

# Memo

**To:** Selectboard

**From:** Richard McGuire,  
Town Manager

**Date:** January 20, 2017

**Re:** Stormwater Forum

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Included with this memo are three proposals submitted for the planned forum on stormwater. These proposals were submitted as a follow-up to an interview staff held with each consultant. Staff did not prepare a formal request for proposal for this. The consultants invited to participate were selected based on word of mouth and a search through various web site resources. Each consultant offers as very different format. Below is a list of the consultants along with the technique they have suggested:

1. Adamant Accord (Cindy Cook) – Open house format
2. Cope and Associates (Paul Dickin) – Large group/small group facilitated structured discussion
3. Environmental Mediation Center (Matt Strassberg) – Small group mediation

As you will see from their proposals, the cost varies greatly from a low of \$5000 to \$7,000 or more depending on the services desired.

Staff has reviewed each proposal. The cost of these is a bit higher than we had anticipated. Given the number and complexity of the issues, staff believes the more structured the discussion the more useful the outcome of the forum(s) will be in helping the Board reach a decision on this important matter. Of the three proposals, staff believes that the one offered by Cope and Associates has the potential for being the most useful.

At the most recent Selectboard meeting, there was a brief discussion on whether or not to conduct this forum as part of the Annual Town Meeting. This can be accomplished by advertising this as a public informational session to take place following the annual meeting and budget review. Fortunately, the School will not be giving their annual budget presentation at this meeting. They will be giving a short presentation as part of their Annual Meeting which in the past has immediately followed the Town's Annual Meeting. Consequently, there may be some time to have some discussion on the topic. However, the amount of time available would not likely be sufficient to accommodate the format suggested by Cope and Associates.

Another option is to hire Cope and Associates to just facilitate the discussion immediately following the two Annual Meetings and Town budget discussion, but in a less structured

manner. This approach may not yield sufficient information for the Board to reach a decision but depending how well the discussion goes; a second forum may not be necessary. If a second session is necessary, the more structured format by Cope and Associates is still an option.

Below is a one sentence statement of the question being posed:

**The Williston Selectboard is seeking public input as to whether or not the stormwater rate payers should assume some of the cost of bringing expired state stormwater permits for individual neighborhoods into compliance with state standards.**

Your thoughts on both this statement and approach are encouraged.