

NORTH SAGAMORE WATER DISTRICT
MEETING MINUTES MARCH 13, 2023

The North Sagamore Water District Board of Water Commissioners held their monthly meeting on Monday, March 13, 2023 at 8:30 am at the North Sagamore Water District office, 14 Squanto Road, Sagamore Beach, MA.

Those in attendance at the start of the meeting were Commissioner Mark Melchionda, Commissioner Mark Bergeron, Moderator Stephen Mealy, Superintendent Matt Sawicki and Treasurer Maureen Fruci. Commissioner George Sala, Heather DiPaolo and Roseanne Bottaro from the Bourne Recycling Committee joined the meeting remotely.

Chairperson Mark Melchionda called the meeting to order at 8:30 am with a roll call attendance: Commissioner Sala - yes, Commissioner Melchionda - yes, Commissioner Bergeron - yes.

DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE ON CPC FUNDED WATER BOTTLE FILLING STATION AT CLARK FIELD

Superintendent Sawicki provided the Board with updated information from MASS DEP pertaining to the Clark Field water bottle filling station project. He explained DEP hasn't specifically addressed water bottle filling stations. However, he has done some research regarding liability with water quality. Inviting people to drink from water bottle filling stations can open up the spread of bacteria. Additionally, the filter inside the filling station could potentially change the water quality by removing chlorine, which could contribute bacteria to the water. Having the filter in place would require the town to be its own water supplier. Superintendent Sawicki said the District would ultimately be responsible for the water quality. Commissioner Bergeron asked if there will be a backflow preventer on the filling station. The Superintendent said there is not, but they would definitely add one. Mr. Mealy asked if the filter can be removed. The Superintendent said he isn't sure what that would do to the manufacturer's warranty. Mr. Mealy said it is only a one-year warranty. Commissioner Melchionda asked if somebody just joined the meeting, Barry Clayton said yes, as a member of the community.

Superintendent Sawicki said the District would like a dedicated ¾" water line, with a backflow device. An agreement will need to be drafted with the town of Bourne on how to maintain the water bottle filling station. He suggested that if the filter is removed it would simplify the process because the filter is a real concern. Commissioner Melchionda said he has also done some research and thinks the project is a great idea, however, he is very concerned about how it will be maintained and if the unit is not in or attached to a building. He stated the unit that is being proposed will be outside which means it will be exposed to birds and other outside elements that could potentially expose the water to bacteria. He said if the water bottle filling station will be maintained by professionals he is fine with it, otherwise he is not in favor of the project. Commissioner Bergeron agreed that as a District resident he is in favor of the project. However, as a commissioner he has concerns as well, stating the District needs to be sure its properly maintained.

Mr. Mealy suggested an agreement between NSWAD and the town of Bourne be drafted regarding the maintenance for the water bottle filling station. He said he also understands the concerns of the District and said maybe a small structure could be built to protect the unit. Commissioner Melchionda said he is very concerned particularly after seeing the units in Buzzards Bay which do not seem to be properly maintained and look much older than they are. Commissioner Sala said he is both NSWAD commissioner and a CPC board member as well as former DPW director for the town of Bourne. During the time he was DPW director, the water bottle filling stations in Buzzards Bay fell under his direction. He said he wouldn't expect the DPW to maintain the water filling station. As DPW director he hired a landscaping company to maintain the filling stations, draining down the unit, removing the filter and replacing it with a new one in the Spring. He also mentioned when the filling stations were purchased they came with covers which would slip over the unit.

However, he recently went by the park and the covers are not currently on the units, leaving them exposed to bird droppings etc. He stated his biggest concern is the safety of the drinking water. He also said he is on board with the idea of a written maintenance plan or contract outside of the DPW, to maintain the water bottle filling station.

Superintendent Sawicki said he is not in favor of using an irrigation company to maintain the unit. He said a better solution may be for NSWDC to take over the responsibility for the maintenance once a written maintenance plan/agreement is drafted. Commissioner Melchionda asked if there is some sort of warning system that will indicate when the filter needs to be changed. There was also a discussion about who would assume the cost of maintenance for the unit going forward. Commissioner Sala said CPC funds cannot be used for any maintenance. He said the DPW does have a line item for repairs and maintenance.

Commissioner Melchionda said everyone agrees the water filling station is a great idea, but the District needs to make sure water quality is safe. Ms. DiPaolo said she agrees and stated they obviously want to make sure everything is done following the proper channels and agreed a maintenance plan is a great idea. The Superintendent said the water filling station will be safe as long as where the water comes out is safe and clean. He said the chlorine keeps the water clean, however the concern is if the filter takes the chlorine out then the water may not be safe to drink.

Commissioner Sala said it seems everyone is in agreement that a maintenance plan/agreement for the water filling station should be drawn up under the direction of Superintendent Sawicki. There was a discussion about whether the town of Bourne will put the water service in or if a plumber will be needed. Superintendent Sawicki said the District can check to make sure the unit does not get dirty and notify the town if a problem arises.

Commissioner Melchionda said he thinks the Board is ready to vote on the water bottle filling station with the understanding there will be a maintenance agreement in place now and for the future. Ms. DiPaolo said that would be great and there will be time to get the information to CPC for their next meeting on 3/22/23. Commissioner Bergeron made a motion that the North Sagamore Water District supports the town's installation of a water bottle filling station at the Clark Field with the stipulation that a written maintenance plan/agreement is put in place prior to the installation of the unit. Commissioner Melchionda seconded the motion. Commissioner Sala abstained from the vote because he is a CPC board member.

Superintendent Sawicki will draft a maintenance document/agreement for the water bottle filling station.

Commissioner Sala asked if one representative from NSWDC will zoom in on the CPC meeting on 3/22/23 in case there are other questions or concerns because he will be representing the CPC at that meeting.

Ms. DiPaolo thanked the Board and the Superintendent for their time and for all of their work on this project.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Bergeron made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 am. Commissioner Sala seconded the motion. All Board members were in favor. Roll call vote: Commissioner Sala – yes, Commissioner Bergeron – yes, Commissioner Melchionda - yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Maureen Fruci
District Clerk