

Board of Water Commissioners

Meeting Agenda

Monday, June 1, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

- Comments from the public
- Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually
- Approve Minutes from 5/11 meeting
- Amend Approved Minutes from 12/5/2022 meeting
- Swearing in of newly elected officials – Commissioner
- Board realignment
- Annual appointment by Board of Commissioners
- Swearing in of newly appointed officials

OLD BUSINESS:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- Reserve Fund Transfer
- Arlington Street Water Main Break
- Meeting Schedule July-December 2026

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

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

Finance Committee: John Petersen; Bill Guthlein

District Manager: Matt Mostoller

Deputy District Manager: Corey Godfrey

Treasurer/Collector: Ashley Pinard

District Counsel: Spencer Holland

Minutes Taker: Mike Tusino

Members of the Public: Melissa Bible, Acton Housing Authority; Michael Miller.

START OF MINUTES

Mr. Stuntz opened the meeting at 7:00 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. Rosen motioned to authorize Commissioner Lin to sign warrants while meetings are conducted virtually, through the next regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Stuntz seconded, and it was unanimously approved via roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

Approve Minutes from the meeting of 5/11/2026

The Board reviewed the minutes of the May 11, 2026, meeting. Mr. Rosen noted a typographical correction under 'Old Business', where the minutes should refer to Shawn Case rather than "the Shawn Case."

Mr. Rosen moved to approve the minutes of Monday, May 11, 2026, as corrected. Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved via roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

Amend Approved Minutes from 12/5/2022 meeting

The Board discussed a correction to previously approved open session minutes from December 5, 2022. The minutes had referenced a motion to enter executive session, but no executive session was convened on that date.

Mr. Rosen moved to amend the approved open session minutes of December 5, 2022, by removing the reference to the motion to enter executive session and clarifying that no executive session was convened. Ms. Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved via roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

Swearing in of newly elected officials – Commissioner

Before the swearing in, Mr. Mostoller recognized Mr. Stuntz for more than 40 years of service to the community, including service on the Finance Committee beginning in 1984 and on the Board of Water Commissioners beginning in 1987. Mr. Mostoller highlighted Mr. Stuntz's leadership through Acton's development boom, years of discolored water issues, the nuclear metals discovery, implementation of three full-scale filtration plants, PFAS-related challenges, land protection efforts, and support for District staff. Mr. Stuntz thanked the Board and staff, reflected on the District's transition from untreated to fully

treated water, and credited the four District Managers he worked with: Jock McLeod, Jim Deming, Chris Allen, and Matt Mostoller.

Corey Godfrey, serving as Assistant Clerk, administered the oath of office to John Petersen as a Commissioner of the Water Supply District of Acton. Mr. Petersen was congratulated and welcomed to the Board of Water Commissioners.

Board realignment

Mr. Rosen moved that Commissioner Lin be appointed Chair of the Board of Water Commissioners for the following year. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion. Mr. Petersen asked about the Board's process for selecting a chair, and Mr. Rosen explained that the District's historical practice is for the chairmanship to rotate through the Board, with a Commissioner generally serving as chair during the last year of a three-year term.

The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote: Mr. Petersen, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin. Ms. Lin assumed the chair and welcomed Mr. Petersen to the Board. Mr. Petersen also thanked Mr. Stuntz for his long service.

Annual appointment by Board of Commissioners

Ms. Lin moved 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; Ashley Pinard as Treasurer/Collector; Matthew Mostoller as Assistant Treasurer; and Mike Tusino as Minute Taker. Mr. Rosen seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote: Mr. Petersen, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin.

Ms. Lin noted that, as in recent years, no appointments were before the Board for the Water Land Management Advisory Committee. She stated that she expects to bring a future agenda item regarding volunteerism and the general state of volunteer participation to the Board.

Swearing in of newly appointed officials

Mr. Godfrey administered oaths of office to Spencer Holland as District Counsel, Ashley Pinard as Treasurer/Collector, Matthew Mostoller as Assistant Treasurer, and Mike Tusino as Minute Taker.

OLD BUSINESS:

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Current sample data, if available

Mr. Mostoller provided the standing PFAS update. He reported that May samples collected from North Acton and Center Acton on May 19, 2026, were below detection limits, and that South Acton samples collected on May 20, 2026, were also non-detect. He stated that the treatment systems continue to operate as intended.

