

# Acton Water District

## Water Words Notice

WINTER 2022

Please mark your calendar for our Annual District Meeting scheduled for Wednesday, April 13th at 6:00 pm at the Acton Water District located at 693 Massachusetts Avenue. 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](http://www.actonwater.com/annualreport).

### Upcoming Actions on Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Since December of 2019, the issue of PFAS in the community has been front and center for the staff and officials of the District. The understanding and regulatory impacts of PFAS have been changing during this time and we have been responding accordingly. Since our initial and confirmation sampling in the winter/spring of 2020, we have implemented short term solutions to significantly reduce the level of PFAS in our treated drinking water, thus reducing community exposure via drinking water. As we approach long term solutions, we continue to look at the future regulatory limits being discussed. Before implementing permanent solutions throughout our system, we still have two medium term solutions to complete. The activation of the Assabet 3 well, which is breaking ground this spring, and the approval and construction of bedrock Wells D and E in the vicinity of the new Central Acton water treatment plant, currently in the permitting phase at the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). These two projects will help maintain our source of supply in compliance with existing regulations while the permanent solutions are developed and implemented.

The patience and understanding of you, our customer, has been appreciated as we have navigated the changing landscape of PFAS. In moving towards making our system whole again, the upcoming Annual meeting on April 13 at 6:00 pm will ask voters to approve two warrant articles specifically addressing PFAS. Article 16 will authorize funding to conduct pilot testing at the South and Central Acton water treatment plants. This is the first step in identifying the best technology to remove PFAS from drinking water at these two facilities. The outcome of the pilot tests will inform the engineering, capital and operating costs, and time frames for implementing the solutions. Article 17 will authorize borrowing for filtration at the North Acton water treatment plant. A pilot test was completed there in early



Recent additions to the District staff, pictured left to right are Josh Richard, Alexandra Wahlstrom, and Nick Richard

2021. Because this is our lowest capacity treatment plant, we have been evaluating if this should be a temporary or permanent system. Either way, the concentrations of PFAS have been the highest at this site and as indicated in our multiple public notices, this site has been challenging to operate within the current MassDEP limits for PFAS.

We continue to provide the most recent PFAS data on our website [www.actonwater.com/pfas](http://www.actonwater.com/pfas) and encourage you to sign up for email updates when new information is made available. This can be done by sending your name and address to [wq@actonwater.com](mailto:wq@actonwater.com) requesting to receive updates. As can be seen in the data on the website, concentrations of PFAS have been declining in our water system since 2020 due to short-term operational changes we have implemented in the system. The success of the two warrant articles will enable important next steps to begin in our PFAS response.

### Welcome aboard!

The fall of 2021 saw the departure of three employees from the ranks of the District. Long time Superintendent, Stephen Peterson, retired in September after 34 years of service! We wish him the best in his retirement and thank him for his dedication to the community. Lucas Peterson and Don Callahan, both members of our operations staff, wrapped up service to the District as well. We wish them the best as they pursue new chapters. With multiple positions opening, we were able to welcome three new employees to best meet our current needs. Please say hello if you see them in your neighborhood or at our office.

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

Middlesex, ss.



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, March 29, 2022 • 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 Water District Main Office, 693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, Massachusetts 01720

**On Wednesday, April 13, 2022, 6:00 PM.**

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, 2022 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, 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 Grace Stabilization Fund (W.R. Grace settlement) the sum of \$125,000 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 \$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 \$40,000 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 \$30,000 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 transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$130,000 for the replacement of filtration media at the District's water treatment plants 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 \$100,000 for the management of the North Acton Water Treatment Plant filtration residuals 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 \$70,000 to engage the District's Engineering Consultant to update the District's Master Plan or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 13.** To see if the District will vote to authorize the Commissioners to enter into an amendment to the District's solar leases located at Knox Trail and Lawsbrook Road in Acton to include therein an additional 5-year option to extend, for a total term of thirty-five (35) years, for use of a ground-mount solar photovoltaic system and associated equipment and materials on land owned by the District or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 14.** To see if the District will vote to transfer from Surplus Revenue the sum of \$500,000 for improvements to the District's water system and water mains in Acton or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 15.** To see if the District will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000,000 for the engineering, construction and other costs associated with the watermain improvement and replacement project at Kelly's Corner and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Water Commissioners, is authorized to borrow the sum of \$1,000,000 under General Laws, Chapter 44, Sec. 8, or another 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 16.** To see if the District will vote to appropriate from Grace Stabilization Fund (W.R. Grace settlement) the sum of \$400,000 for the piloting of filtration technology for the removal of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) at the District's Central and South Acton Water Treatment Plants or to take any other action relative thereto.

