



**Sustainability, Energy
& Resiliency Committee**
City of Salem, MA

MEETING MINUTES

Present

Chair John Hayes
Vice Chair Will Winn
Bill Burnham
Leigh Chandler
Kevin Rice

Absent

Nate Korpusik
Zach Calderon

City Staff

Stacy Kilb, Sustainability & Resiliency Dept. Liaison
& recorder

Public

SATV (Recording)
[Phone #]
Gentleman in person, didn't get his name

Introductions

City Council Liaison Update (Kyle Davis)

- o City Council budget season over, now on summer break until September

Sustainability Dept. Updates

- Positions posted:
 - o Admin assistant, part time – filled
 - o Energy Manager – full time

Guest Presenters: Brad Perron of the Salem Beverly Water Supply Board and Jay Carroll* of Salem Engineering Dept. "Salem & Beverly Water Supply Board - Sustainability & Modernization: Preparing for the Next 150 Years" *Jay Carroll not available, Ray Jodoin, Director, presenting in his stead

3rd of 3 presentations on our drinking water

- History of SBWSB
 - o 1877 marks the beginning of cooperation between Beverly & Salem
 - o What the Board manages



- All of our water comes from Ipswich River
 - o Pumping water from that to Wenham Lake
 - o There is pumped storage nearby (Raw Water Diversion Pump Station)
- Treatment Plan overview
 - o Discussion of chlorine taste and odor (or lack thereof) and logistics; it depends somewhat on time of year and distance from treatment plant.
- Significant electricity demand
 - o Only pump six months of the year, if conditions allow (Dec. 1 -May 31), but this still uses a significant amount of electricity
 - o 450 kW not incl Beverly and Salem pump stations
 - All year, Longham reservoir supplements Wenham Lake supply
 - o Considering ways to be more efficient
- Annual SBWSB Cycle outlined (Wenham Lake and Putnamville Reservoirs should be full)
 - o Prefer river to be higher during draws since there is less sediment to precipitate out and water is clearer
 - o If water is not extracted in this time period, extraction must stop anyway
 - o May take as little as 28 days or as much as several months to draw water
- Massachusetts undergoes approximately 20-year drought cycles, we are comparable to 2001 right now
 - o Drought is decided by state, not city or region
 - o Records have been kept since the advent of the two cities, and even in the late 1800's, the river would dry up, hence the restrictions on drawing from it
 - o The Board does not have the authority to restrict water usage by residents, but they can inform Cities that levels are low enough to restrict, but Commonwealth also now has a drought management plan that municipalities must follow. Board notifies cities of drought status and actions to take
 - o Less usage = less demand on treatment plant = more economical
 - o Stacy notes that our Dept. newsletter gives updates of drought status and water conservation tips
 - [SRD monthly email newsletter signup](#)
 - [Massachusetts Drought Status Updates](#)
- Reservoir and Pipeline Water Supply System
 - o Board owns a site on Rt. 1 that could be developed, but cost would be \$454M to develop; would add 1.8M gallons of water to system
- SWIM program - forward looking plan for aging system
 - o SWIM =
 - Sustainable
 - Water
 - Infrastructure &
 - Management
 - o RACES =



- Reliability
 - Asset Inventory/Condition
 - Capital Renewal
 - Energy/Environment
 - Safety
- o Older equipment is repairable and more reliable
- o RACES goals and deliverables are outlined
- o John Hayes comments that building in resilience in the face of climate change is important. During periods of flood they may consider taking water out of season
- Their energy and environmental projects
 - o Load shift - cutting down demand at critical times yields revenue via incentives
 - Demand response has helped them bring in \$70K/year that can be used for capital projects
 - o Taking water when it's cleaner also saves money and spares aging infrastructure
 - o They don't have the assets necessary for energy production from pumping; this is not logistically possible, even though it is more practical than in the past
 - o Seeking funding for facilities upgrades and sustainability plan
- 20-Year Master Planning Efforts
 - o Biggest challenge is trees coming down on infrastructure (especially at Canal St. pump station). Would require months to a year if this needs to be rebuilt due to damage or another season
- Water Quality & Sustainability
 - o Museum showcases older pipes, including wooden water mains
 - Museum is at SBWSB HQ in Beverly
 - Tours are available to anyone, but in the middle of a \$9M construction project
 - History of ice harvesting at Wenham lake, because it was very clean. But then ice houses burned down, and water quality deteriorated as water from Longham added color/organic material, so this was discontinued
 - o Color coming from the iron pipes - not harmful
 - o Issues with invasive species? Knotweed, though it actually holds back erosion
 - o How are heavy metals and chemicals removed? Aluminum sulfate binds them and removes them via chemical precipitation. VOCs and organics come out with activated carbon
 - o Sludge remains go to SESD
- PFAS management has mostly been diluting it rather than removing (very hard to remove). There is background PFAS everywhere
 - o EPA regs limit PFAS to 4 parts per trillion, as a trend, SBWSB sees between two and 5 PPT per quarter, five is when transferring water in. Some parts of the river have 28 PPT
 - o Taking water during the winter when it's cleanest helps with this
 - o Getting to zero would incur a large financial burden and they follow Prop 2 ½ and can't bond, so additional mitigation is not financially feasible
- Salem's Water Distribution System – outline



