

NOVEMBER 1, 2004 SPECIAL MEETING

The Wethersfield Town Council held a special meeting on November 1, 2004 at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Town Hall.

Present: Councilors Adil, Cascio, Forrest, Fortunato, Montinieri, Deputy Mayor Karangekis and Chairperson Morin.

Absent: Councilor Czernicki and Councilor Hemmann.

Also present: Bonnie Therrien, Town Manager; Dolores G. Sassano, Town Clerk, MDC Commissioner John McAuliffe, MDC Director of Engineering and Planning Michael Petty, MDC Representative Martin Courneen, State Representative Doyle, and State Senator Ciotto.

Chairperson Morin introduced Mr. Petty, who presented an update and summary of work as it relates to the Wethersfield Cove. Mr. Petty said that the MDC has undertaken a \$125,000 study that will determine, once and for all, what it will take to achieve a zero discharge solution. He said that the goal is to identify the most feasible alternatives associated with zero discharge. The following six alternatives were considered as feasible choices:

Alternative 1 - 72" Storm and Sewer Diversion (No Treatment):

Concept Description: Collect CSO and stormwater in South End Playground (F-5) and convey (untreated) to Connecticut River via a new 108" relief interceptor. This alternative does achieve a goal of zero discharge.

Capital Cost: \$42 to \$57 million

Mr. Petty said that in order to do this alternative, a pump station would need to be built. He said that this alternative takes CSO's from the Franklin Avenue area and discharges it, untreated, into the Connecticut River. This alternative is included because it does achieve zero discharge into the Wethersfield Cove; however there would be difficulty in permitting this alternative through the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) without treatment of the flow.

Alternative 2 - 72" Storm and Sewer Diversion with Treatment:

Concept Description: Alternative 1 with a treatment facility near the HWPCF.

Capital Cost: \$105 - \$142 million

Mr. Petty said that this alternative is the same as alternative 1 with the addition of a High Rate Clarification Treatment Plant.

Alternative 5 - Separation:

Concept Description: Full separation of Franklin Avenue drainage district, install new pipe on every street where there is only a combined sewer pipe, stormwater discharges to Folly Brook and Wethersfield Cove.

Capital Cost: \$90 - \$121 million

Mr. Petty said that this alternative will have a rather lengthy implementation schedule since combined sewer separation is a time-consuming process.

Alternative 6 - CSO Collection Conduit, Partial Separation, and Transport to Treatment:

Concept Description: Collect CSO's at each of the eight regulators via a collection conduit, convey flow to a treatment facility near HWPCF via a new 96" interceptor

Capital Cost: \$109 - \$147 million

Mr. Petty said that this alternative is similar to Alternative 9 in that they both call for limited separation of CSO's in the Franklin Avenue drainage area; however there will be additional pipelines to collect the sewage and take it to the Connecticut River as in Alternatives 1 & 2. He said that the benefit is a slightly smaller pumping capacity and treatment plant; however both Alternative 6 and Alternative 9 are more costly.

Alternative 9 - Reduced CSO Collection Conduit, Partial Separation and Transport to Treatment

Concept Description: Collect CSO's at each of five regulators north and west of South Street and Franklin Avenue (F-9) via a collection conduit, collect stormwater and CSO's at South End Playground (F-5) via a new 96" interceptor and convey flow to a treatment facility near the HWPCF, direct separated stormwater north and west of F-9 to South Meadows Storage Pond.

Capital Cost: \$106 - \$144 million

Alternative 10 - Deep Rock Tunnel

Concept Description: A deep rock tunnel will collect CSO's at each regulator via a drop shaft and provide storage for the 30-year storm, tunnel will be pumped after storm ends.

Capital Cost: \$110 - \$150 million

Mr. Petty said that the purpose of the 20'-24' diameter tunnels is to store CSO's during a storm and, after the storm, pump the CSO's from the tunnels to the HWPCF.

Mr. Petty said that an extensive study has been completed to determine the feasibility, particularly with regard to possible permitting issues, of the previous six alternatives which will achieve zero discharge into Wethersfield Cove.

Commissioner Courneen asked Mr. Petty to make everyone aware that there are tunnels already in place.

