

Minutes of the Water Level Committee Meeting on April 14, 2022

Attending : Willie Platt, Jen Perga, Jim Rollins, Don Crossman, Ellen Babcock

Absent: Jim Welton

Willie Platt presented two possible five-year water level policy proposals. We discussed changing to a seven-year plan. However, this idea was dropped and the committee focused on one of the five-year plans. The plan will be addressed in inches instead of feet as follows:

2022/2023 - 36"down – 3 feet
2023/2024 – 48"down - 4 feet
2024/2025 – 36" down – 3 feet
2025/2026 – 84" down – 7 feet
2026/2027 – 36" down – 3 feet

The plan now has one asterisk at bottom of the proposal. Two additional ones were discussed for possible inclusion.

1. Drawdown is for shoreline maintenance (already in proposal).
2. Public Works and their needs.
3. The Water Level Committee will review the drawdown proposal annually and determine if adjustments will need to be made based on precipitation levels, aquatic problems, dam maintenance and other public works issues that might arise and interfere with drawdowns.

Jim Rollins discussed the deep drawdown being on the fifth or tenth year but then realized that it didn't matter as people were confused about the exact year. For example, would the drawdown be in year 2024 or 2025? The committee agreed to drop the idea as well.

There was conversation between Willie and Jim Rollins about drawdowns and issues that have been occurring downstream during drawdowns - e.g., drawdowns have flooded the highway. So far Jim has been unable to determine where the problem is located in the pipes. We discussed wanting to get permission to enter the abandoned factory in order to check if the problem is occurring there.

We discussed using PowerPoint with graphs, photos, etc., when presenting the new Five-Year Water Level Policy to the Board of Selectmen. The hope was that Candy might be able to assist in putting a presentation together with input from Water Level Committee members.

Budget and 2020 water quality report were not addressed at this meeting.

Next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 5, 2022.