

Acton Water District

WINTER 2025

Water Words Notice

Please mark your calendar for our Annual District Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, March 19th at 6:00 pm at the Acton Memorial Library located at 486 Main Street. This edition of our *Water Words Notice* also includes the Warrant Articles to be voted on at this meeting. If you are interested in learning more about the budget, reviewing reports on activities of the District during the past year, or reviewing a complete copy of the Independent Auditors report, the Annual Report of the District is available at www.actonwater.com/annualreport.

Update on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Response Actions

Addressing PFAS in the community remains a primary focus for the District. In addition to ongoing water quality sampling, we are making progress on treatment upgrades and are looking at cost recovery opportunities. In December, the Clean Water Trust, who are our financing partner on the PFAS upgrades, indicated we would be receiving principal forgiveness on the Center and South Acton projects totaling \$2,418,827, or 13.5% of the project cost. In addition to legal claims against the manufacturers of PFAS, we have also been looking at expanding the universe of potential liable parties for introducing PFAS to the environment locally.

A full summary of our response actions and immediate plans is available on our dedicated PFAS webpage at

www.actonwater.com/pfas. This remains the best way to stay up to date on the status of PFAS in Acton. If you sign up for our email updates, you will be notified when new information is available. This can be done by sending your name and address to wq@actonwater.com requesting to receive updates.

- The PFAS filtration system at the North Acton Water Treatment Plant (WTP) has been delivering water to customers since June 1, 2024. We are evaluating the longevity of the media in this system but continue to have non-detectable levels of PFAS in the water produced at this facility.
- Progress is being made at the South Acton WTP with foundation work almost complete and site piping and electrical conduit being installed. We are currently waiting for the filtration equipment fabrication to be completed and shipped from Florida. The building has been fabricated in Maine and is awaiting the installation of the filtration equipment for constructing it onsite. We are planning for a fall 2025 startup of this facility.
- The work to construct PFAS treatment and connect the bedrock wells to the Center Acton WTP is well underway. Initial plans are to have the new wells supplying water prior to the PFAS treatment being operational. We hope this can be done as it will allow us greater flexibility to meet water demand as we start up both new PFAS systems. Concrete

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Foundation and piping work is underway in South Acton (left) while the meter vault for the bedrock wells in Acton Center (right) awaits electrical and piping connections to be made.

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
Middlesex, ss.



To the Clerk of the Water Supply District of Acton, GREETINGS:

You are directed to notify the inhabitants of the Town of Acton who are qualified to vote in elections and town affairs, to assemble at their precinct:

All Precincts voting at Blanchard Auditorium
R.J. Grey Junior High School, 16 Charter Road, Acton, Massachusetts

On Tuesday, April 29, 2025 • Between 7:00 A.M. and 8:00 P.M.
Then and there to bring their votes on one ballot for the following officers:

Commissioner for three years

You are further directed to notify the legal voters of the Town of Acton, as aforesaid, to assemble at:

R.J. Grey Junior High School, 16 Charter Road, Acton, Massachusetts 01720

On Wednesday, March 19, 2025, 6:00 P.M.

Then and there to act on the following Articles:

Article 1. To fix salaries of the elected officials.

Article 2. To act on the reports of the Commissioners, the Treasurer, and other officers and committees of the District.

Article 3. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Commissioners, to borrow in anticipation of the revenue of the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2025 in accordance with the provisions of General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 4, and to renew any note or notes as may be given for a period of less than one year, in accordance with the provisions of the General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 17, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 4. To see what sums of money the District will vote to raise and appropriate to defray the usual expenses of the District.

Article 5. To see if the District will vote, pursuant to General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to establish a \$100,000 limitation on expenditures from the revolving fund captioned "District Revolving Fund for Mitigation," or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 6. To see if the District will vote, pursuant to General Laws, Chapter 44, Section 53E½, to establish a \$100,000 limitation on expenditures from the revolving fund captioned "District Revolving Fund for New Service Meter Installations," or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 7. To see if the District will vote to transfer from Grace Stabilization Fund (W.R. Grace settlement) the sum of \$100,000 to clean and rehabilitate existing wells throughout the District, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 8. To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of replacing old water mains, renewing old water services, and replacing old fire hydrants, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 9. To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$20,000 for the purpose of repairing emergency water main breaks, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 10. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Commissioners, to borrow the sum of \$100,000 for the replacement of filtration media at the District's water treatment plants, or to take any other action relative thereto during the 2026 Fiscal Year.