- Water Quality Protection Activities – maintaining quality to the tap
 - o Discussion/description of leak detection. Pilot with detectors on valves is underway
- What makes the water brown?
 - o Usually the distribution system has been adjusted in some way - it releases some of the sediment that has collected along the pipes
 - o It does not impact water quality or make the water unsafe
- Water Infrastructure
 - o Parts of our system date back to the 19th century
 - o The oldest cast iron water main currently in service was installed in 1882 and continues to function reliably
 - o Water main replacement is prioritized based on condition, break history, hydraulic performance, and coordination with roadway improvements
- Water Infrastructure Challenges outlined. Aging water mains are the biggest issue
 - o Disposal of sediment? Sent to SESD
 - o Discussion of GIS and its usage and capabilities
- Performance Results & Awards
 - o 2023 Int'l Maintenance Conference (IMC) “Best Reliability Sustainability Program”
 - o 2024 NE Water Works Assoc. “Utility of the Year Award” in the Large Utility Category
 - o 2025 NE Water Works Assoc. “Most Innovative Program”
- Replacement of lead pipes
 - o Still in the process of developing unknowns; receipt of a letter does not mean you have lead service, it means we don't know. Lead could be anywhere
 - o Street, house, or connection could be lead.
 - o 1990's implemented, anti-corrosion agent has been added so exposure to lead has been decreased. Flint MI did not use corrosion prevention additives so that's why there was an issue
 - o City only owns and can remove lead from main to curb stop. Beyond shutoff valve at curb stop into house is owned by property owner. It can be difficult to get property owners to update their service line; the state will not allow partial removals
 - o Sampling procedure for lead is described
 - o Filters, countertop or whole home, can remove lead, but must be maintained and replaced regularly
- SBWSB has a drought management plan, but this has been superseded by the state's. We are in a perpetual drought that changes the function of water use. They can implement measures/communication if April hits and the reservoirs are not approaching full. But system is resilient and this has never been implemented. Can't shut down pumping stations/water
- 1960's was supposed to be a 30B reservoir that would provide 300B gallons water in Ipswich, Ipswich did not want, built a well, failed by one vote
 - o Other regional solutions are being discussed, but these could compromise the resiliency of Salem/Beverly. This was discussed in IRWA presentation



- Is drought management funding still being discussed? Environmental bond bill for state level drought management has moved through legislature, will most likely pass. A PFAS bill to ban common products that use PFAS is in the works, but is in trouble if it doesn't pass in next 10 days. Both bills are in committee
- Member of public notes that the annual report is impressive

Old/New Business

- **Subcommittee updates**
 - New committee on plug in solar (Bill Burns)
 - If state legislation doesn't pass, can we pass an ordinance in Salem
 - Would need a September presentation after research
 - Language access (Will Winn)
 - Feedback is that if someone wanted to join SERC who only speaks Spanish, would have to cross that bridge and do what we can at that point in time
 - If we get interest, city may spend some more on us, but starting with City Council first
 - Communications sub-committee (Leigh Chandler)
 - John and Kevin joining, Leigh to lead
 - Consider how to prioritize time according to intended audience
 - John suggested names for an Instagram handle, Leigh had weighed in, this is to be discussed in a subcommittee meeting
 - Native Planting subcommittee (Kevin Rice)
 - Kevin is the only person right now
 - Kyle Davis was involved in development of Native Planting Ordinance, will also chat with Salem Native Nursery
- Picnic during regular next meeting date/time in the Willows
 - Will to send around an invite and organize jotform for potluck sign up
 - Invite SAFE, SSCW, Planning Board, Zero Waste, Conservation Commission (City Council))
- Want to talk about mission statement in advance of September
 - Special meeting in August – Wed. Aug. 12th
 - Parade – Heat Pump costume (Stacy) will bring Energy Star costume, John to donate vinyl SERC banner and will wear Solarize Mass T shirt
 - Leigh and John to march and hold banner
 - Friends and family welcome to march
 - Different parade route than HH parade
- Nate hasn't officially resigned; need to wait for that in order post position
 - Applications can be submitted regardless, but we can't post or fill the open slot until we have the resignation letter, even if it is just one sentence

Remarks from the Chair

- None this meeting

Approve Meeting Minutes – June 24, 2026 minutes



Postponed to September Meeting

Public Comment

Adjourn

A motion to adjourn is made by Will Winn, seconded by Kevin Rice, and passes with all in favor in a roll call vote.

Chair John Hayes	Yes
Vice Chair Will Winn	Yes
Bill Burnham	Yes
Zach Calderon	Absent
Leigh Chandler	Yes
Nate Korpusik	Absent
Kevin Rice	Yes

The meeting ends at 8:14 PM.

Know Your Rights Under the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. c. 39 §23B, and City Ordinance Sections 2-2028 through 2-2033. Please contact the Sustainability and Resiliency Department at (978) 745-9595 x41010 for more information