**Article 17.** To see if the District will vote to appropriate the sum of \$1,000,000 for costs associated with construction of modifications to the permanent infrastructure at the North Acton Treatment Plant to accommodate installation of a temporary PFAS treatment system and that to meet this appropriation, the Treasurer, with the approval of the Water Commissioners, is authorized to borrow the sum of \$1,000,000 under General Laws, Chapter 44, Sec. 8 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.

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 24th day of January in the year two thousand and twenty-two.

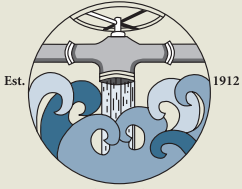
Barry Rosen  
Stephen C. Stuntz  
Erika Amir-Lin, Water Commissioners

A true copy. ATTEST:

William T. Stanford  
District Clerk



## Acton Water



### District

P.O. Box 953  
Acton, MA 01720

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

**District Manager**  
Chris Allen  
**Editor**  
Matthew Mostoller

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

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Joshua Richard joined the District as an Operator/Distribution in November of 2021. Josh previously worked for the District from 2014–2020, leaving to join the North Chelmsford Water District. He gained much knowledge there in water treatment technologies. We were sorry to lose him to North Chelmsford, and very happy to welcome him back to Acton! His knowledge of the community and our operations made him ready to hit the ground running.

Nicholas Richard joined the District in November of 2021 as a Water Systems Laborer. Nick has a background in plumbing, working as an apprentice plumber prior to joining the District. The skills and knowledge that he brings to the District are an asset to us.

Alexandra (Alex) Wahlstrom joined the District in January 2022 as the Environmental Analyst. After graduating from Worcester State University with a degree in Geography/Environmental Studies, Alex spent nearly a decade with the Concord Water & Sewer Division as the Environmental & Regulatory Coordinator. There, she gained extensive experience with water quality, conservation, regulatory compliance, reporting, and public education and outreach. She is excited to bring her perspective to the District and looks forward to collaborating with both coworkers and water takers alike to contribute to the ongoing success of the organization!

## Outdoor Water Use

Our seasonal water use restrictions are still in effect from 2021 and will be to begin the 2022 growing season. Due to the limitations of our system associated with PFAS, we are continuing to limit lawn watering to one day per week. Details on when you may water your lawn can be found at [www.actonwater.com/conservation/outdoor-water-restrictions](http://www.actonwater.com/conservation/outdoor-water-restrictions). As part of our Water Management Act permit, that is currently under review by MassDEP, the District will be moving to a standard two day per week lawn watering program in the future. This will be the starting point for each growing season as supply allows once that permit is approved.

To assist customers in efficiently using water at home, the District is excited to offer Efficiency Evaluations to residential customers. These 45-minute evaluations will address potential indoor and outdoor water saving opportunities at your home and will provide information on how to use your water meter to manage water use and check for leaks. Information about available water-saving rebates will be provided, an overview of irrigation controllers and restrictions, and complimentary water-saving devices such as low-flow showerheads and faucet aerators will be available. Appointments will be available on a first-come, first-served basis from April through June. To schedule your free Efficiency Evaluation now, please email [alex@actonwater.com](mailto:alex@actonwater.com).

## Lawn Watering, 1 day per week, before 7 am and after 7pm

- **Tuesday: North Acton** – North of Brook Street including Great Road from Brook Street to Littleton line
- **Wednesday: Acton Center/ East Acton** – North of Route 2 to South of Brook Street (562 Main Street follows this schedule) including Pope Road and Great Road to Concord line
- **Thursday: West Acton** – South of Route 2 and West of Main Street (even side of Main St. follows this schedule)
- **Friday: South Acton** – South of Route 2 and East of Main Street (odd side of Main Street follows this schedule)