Article 11. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Commissioners, to transfer the following unexpended balances remaining after the completion of projects authorized by vote of the District, for the acquisition of a new general service vehicle, or to take any other action relative thereto:

- A. Unissued balance in the sum of \$23,070.06 from Article 14 of the Annual Meeting of 2024.
- B. Unissued balance in the sum of \$2,443 from Article 15 of the Annual Meeting of 2024.

C. Unissued balance in the sum of \$529.92 from Article 12 of the Annual District Meeting of 2021.

D. Unissued balance in the sum of \$53.98 from Article 12 of the Annual District Meeting of 2011.

Article 12. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Commissioners to enter into a long-term written lease, for an initial term not to exceed twenty (20) years, for use of a cell tower on a portion of the land owned by the District located at and known as 211 Main Street, which lease shall provide the most favorable annual lease payments and other terms received in response to a request for proposal issued by the District, and subject to other terms, conditions and limitations as the Commissioners shall deem necessary and appropriate, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Hereof fail not and make due returns of this Warrant with your doings thereon to the Water Commissioners on or before the time of holding of said meeting.

Given under our hand this 10th day of February in the year two thousand and twenty-five.

Erika Amir-Lin
Barry Rosen
Stephen C. Stuntz
Water Commissioners

A true copy. ATTEST:

William T. Stanford
District Clerk

PFAS *continued from page 1*

work has been completed, as has the majority of the site piping. The deep freeze has stopped progress on electrical conduit being installed. We are currently waiting for the filtration equipment fabrication to be completed and shipped from Florida. Start up of this facility will need to be coordinated with the South Acton start up process as system demand will need to be met while we condition the media and await regulatory approvals to utilize the new systems.

The patience and understanding of you, our customers, has been appreciated as we continue to navigate the ever-changing landscape of PFAS. We look forward to sharing the completion of these PFAS improvements later in 2025.

Distinguished Public Involvement

During the New England Water Works Association Annual Conference, held in September 2024, our District Manager, Matthew Mostoller was recognized by his peers in the water works industry with the Distinguished Drinking Water Public Involvement Award. This award recognizes individuals or organizations who have significantly contributed in one of the following areas: 1) Create or expand a public education or information program about drinking water that impacts New England or serves as a model for other similar organizations or individuals in the protection, promotion and/or nurturing of public water supply; 2) In the development of public policy that will conserve, nurture, protect, or improve public drinking water supplies; 3) Has made a significant effort to share programs as described in number one or two with other individuals and organizations so the importance of drinking water resources and ways to conserve, protect, nurture and improve are spread throughout the region and beyond.

His work on conservation & efficiency programs, emerging contaminants, and opening treatment facilities for both public and industry tours were among the areas noted by the award committee. This is not the first time an employee of the District



District Manager Matthew Mostoller (left) is presented with the award by Demetrios Vidalis (right), President of the New England Water Works Association.

has been recognized with this award. Former Environmental Manager, Jane Ceraso, also received this award in 2005. Our staff are grateful to our customers who provide the opportunity to excel in our field by setting high standards and driving our work for the good of the community. In turn, this allows us to share what Acton has to offer to a much broader audience.

FY 26 Rate Increase

The Board of Water Commissioners approved a 3% rate increase to the volumetric portion of the water bill, effective with the July 2025 bill, which will represent water used between March and June 2025. In addition to the volumetric rate, your water bill includes both a fixed service charge and a debt fee which rises and falls relative to the debt payments the District must make. The service charge will remain at \$15 per unit per quarter. The debt fee will be reduced from the current \$66.00 per unit per quarter down to \$63.50 per unit per quarter.

We remain committed to helping our customers use water efficiently and reducing their financial burden. If you have questions about your water bill or ways to reduce your water use, please contact our office during normal business hours, Monday-Friday, 7:30am–4pm. If you haven't already, you can also subscribe to WaterSmart to track your historical usage, billing, and receive alerts for leaks and other abnormalities. Visit <https://www.actonwater.com/customer-service/watersmart> for more information, or to enroll in the program free of charge.

