

Board of Water Commissioners

Meeting Agenda

Monday, May 11, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

- Comments from the public
- Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually
- Approve Minutes from 4/21/2026 and 4/27/2026 meetings
- Swearing in of newly elected officials – Clerk
- Annual appointment by Board of Commissioners
- Annual appointment by District Moderator
- Swearing in of newly appointed officials – Finance Committee, Assistant Clerk

NEW BUSINESS:

- Request for Assistance 6 Huckleberry Lane
- Review 3 Quarter Financials
- Operations Leadership

OLD BUSINESS:

- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
 - Current sample data, if available
 - Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades
 - PFAS MDL Update
- Drought Status and Water Use Restrictions

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Stephen Stuntz (Chair), Erika Lin, Barry Rosen

Finance Committee: Bill Guthlein

District Manager: Matthew Mostoller

Deputy District Manager: Corey Godfrey

Treasurer/Collector: Ashley Pinard

District Clerk: Joe Robb

Members of the Public: Kim Kastens, Ron Parenti

START OF MINUTES

Mr. Stuntz opened the meeting at 7:03 p.m. and ensured that everyone could hear and be heard.

Comments from the public

No public comments were made at the start of the meeting.

Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually

Mr. Stuntz motioned to authorize Commissioner Lin to sign warrants while meetings are conducted virtually, through the next regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Rosen seconded, and it was unanimously approved via roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

Approve Minutes from 4/2/2026 and 4/27/2026 meetings

Mr. Stuntz motioned to approve the minutes of 4/2/2026. Ms. Lin seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

Mr. Stuntz motioned to approve the minutes of 4/27/2026. Mr. Rosen seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

Swearing in of newly elected officials – Clerk

Mr. Stuntz administered the oath of office to Joe Robb following his election as District Clerk for the Acton Water District.

Annual appointment by Board of Commissioners

Mr. Stuntz moved to appoint Corey Godfrey to the position of Assistant Clerk for the Acton Water District. Mr. Rosen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved via roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

Annual appointment by District Moderator

The Board was informed that the District Moderator had appointed Ron Parenti as a member of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Mostoller explained that several appointments and swearings-in were occurring ahead of the June meeting because District Clerk Joe Robb would not be present at the June 1, 2026, meeting. In addition, the Finance Committee would otherwise have temporarily been reduced to a single member.

Swearing in of newly appointed officials – Finance Committee, Assistant Clerk

Mr. Robb administered the oath of office to Corey Godfrey as Assistant Clerk for the Acton Water District.

Mr. Robb then administered the oath of office to Ron Parenti as a member of the Finance Committee.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Assistance 6 Huckleberry Lane

The Board discussed a request for financial assistance related to a substantial internal water leak at 6 Huckleberry Lane that occurred during the winter months.

Mr. Mostoller explained that the property owner had intended to attend the meeting but was not present. He noted that the home had reportedly been vacant for approximately two years and that, although the water had supposedly been shut off, an internal plumbing failure allowed water to continue flowing.

Mr. Mostoller stated that a payment plan had already been offered to the property owner, but the owner indicated they were unable to make the payments.

Mr. Stuntz moved that the District continue offering the previously proposed payment plan but not provide any rebate or reduction in the water charges. Mr. Rosen seconded the motion.

During discussion, Mr. Stuntz clarified that the Board would be willing to revisit the matter if the property owner attended a future meeting to present additional information, and it was unanimously approved via roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

Review 3 Quarter Financials

Mr. Mostoller and Ms. Pinard reviewed updated financial reports through April 2026.

Three areas of budget concern were identified:

- 1. Lights, Power, and Fuel:**

Energy costs increased significantly beginning in March 2026, causing the budgeted line item to be fully expended earlier than anticipated. Staff indicated that broader energy market volatility appeared to be contributing to the increased costs.

- 2. Employee Education and Training:**

Higher-than-anticipated training expenses resulted from employee turnover and

annual certification renewal requirements. Staff noted that most training expenses for the fiscal year had already been incurred.

3. Laboratory Analytical Expenses:

Additional testing and laboratory costs related to district operations, including startup of the new PFAS treatment systems, exceeded projections.

