

Board of Water Commissioners

Meeting Agenda

Monday, May 12, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

AGENDA

- Swearing in of newly elected officials- Commissioner
- Annual appointments by Board of Water Commissioners
- Annual appointment by District Moderator
- Swearing in of newly appointed officials
- Board realignment
- Comments from the public
- Approve minutes from the meeting of 4/28
- Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually

OLD BUSINESS:

- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
 - Current sample data, if available
 - Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades
 - NAWTP PFAS System Operation

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion of 2011 John Deere Backhoe

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

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

Finance Committee: Bill Guthlein

District Manager: Matt Mostoller

District Treasurer/Collector: Christine McCarthy

Deputy District Manager: Corey Godfrey

District Clerk: William Stanford

District Counsel: Spencer Holland

District Secretary: Meredith Roberts

Members of the Public: Kim Kastens, Ron Parenti, John Petersen

START OF MINUTES

Mr. Rosen opened the meeting at 7:02 PM.

Swearing in of newly elected officials- Commissioner

William Stanford, District Clerk, swore in elected official Barry Rosen as Commissioner.

Annual appointments by Board of Water Commissioners

Ms. Amir Lin motioned that the following personnel be appointed to their stated roles for the Water Supply District of Acton for the coming year,

- Spencer Holland as District Counsel
- Christine McCarthy as Treasurer/Collector
- Matthew Mostoller as Assistant Treasurer
- Meredith Roberts as Secretary
- An unnamed person to be named as Assistant District Clerk

Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion, and the board opened the motion to discussion.

Mr. Mostoller commented that Helen Argento, who has served as Assistant District Clerk for many years, has declined to continue to serve in this role. This is not a role that the District relies on heavily, as the Assistant District Clerk primarily serves when the Clerk is not available. The position does not need to be held by a resident. It is Mr. Mostoller and Ms. McCarthy's assessment that the position should not be held by either of them as the Assistant Clerk may certify district management or financial proceedings and they did not feel that would be appropriate. Mr. Mostoller suggested to the board the position could be served by Mr. Corey Godfrey, someone else affiliated with the District, or someone from outside the District.

Mr. Rosen asked Mr. Mostoller for his recommendation, to which Mr. Mostoller recommended Mr. Godfrey or a member of the finance committee.

Ms. Amir Lin asked if Mr. Godfrey's current position requires financial signatory duties. Mr. Mostoller replied there might be one SRF authorization where Mr. Godfrey's current position is listed from a previous role transition, but that is likely the only one, and the SRF process has already been committed to authorization.

Mr. Stuntz commented that in his experience Assistant District Clerk steps in during a crisis, and they need someone who can get to the office and sign something right away, and that in that case Mr. Godfrey would be a good choice.

The board and Mr. Mostoller continued a brief discussion of the responsibilities expected of the Assistant District Clerk.

Mr. Stuntz, Mr. Rosen, and Ms. Amir Lin agreed that they would like to appoint Mr. Godfrey to the position.

Ms. Amir Lin amended the open motion that Corey Godfrey be appointed to Assistant District Clerk for the Water Supply District of Acton for the coming year.

Mr. Stuntz seconded the amendment, and the amended motion was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Stuntz, Mr. Rosen.

Annual appointment by District Moderator

Mr. Mostoller reported that due to a scheduling conflict the Moderator, Mr. William Mullin is not present. In conversations with Mr. Mullin about this conflict, Mr. Mostoller and Mr. Mullin came to the conclusion that swearing in Mr. Ron Parenti for his continued presence on the Finance Committee is within the Moderator's prerogative to do at this time.

Swearing in of newly appointed officials

William Stanford, District Clerk swore in the following appointed officials:

- Spencer Holland as District Counsel
- Christine McCarthy as Treasurer/Collector
- Matthew Mostoller as Assistant Treasurer
- Meredith Roberts as Secretary
- Corey Godfrey as Assistant District Clerk
- Ron Parenti as Finance Committee Member

Board realignment

Ms. Amir Lin motioned that Stephen Stuntz be appointed as Chair of the Board of Commissioners for the following year. Mr. Rosen seconded, and Mr. Stuntz accepted the appointment. The motion was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Stuntz, Mr. Rosen.

Comments from the public

Mr. Petersen asked regarding the appointment of someone to the WLMAC (Water Land Management Advisory Committee) as there has not been any activity on the committee, and he wanted to know if they are in operation.

Mr. Mostoller replied that WLMAC is required per our bylaws but has not been active for a while because they do not have a full committee. There was a note last year to discuss the future of WLMAC. Mr. Mostoller noted that coming out of the bylaw review conducted in 2023 and 2024 there was discussion about whether to amend the bylaw regarding WLMAC. This would either sunset the committee or reconstitute it, but the main issue was finding qualified committee volunteers to participate in the committee with infrequent workload.

Approve minutes from the meeting of 4/28

Ms. Amir Lin motioned to approve the minutes of 4/28/25. Mr. Rosen seconded, and they were unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Rosen, Mr. Stuntz.

Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually

Mr. Rosen motioned to appoint Ms. Amir Lin to sign warrants until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Stuntz seconded, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Stuntz.

OLD BUSINESS:

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Current sample data, if available

Mr. Mostoller reported April sampling from April 28th is available, and all three plants were in operation at the time. Center Acton sampled at 11.7 ppt, North Acton remained at non-detect. South Acton was slightly elevated at 17.4 ppt, but this is likely because two wells were offline for maintenance, so the plant did not have its usual dilution.

Additional sampling was done on May 7th, and those results will be in soon. North Acton will likely still remain non-detect but mid-point sample data indicates that they should do a change out of carbon in the first vessel.