Other cost-saving opportunities include our rebate program, which incentivizes customers to replace their toilets, faucets, showerheads, and clothes washing machines with water-efficient models. Free water-saving devices including showerheads, faucet aerators, rain gauges, and more are always available at our office and at community events we attend throughout Acton.

Additionally, we offer a Senior Citizen discount that entitles seniors with low-to-moderate income to a reduction in their water bills. This discount is available to water users aged 65 and over who own their own residence and have an individually metered water service. For more information, please contact our Treasurer/Collector at 978-263-9107 or treasurer@actonwater.com.

Inclining Block Rates in cubic feet	Current Rates		Effective 7.1.25	
	Summer	Winter	Summer	Winter
Between 0 and 300	0.000	0.000	0.000	0.000
If usage is greater than 300				
Between 0 and 1,500	0.074	0.062	0.076	0.064
Between 1,501 and 3,000	0.093	0.080	0.096	0.082
Between 3,001 and 4,500	0.110	0.098	0.113	0.101
Between 4,501 and 6,000	0.128	0.116	0.132	0.119
Greater than 6,000	0.146	0.134	0.150	0.138
Municipal Rate	0.080	0.080	0.082	0.082
Service charge per unit	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00	\$15.00
Debt Fee charge per unit	\$66.00	\$66.00	\$63.50	\$63.50



Let it rain if you want to save!

Are you looking for an easy way to support our community's climate resilience while also saving money on your water bill? Look no further than our discounted rain barrel program! Rainwater harvesting can reduce demands on the District's system and save energy at our treatment plants, while also improving stormwater management and providing an alternate water source for outdoor use during drought conditions. Preorder your discounted rain barrel(s) today by visiting <https://www.greatamericanrainbarrel.com/community/> and selecting Massachusetts and Acton. The deadline for ordering is April 27th at 5:00 pm. Rain barrels must be picked up on May 7th between 2:00 pm and 6:00 pm at the District office located at 693 Massachusetts Avenue.

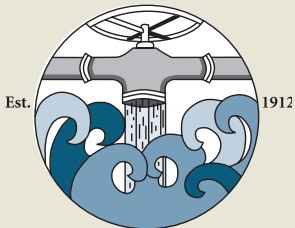
How do you use water at home?



The Acton Water District is collaborating with Flume Water and WaterDM as part of a water use study that will analyze trends within single and multi-family homes across the United States and Canada. The Residential End Uses of Water study (REUWS) is funded by the Water Research Foundation and is conducted about once every decade. The study utilizes disaggregated water use data to understand and quantify residential end uses of water. As some customers may recall, this version of the study will in part be informed by data collected from Flume devices. The Flume is a smart home water monitor that enables residents to track their water usage down to the minute from a smartphone or other mobile device 24/7 and provides alerts for possible leaks.

In addition to the Flume devices deployed throughout our water system, we are also looking for any residential customers, whether you rent or own, in our service area who live in all types of housing—single-family and multi-family. The survey asks basic questions about water using fixtures and appliances and landscape and more. The questions are based on the questions from prior studies. Responses from this survey will be included with responses from the 45 water suppliers participating in the study. The survey is anticipated to take approximately 6.5 minutes and can be accessed here <https://survey.surveicate.com/cba3bd91938f3c67?p=anonymous>. We request that responses be completed by March 31, 2025. The District is excited about the opportunity to participate in this study and learn more about how our customers are using water, which will in turn help us evaluate our existing conservation and efficiency programs and determine if there are areas for improvement!

Acton Water



District

P.O. Box 953
Acton, MA 01720

Water Words Notice
is published twice a year
for all customers of the
Acton Water District

District Manager
Matthew Mostoller
Editor
Christine McCarthy

Commissioners
Barry Rosen, *Chair*
Erika Amir-Lin
Stephen Stuntz

What was it?

Our last photo had three correct identifications, congratulations! This is a track mounted direct push drill rig used to collect soil samples and install groundwater monitoring wells. We periodically contract with drilling companies to help us assess potential sources of pollution in the soil and groundwater which may or do pose a threat to the water supply. Thank you to John Morris, Jr., Dave Boccuti, and Daniel Roberts for taking the time to read our Summer newsletter and respond.

