunately, our email went unanswered. While the opportunity involved the Town's wastewater plans, and some may believe this is solely the responsibility of the DPW Committee, we view this as a financial opportunity which falls under the fiduciary responsibility given the BOS under the Town's Charter.

On August 14 a follow-up email was sent by CSCT to the Chairman and the entire Board and on August 21 an additional email was sent to the Chairman. The emails to a great degree detailed the opportunity, a potential funding of \$200,000 to \$500,000, the time line for application and the project outline. The proposal, which would bring wastewater recharge to the previously short listed site at the rear of Elmwood Park, would bring benefits to the watershed, activities at the Hopkinton State Park Reservoir and the Municipal Water Systems of Ashland and Hopkinton.

On August 25 an invitation to speak at the BOS meeting on the 26th was forwarded to CSCT from the Town Manager at the request of the Chairman. It is unfortunate that no response to this opportunity has been received as the deadline is rapidly approaching.

During the BOS meeting the Chairman of the DPW made statements regarding the alternative study for the proposed WWTF site, which have still not been supported. It is unclear if the BOS was informed of the proposed appeal settlement made to the DPW Chairman in a negotiations meeting many months ago. It is also unclear to us what the real reason is why Mr. McIntyre does not want what would be a free study of the Elmwood Park site completed as the cost savings to the Town for the construction and the operation of a WWTF at that site would be in the millions of dollars.

Thank you,

John Craycroft
Cedar Swamp Conservation Trust