Mr. Petty said that the issue of CSO's in Wethersfield Cove relates only to the Franklin Avenue drainage area; however the CSO problem, districtwide, is much larger than just Franklin Avenue and the Wethersfield Cove. He said that the MDC is in the process of preparing a long-term control plan that will take care of CSO problems in Hartford. Mr. Petty said that there are currently ten long-term control plan alternatives identified. He said that the levels of control of the long-term plan are much lower than the zero discharge standard set for Wethersfield Cove. Mr. Petty said that a tunnel, the Park River Auxiliary Conduit, already exists to transmit stormwater from the Park River to the Connecticut River. He said that there are savings that can be achieved through a system-wide approach, taking into consideration the long-term control plan, and applied to the large dollar figures for alternatives for zero discharge for Wethersfield Cove.

Senator Fonfara arrived at the meeting at this time.

Chairperson Morin said that he is happy to see these opportunities available to move forward.

Councilor Cascio thanked Mr. Petty for the overview he provided. He asked what the short-term plan is for the State and the MDC to place this project into their capital improvement budget. Mr. Petty said that the MDC's next step is to complete their long-term control plan which will include a one-year level of drainage control for the Franklin Avenue area. He said that the goal is to get to zero discharge to the Wethersfield Cove. Councilor Cascio verified that the State is aware of the concern over CSO's into the Wethersfield Cove. Mr. Petty said that they are. Councilor Cascio asked where this issue falls on the State's agenda. Mr. Petty said that the State can only act on the MDC's long-term control plan which needs to incorporate the zero CSO discharge into it. Before this can be done, fund sources must be identified.

Senator Fonfara thanked Mr. Petty and the MDC for authorizing and funding the study. He said that this is the first

time concrete data is available from which action can be taken.

Representative Doyle asked Mr. Petty if the MDC is prepared to bond a portion of or all of the alternative chosen. Mr. Petty said that the alternative chosen would likely be a component of the long-term control plan which will cost approximately \$500 to \$600 million with a ten to twenty year implementation schedule. Because of this, he said that this will need to go to referendum and that the MDC is prepared for this.

Councilor Adil asked if Alternative 1 provides for any removal of solids from the water. Mr. Petty said that it does not remove anything from the water. Councilor Adil asked if the MDC has looked into the cost of controlling the solids from going into the Connecticut River. Mr. Petty said that the removal of solids and disinfection is provided in Alternative 2.

Councilor Montinieri asked Mr. Petty to elaborate on the lengthy schedule required for Alternative 5. Mr. Petty said that the timeline for complete separation provided in Alternative 5 would be hard to predict until all streets are scheduled and phased. He said that previous separations for small areas have taken five to six years; therefore complete separation of the Franklin Avenue drainage area could take five to twenty years to complete.

Councilor Forrest asked Mr. Petty what the timeline is for the long-term control plan. Mr. Petty said that the plan has been worked on for approximately two years and the MDC is required to submit the plan to the DEP for review and approval by December 31, 2004. He expects that it will be approved before Summer, 2005 so that the MDC can immediately begin to schedule projects for their fiscal year 2006.

Senator Ciotto verified that the project could take between ten and twenty years before it is complete. Mr. Petty said that this is true if Alternative 5 is chosen. He said that all of the other alternatives would consist of a significantly shorter amount of time.

Councilor Cascio asked if the Town has received regular reports on the water quality at the Wethersfield Cove. Mr. Petty said that the MDC monitors every rainfall for quantity and flow rate and the information generated is sent to the Town's consultants Fuss & O'Neil. These flows are also reported to the DEP. Mr. Petty said that water quality monitoring is done less frequently and he is unsure of the frequency.

Chairperson Morin announced that the Town is no longer using the services of Fuss & O'Neil and requested that any future information be provided to SEA or Town Manager Bonnie Therrien.

Councilor Fortunato asked Mr. Petty if the MDC has had conversations with the DEP regarding Alternative 1 and what conditions would need to be met in order for this alternative to be satisfactory with them. Mr. Petty said that the MDC has had conversations with the DEP on this subject and that in order for conditions to be satisfactory with the DEP, Alternative 2 would need to be completed. He said that it has been discussed that Alternative 1 be staged and eventually morphed into Alternative 2. A positive; however not definitive, response was provided by the DEP. Councilor Fortunato asked what an approximate time line would be to move from Alternative 1 to Alternative 2. Mr. Petty said that the MDC would not be allowed more than a few years after the completion of Alternative 1.

Mr. Petty thanked Chairperson Morin for his leadership on the Wethersfield Cove issue. He said that this has been a problem for a number of years and that it is time the problem be solved once and for all.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:10 p.m., Councilor Forrest moved "**TO ADJOURN THE MEETING**" seconded by Councilor Fortunato. All Councilors present, including the Chairperson voted AYE. The motion passed 7-0-0.

Dolores G. Sassano
Town Clerk