

Acton Water District

WINTER 2019

Water Words Notice

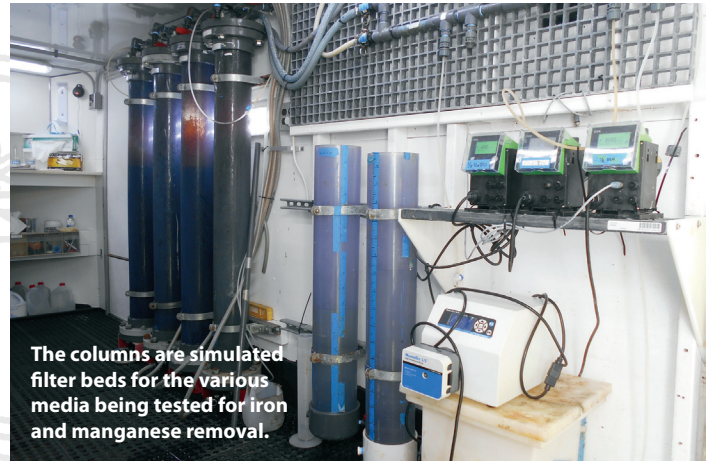
Please mark your calendar for our Annual District Meeting scheduled for March 20th at 7:00 pm in the Public Safety Facility at 371 Main Street. Please note this a different location than in previous years. The winter edition of our *Water Words Notice* also includes the Warrant Articles to be voted on 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.

Water Treatment for Acton Center

In July of 2015, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) notified the District that manganese levels in the Conant 1 Well, located on Main Street, were in excess of the Office of Research and Standards Guideline (ORSG) of 0.3 mg/L. Historically this well has exhibited elevated mineral content and seasonal color, therefore the District has tried to limit use of this source. As a result, a written corrective action plan was submitted to MassDEP evaluating what actions we would take. Given that mineral content in the Conant 2 wells, located behind Post Office Square, were also increasing, it was decided to look at constructing a filtration plant for these combined sources.

Beginning in July and running through November of 2018, the District hired Wright-Pierce Engineers to manage the piloting of two filtration technologies, Greensand Plus and Mangazur/Ferazur biological filtration. Concurrently, they applied on the District's behalf for financing from the State Revolving Fund, which allows a fixed 2 percent interest rate on the project funding. You will see in the enclosed warrant articles that the District is requesting voter approval for approximately \$9.2 million to fund construction of this important project.

If the project moves forward as forecasted, it would be operational by July of 2021. The scope will include the new filtration equipment and associated systems and building plus a transmission line to pump raw water from the Conant 1 site to the existing treatment facility located at the Conant 2 wells. We hope to reuse a portion of an abandoned water main that is in Main Street to help minimize disruptions associated with this work. Stay tuned for more details as this project develops. This project will represent an additional 0.684 million gallons per day of water that is being filtered in our system, with the possibility of modest expansion in the future.



The columns are simulated filter beds for the various media being tested for iron and manganese removal.

Protecting Your Drinking Water

Ensuring a safe and reliable water supply takes a great deal of effort and we do not rely on any single mechanism to achieve it. Often, drinking water safety is thought of in terms of a three-legged stool, without the three legs, you fall over. These legs are represented by source protection, water treatment, and distribution system water quality. Of these three legs, source protection is the broadest reaching category and can include land protection, land use planning, wastewater and stormwater management, hazardous materials management and remediation, solid waste issues, agriculture, recreation, and land management.

Recently we had an opportunity to provide a high level of protection to our Conant wells through the purchase of land. This is one of the best and highest forms of source protection available to the District. With the passing of longtime friend and supporter of the District, Brewster Conant, a portion of his land became available for purchase. Working quickly and closely with his family and our partners, we were able to call a Special District Meeting on October 10th to ask voters to acquire the 11-acre parcel of land at 585 Main Street. With unanimous approval, we are happy to report that the purchase was completed on December 10th. As such, the borrowing to complete the purchase had a \$9 per unit impact on the January quarterly debt fee thereby increasing the water bill when winter rates and lower usage would historically have lowered the bill. This purchase will help maintain the existing water quality at the Conant wells by preventing the introduction of additional types of contaminants, such as bacteria and nitrates. This should help to avoid or limit future treatment costs.

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:

Precinct 1, 2 & 6 —Conant School, 80 Taylor Rd.

