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**Aquarion Meets With Water Officials From Neighboring Town's To Develop Water  
Emergency Plan**

HINGHAM, MA. - As drought conditions continue, Aquarion Water Company recently coordinated and hosted a meeting with other public water suppliers in the region for a discussion about the area's water supply situation.

“We wanted to get neighboring water systems together to discuss the drought and coordinate emergency preparedness in case it is needed,” said Steve Olson, director of operations at Aquarion Water Company. “The drought is effecting all of us and it was good to get together to review and discuss mutual aid resources. There is a long history of helping each other out in times of need.”

The meeting included representatives from Cohasset, Scituate, Weymouth, Abington, Rockland and Norwell water departments as well as Aquarion officials. During the meeting each of the water systems shared hydrologic conditions, challenges with enforcing water restrictions and discussed the ability of towns to provide clean and adequate supplies of water during significant emergency events.

In the coming months, the group will continue to meet to review representative local water supplies and focus its efforts on drought preparedness, conservation efforts, and the operability of their shared distribution system interconnections.

“It was a great opportunity to assess current area drought conditions and learn from each other regarding water ban implementation activities.,” said Olson.

Aquarion initiated a water conservation measure on May 1 this year that limited households to watering twice a week. On August 2, Aquarion implemented a ban on outdoor watering in Hingham, Hull and parts of Cohasset, with the exception of using a hand held hose, which is currently allowed. Groundwater levels across the region, including the water supply wells in Hingham, were unseasonably low at the time due to drought conditions. These restrictions were implemented to ensure there is sufficient water for everyday water usage in the event that the dry conditions continue.

Currently, almost half of the 351 towns in Massachusetts have water restrictions in place.

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