Mr. Stuntz asked what the turnaround time is for sample testing. Mr. Mostoller replied that right now it's very expeditious, but that could change in the summer.

Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades

Mr. Mostoller reported to the board that South Acton is finalizing getting the building enclosed, which will enable them to proceed with the electrical work inside the structure. The equalization basin has also started to be formed onsite. Mr. Mostoller then shared photos of the job site. Mr. Mostoller noted that the equalization basin was precast for North Acton, but the one for South Acton is larger so it will be formed onsite. They also began to drape the fabric for the structure with the vessels inside.

Mr. Parenti asked about the lifetime of that fabric. Mr. Mostoller stated he saw this product used at a different plant with harsher weather conditions after a year and a half of use, and it looked to be in good shape. The material is UV resistant, and if the material were gashed it could be replaced or patched. The company has an installation on the Portland Maine waterfront that has been in place for over 40 years and is in good condition.

Mr. Stuntz asked if the bottom hem or seam is going to be covered. Mr. Mostoller replied that the bottom hem is the biggest potential weak point, but the material has a watertight seal, and the railing sits on the foundation, and the fabric comes up and is tucked underneath so it will shed water to the ground. Mr. Mostoller added that the seam remains, but it's reinforced, and it's insulated so it meets the Acton Stretch Energy Code.

Moving on to Center Acton, Mr. Mostoller reported that Wednesday of this week they will be shutting off the existing plant so the electrician can connect the main feed for the bedrock wells. The openings where the vessels were flown in are being framed. Once the roof and walls are completed, they can do more electrical work. The old Conant 2 building is an electrical hub and has been undergoing a lot of work. Mr. Mostoller then shared photos of this progress.

Mr. Rosen asked about the testing process once the system is hooked up to the PFAS treatment. Mr. Mostoller replied that they are working to petition MassDEP to approve the wells before they are attached to the PFAS treatment, which will have its own additional set of testing.

Mr. Mostoller continued to share progress photos of the jobsite.

NAWTP PFAS System Operation

Mr. Mostoller informed the board that the North Acton Water Treatment Plant continues to have non-detect but they are seeing higher concentrations of PFAS between the two treatment vessels. Veolia will be onsite Monday the 19th to begin the process of removing the old carbon, sanitizing the vessel, and filling it with new carbon.

Mr. Mostoller has had some meetings with Veolia to work out final questions about temporary electricity, and how to manage moving the new and old carbon. They've spoken with the carbon provider on ways to get the system back online more quickly as historically getting the pH under control can slow down the return to service. They are hoping to learn from this change-out so that they can speed up the process going forward.

Mr. Stuntz asked if they have the carbon yet, to which Mr. Mostoller responded that no, the carbon is in Connecticut currently. Mr. Rosen asked if it is the same supplier, which Mr. Mostoller affirmed it is.

Kim Kastens asked if they know how the used media will be treated once removed. Mr. Mostoller responded that they had to send out samples of their used carbon so it can be categorized. They did receive the certification that it can be reused so it will go to Calgon facilities to regenerate it for other purposes. Ms. Kastens asked what the carbon can be reused for. Mr. Mostoller responded that it may be used for PFAS or for some other non-drinking water format, or a non-PFAS application as carbon has other uses.

Mr. Parenti asked whether treatment of PFAS can be maintained even during a change over when the plant has multiple tanks. Mr. Mostoller responded that currently North Acton is made up of 12 individual small carbon vessels and the plan is to replace half of them, have a full shut down during that time, and resume operation when new media has been conditioned.

Mr. Parenti asked how long the shutdown will last, Mr. Mostoller responded that it will take about 3 weeks to remove, sanitize, and get it back into service. Conditioning may take about 2 weeks. Mr. Parenti asked if this is true for all plants, and Mr. Mostoller responded that for South Acton they had the ability to build in enough redundancy to change out 2 vessels at a time and still have additional vessels ready to go, minimizing down time. Center Acton did not have the space for that redundancy so it will likely need a full shutdown to change one vessel at a time.

Mr. Stuntz asked about the filtration process and the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). Mr. Mostoller explained that MassDEP does not allow a single pass through a single vessel, even if it is effective for the MCL, it's not the department's preferred strategy.

Mr. Petersen asked if the general strategy is to shut down the plant and run with 2 or 1 plants, and if that arrangement would be adequate. Mr. Mostoller responded that the hope is that the redundancy at South Acton will support capacity.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of 2011 John Deere Backhoe

Mr. Mostoller reported to the board that the District currently owns a 1994 JCB backhoe that is used as a yard machine, and a 2011 John Deere Backhoe that was purchased with about 1,000 hours of run time. A week ago, the transmission on the 2011 John Deere went, which is an issue as that backhoe is primarily used when fixing leaks, water main breaks, or removing snow. The machine had 4,700 hours on it, and the average life expectancy is about 6,000 – 10,000 hours. Estimates to repair the transmission are about \$30,000. Mr. Mostoller and Ms. McCarthy discussed the issue and believe they can find \$30,000 in the current FY budget but they are currently working to analyze what course of action would be

the best investment. They are currently renting a backhoe that runs \$3,000 a month to retain our response capacity.

Mr. Mostoller highlighted this was an unexpected issue as they were expecting to replace this piece of equipment in 3 years. Depending on the prognosis and District needs, they may be coming back to the Board and Finance committee to discuss moving money around for a purchase or calling a special district meeting. Mr. Mostoller and Ms. McCarthy have begun to look for similar equipment which typically runs \$175,000 - \$250,000.

Mr. Rosen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Amir Lin seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Stuntz.

Meeting Closed at 7:50 p.m.