Precinct 3, 4 & 5 - Blanchard Auditorium, Junior High School, 16 Charter Road, Acton, Massachusetts

On Tuesday, March 26, 2019 • 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:
Acton Memorial Library, 486 Main Street, Acton, Massachusetts

On Wednesday, March 20, 2019, 7:00 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, 2019 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 Massachusetts General Laws c.44, §53E½ as most recently amended by §86 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, 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 to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$100,000 for the maintenance and repair of the various treatment facilities including, but not limited to, media replacement in the filtration tanks, aeration tower repair, and replacement of packing material, or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 7. To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$90,000 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 \$30,000 for the purpose of replacing old water mains, renewing old water services, 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 \$45,000 for the storage tank improvements or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 10. To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$500,000 to pay down short-term debt related to the Indian Village and Littlefield Road water main improvement project or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 11. To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$35,000 for the purpose of repairing emergency water main breaks or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 12. To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$85,000 for the replacement of filter cartridges at the North Acton Water Treatment Plant to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 13. To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$100,000 for the removal of filtration residuals at the North Acton Water Treatment Plant or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 14. To see if the District will vote to appropriate \$9,242,000 for the construction and all related costs of a water treatment facility at the Acton Center site off Post Office Square in Acton, including without limitation all costs thereof as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C of the General Laws, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c.78; that to meet this appropriation the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Water Commissioners be authorized to borrow \$9,242,000 and to issue bonds or notes therefore under Chapter 44 of the General Laws and/or Chapter 29C of the General Laws, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c.78; and that such bonds or notes shall be general obligations of the District unless the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Water Commissioners determines that they should be issued as limited obligations and may be secured by local system revenues as defined in Section 1 of Chapter 29C, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c.78; and that the Treasurer with the approval of the Board of Water Commissioners be authorized to borrow all or a portion of such amount from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust established pursuant to Chapter 29C, as most recently amended by St. 1998, c.78 and in connection therewith to enter into a loan agreement and/or security agreement with the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust and otherwise to contract with the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust and the Department of Environmental Protection with respect to such loan and for any federal or state aid available for the project or for the financing thereof and that the Board of Water Commissioners be authorized to enter into a project regulatory agreement with the Department of Environmental Protection, to expend all funds available for the project and to take any other action necessary to carry out the project or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 15. To see if the District will vote to appropriate the sum of \$200,000 from the WR Grace Receipt Reserved for Appropriation Account (WR Grace Fund) for engineering work on the Acton Center Water Treatment Plant or take any other action relative thereto.

Article 16. To see if the District will vote to appropriate the sum of \$450,000 for engineering work on the Acton Center

water treatment facility and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Water Commissioners, is authorized to borrow the sum of \$450,000 under General Laws, Chapter 44, Sec. 8, or other enabling authority and the Board of Water Commissioners is authorized to take any other action necessary to carry out this project or to take any other action relative thereto.

Article 17. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Commissioners to transfer to Surplus Revenue the following unexpended balances remaining after the completion of projects authorized by vote of the District or to take any other action relative thereto

- A. Unissued balance in the sum of \$160.22, Article 12 of the Annual Meeting of March 16, 2016, for new vehicles purchase.
- B. Unissued balance in the sum of \$1,476.15, Article 12 of the Annual Meeting of March 15, 2017, for new vehicles purchase.
- C. Unissued balance in the sum of \$10,106.00, Article 13 of the Annual Meeting of March 27, 2018, for new vehicles purchase.
- D. Unissued balance in the sum of \$505.09, Article 14 of the Annual Meeting of March 15, 2017, for Master Plan update.
- E. Unissued balance in the sum of \$1,810.00, Article 8 of the Annual Meeting of March 15, 2017, for leak detection survey.

Article 18. To see if the District will vote to authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Commissioners to transfer to the WR Grace Receipt Reserved for Appropriation Account (WR Grace Fund) the unexpended balance of \$80,000, Article 8 of the Annual Meeting of March 27, 2018 for the piloting of treatment technologies for the Conant I & II wells after the completion of project authorized by vote of the District 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 28th day of January in the year two thousand and nineteen.

Ronald R. Parenti
Stephen C. Stuntz
Erika Amir-Lin, Water Commissioners

A true copy. ATTEST:

William T. Stanford
District Clerk

Acton Water



District

P.O. Box 953
Acton, MA 01720

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Commissioners

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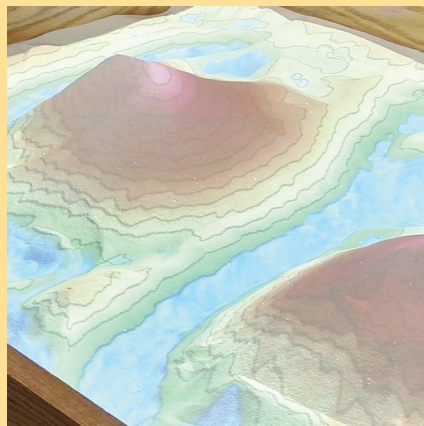
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What is it?

Please email your answers
to webgeek@actonwater.com.
Winners (and the correct
answer) will be posted in the
next *Water Words Notice*.

What was it?

One reader correctly identified
our last photo. The colorful



item from our Summer newsletter was an augmented reality sand box. These powerful yet fun tools, combine a hands-on sand box with a 3D visual application to create topography models which can be overlain with maps, elevation contours, and water features based on the sand formation. This can aid in understanding a variety of earth science topics including watersheds and hydrology. One of these models is on our wish list of outreach and education materials! More information on the model can be found here: <https://arsandbox.ucdavis.edu>.