Mr. Mostoller indicated that a reserve fund transfer would likely be requested at the June 1, 2026, meeting to help cover the overage in the lights, power, and fuel account.

Ms. Pinard noted that further analysis of utility demand and rates was underway to better estimate remaining costs for the fiscal year.

Operations Leadership

Mr. Mostoller informed the Board that longtime employees Andrew Peterson and Charles Rouleau would both be retiring in July 2026 after more than twenty years of service to the District.

Mr. Mostoller announced two internal leadership changes:

- Rob Dionne would be promoted from Assistant Foreman to Foreman.
- Joshua Richard would be promoted to Assistant Foreman.

Mr. Mostoller explained that Mr. Richard would focus primarily on water treatment and production operations, while Mr. Dionne would oversee distribution operations, personnel management, new connections, and inventory.

During the transition period, Corey Godfrey would temporarily serve as the District's primary treatment operator to satisfy state operational licensing requirements.

Mr. Mostoller also noted that the District continues to face staffing challenges due to the relative inexperience of several newer employees over the past 12 months and difficulties recruiting one or more fully licensed operators.

During public comment on this topic, Kim Kastens expressed concern that the meeting packet and supporting memos had not been posted publicly prior to the meeting, making it difficult for the public to follow discussions. Mr. Mostoller explained that staffing limitations and internal website access restrictions prevented the materials from being uploaded prior to the meeting.

Ms. Kastens also asked whether the District's free cash paperwork had yet been submitted to the state. Mr. Mostoller responded that the paperwork had not yet been submitted.

OLD BUSINESS:

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Current sample data, if available

Mr. Mostoller announced that all three operating District treatment plants tested below detectable limits for PFAS contamination during April 2026 sampling.

He stated that the North, South, and Central treatment facilities were all fully operational and currently supplying treated water to the distribution system.

Mr. Mostoller credited Shawn Case and the operations team for completing all required testing during the final week of April.

Mr. Mostoller also noted that updates had been made to the District website and that staff were discussing broader public communications regarding the successful PFAS treatment milestone.

The Board discussed the status of the District's bottled water reimbursement and bill credit programs related to PFAS contamination.

Mr. Mostoller stated that:

- Renters and condominium owners receiving reimbursement checks had already been notified that the program was ending.
- Customers receiving credits directly on their water bills would be notified during the upcoming week.

It was confirmed that the PFAS assistance program was in the process of being formally closed out.

Mr. Mostoller shared that he had recently received a handwritten thank-you note from a customer expressing appreciation for the District's communication efforts, customer support, and bottled water reimbursement program throughout the PFAS response effort.

Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades

Mr. Mostoller stated that the District had entered the "punch list" phase of the PFAS treatment projects. He reported that the District remained in discussions with the

vessel supplier regarding delays that occurred during the project and possible liquidated damages associated with those delays.

Mr. Mostoller indicated that major operational issues had largely been resolved, although operators continued adjusting chemical feed systems and related treatment operations.

Mr. Mostoller also discussed recent operational work in North Acton and stated that the District was reviewing logistical challenges encountered during that work to identify areas where Veolia could improve coordination and efficiency in the future.

PFAS MDL Update

Mr. Mostoller announced that the District had received approximately \$340,000 from the Tyco PFAS settlement and stated that the funds would be deposited into the District's PFAS settlement fund.

Ms. Pinard reported that she was reviewing options for managing the funds, including whether to retain the money in a municipal money market-type account or transfer it under the management of *CapTrust*.

Drought Status and Water Use Restrictions

Mr. Mostoller recommended modifying the District's current outdoor water use restrictions due to improved operational capacity resulting from the completed PFAS treatment systems and catching up on annual maintenance activities.

Although the Commonwealth continued to classify the region as experiencing significant drought conditions, recent rainfall had improved local water availability, and the District currently maintained a slight surplus.

Mr. Mostoller recommended reducing the District's water restriction level from Level 4 to Level 3, which would permit one day per week of non-essential water use, including lawn irrigation.

Mr. Rosen moved that the Board reduce the District from a Level 4 water restriction status to a Level 3 water restriction status, allowing one day per week of lawn irrigation. Ms. Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved via roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

Mr. Rosen moved to adjourn, Ms. Lin seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

The meeting closed at 7:32 p.m.