

Work Plan for Comprehensive Water System Study for Falmouth

Draft: December 10, 2015

The Town of Falmouth is interested to conduct a community-wide public water system analysis. This study is driven in part by a request from Middle Road residents where there is proposed road construction work in the next two construction seasons. Some of the Town's questions are local policy questions, but others are of a technical nature. Due to limited available resources the Town must make any site-specific decision based on community-wide priorities.

2002 COMPREHENSIVE WATER SYSTEM STRATEGIC PLAN

Portland Water District (PWD) conducted a [system-wide strategic plan](#) in 2002 (work performed by CDM). Volume 4.3 of this Comprehensive Water System Strategic Plan contained a Water System Master Plan for the Town of Falmouth, which identified a number of future capital projects. In addition, PWD undertakes water main renewals and replacements on an annual basis. Falmouth staff met in August 2014 with PWD to discuss potential future improvement projects and the Town's interest to conduct a system-wide study. PWD supplied the Town with copies of its Strategic Plan. While PWD maintains the water system, expansions of that system are typically developer-driven. Proactive planning by the Town was welcomed by PWD.

PWD maintains a 5-year Capital Improvements Plan for its planned improvements. Potential projects discussed in 2014 focus on creating loops and maintaining capacity, fire flow, and system pressure. They include:

- Connection to Route 100 in Cumberland
- Connection with Harris Road in Cumberland
- Middle Road improvements
- Woodville Road extension
- Bowdoin Drive-Alpine Drive connection

The first four of these projects will only go forward if other funding partners can be identified.

2013 COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

The Town of Falmouth recently adopted a [2013 Comprehensive Plan](#) which included these policies:

- increasing the share of growth in the Town's designated growth area to a significant majority of all new residential growth,
- a preference for making more of its growth area accessible for public sewer and/or water service, and
- continuing to allocate most of any new municipal infrastructure capital investments into the designated growth areas.

The Comprehensive Plan envisions an effort to "proactively plan for sewer, water, and other utility extensions in the designated growth area, assess the options and means of participating

in collaborative efforts with agencies and regional groups to better serve residents and businesses, and (a) assess the implications of increased emphasis on smaller, clustered lots as they pertain to reliability of wells and septic in closer proximity to each other, and if/how this should affect proactive extensions of public water and/or sewer service, and (b) **establish a plan for additional public water service in the designated growth area in cooperation with the Portland Water District (PWD)** [emphasis added]”.

In addition, the Comprehensive Plan calls for establishing a plan for targeted sewer service in the designated growth area. A sewer master plan for the area west of Interstate 295 is currently being completed by Wright-Pierce. This plan assesses the feasibility where public sanitary sewer could provide some value with accommodating growth in the growth area where growth is actually expected. A similar plan for targeted water service is desired by the Town.

SCOPE OF WORK

The Town is interested to complete through a collaborative effort the following scope of work. The Town of Falmouth and PWD will be assisted by a consultant. Primary responsibility for each of the tasks below is added in parentheses.

1. **Existing water system** (primary responsibility: PWD)
 - 1.1. Inventory and condition of existing water main infrastructure and service area.
 - 1.2. Update of improvement projects completed by PWD since 2002.
 - 1.3. Current upgrade plans by the Portland Water District.
 - 1.4. Emerging opportunities and PWD interest for system-enhancement and expansion.
2. **Unserved areas in the Town’s designated Growth Area** (primary responsibility: Consultant)
 - 2.1. Mapping of GIS layers with existing system, growth area boundary, and other relevant layers.
 - 2.2. Town-wide identification if, and where, there are drinking water issues with private wells, such as quantity, salt from natural sources, arsenic, and limited supply, using data from PWD, Town, State, and private sources.
 - 2.3. Feasibility where public water could provide some value with accommodating growth (including fire protection) in the growth area where growth is actually expected. Note: Where other attributes of an area make it highly unlikely that growth, which could depend on public water, is not going to happen, there is no need to serve that area.
 - 2.4. Specific opportunities for system-enhancement and expansion in the Town’s growth area.
3. **Costs and Priorities of all recommended improvements** (primary responsibility: Consultant)
4. **Opportunities for cost-sharing** (primary responsibility: Consultant)

- 4.1. Opportunities for cost sharing between PWD, Town, and other parties.
- 4.2. Exploration of the feasibility of a mechanism for the Town to assist development financially with utility extensions in the growth area as well as establishing a policy along with ordinance/regulation changes that identifies if, when, where, and how Town funds will be used for, and/or developments can recoup, utility infrastructure cost, and conditions/preferences for such cost-sharing.

5. **Final Report** (primary responsibility: Consultant)

PORTLAND WATER DISTRICT

As mentioned, in 2014 Town staff met with Portland Water District (PWD). The Town’s interest to do a study was well received by PWD and reaffirmed in November 2015. Gordon Johnson, PWD Engineering Services Manager, stated that PWD has conducted outreach meetings with Windham, Gorham, and Cumberland. PWD looked forward to collaborating with the Town of Falmouth.

PROJECT COST

Consultant cost is TBD by the proposals that will be submitted in response to a Request for Proposals (RFP). Town of Falmouth and PWD staff are expected to contribute to the consultant work on an in-kind basis.

TOWN REVIEW

While a final report is expected to be reviewed by the Town Council, preliminary reviews are recommended to be conducted by the Town’s Community Development Committee (CDC) and/or Long Range Planning Advisory Committee (LPAC).

ANTICIPATED TIME LINE

December 14, 2015	Review draft work plan with Council. Seek authorization to issue RFP
December 15, 2015	Issue RFP
January 21, 2016	Deadline for Submission of Proposals
February 8, 2016	Select consultant
March-May 2016	Meet with staff, PWD, CDC and/or LPAC
May 2016	Submission of draft report
May-June 2016	Review of draft report by CDC and/or LPAC
July 2016	Final report to Council