Mr. Mostoller noted that raw water sampling continues to show similar, relatively stable PFAS levels in North Acton and South Acton, while increases are beginning to appear in the Center Acton/Conant sources of supply, including some bedrock wells. He emphasized that although the District has made the drinking water safe for consumption, PFAS remains an environmental and community concern affecting the aquifer, private wells, and other resources. Raw water sampling will continue to help the District understand environmental conditions.

Mr. Petersen suggested that the Board consider reviewing PFAS on a quarterly basis in the future so that discussions can focus more on trends. He also suggested that routine updates on District water use patterns may be useful, particularly in connection with drought status discussions. Mr. Mostoller stated that any water-use reporting would likely be most meaningful on a monthly basis, using pumping totals or meter reads. Ms. Lin stated that she would like to continue monthly PFAS updates during the treatment plant startup and shakedown period, with the option of reducing the frequency later.

Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades

Mr. Mostoller reported that the PFAS treatment projects are in the closeout phase. The District has been conducting project walkthroughs, working through punch-list items, closing out proposed change orders, and preparing payment recommendations. He stated that Center Acton may be ready for a final payment recommendation, while South Acton will likely require an interim payment recommendation followed by a final recommendation in the coming weeks. The District is also working to close out issues with the vessel manufacturer/vendor, including concerns regarding contract performance.

Mr. Mostoller also informed the Board of recent federal developments regarding PFAS drinking water standards. He stated that the federal government is backing off portions of the proposed federal PFAS approach related to four additional PFAS compounds and the hazard index, while currently standing by the four-parts-per-trillion standards for PFOA and PFOS. He noted that possible compliance deadline extensions would not significantly affect Acton because the District's work was

driven by Massachusetts standards. However, changes at the federal level could affect treatment media life and replacement frequency, which may have a financial impact on the District.

Drought Status and Water Use Restrictions

Mr. Mostoller reported that the Commonwealth of Massachusetts had declared a Level 3 Critical Drought for the Northeast Region, which includes Acton. The Commonwealth's messaging recommends no non-essential water use under that status. Mr. Mostoller explained that Acton's permit condition is more flexible than the Commonwealth's drought management plan and that local conditions are somewhat more favorable, including some increases in streamflow and adequate local groundwater levels for the District's pumping needs.

Mr. Mostoller recommended that Acton remain under its local Level 3 restrictions, which allows one day per week of non-essential outdoor water use. He stated that the recommendation reflects local conditions and the fact that customers had been under no-outdoor-water-use restrictions since the previous fall. He also noted that the state's drought review process uses data with a lag of about one month.

The Board generally supported maintaining the current Acton Level 3 restrictions. Mr. Mostoller stated that the District received routine calls and questions after moving from Acton Level 4 to Acton Level 3, and that the Acton Exchange had also inquired about the State's declaration. He said the District continues to receive requests for exemptions, but that the District does not currently maintain an exemption process. He stated that consistency and applicability to all users have been hallmarks of the District's successful water-use restriction program.

Mr. Petersen noted that Massachusetts law allows exemption processes and that some neighboring districts, including Westford and Concord, have formal exemption policies. He suggested that the Board consider, as a future non-urgent policy matter, whether Acton should establish a formal exemption process. Mr. Mostoller responded that Massachusetts law also allows local restrictions to be more restrictive and that Acton's lack of exemptions has helped produce measurable conservation results through active education, enforcement, and consistent application.

Melissa Bible of the Acton Housing Authority addressed the Board regarding the McManus Manor construction project. She explained that required landscaping and plantings are part of the Town's zoning, planning, and permitting requirements for the project, and that the Housing Authority is concerned new plantings may fail without sufficient watering. She stated that trucking in water has been estimated at approximately \$60,000 per month,

potentially for several months from July through October, due in part to prevailing wage requirements. She asked the Board to consider that nonprofit and public-interest projects may face unique conflicts between municipal requirements and water-use restrictions.

Mr. Mostoller thanked Ms. Bible and stated that the District had outlined opportunities to establish plantings within the existing rules. He noted that the District is facing similar issues on its own construction projects and is applying the same standards to itself. He emphasized that the District must manage a finite water supply and that conservation programs help ensure water is available for essential uses, including housing. He noted that Acton is proud not to have denied recent projects for lack of water and that this has required sustained effort by the District and the community.

Mr. Petersen asked whether the Housing Authority had an estimate of the total monthly water requirement and asked Mr. Mostoller how much water would be needed for the District's own plantings. Ms. Bible said she did not yet have an exact number because the issue had developed in the prior five to seven days. She stated that hand watering is not likely feasible given the amount of grass, trees, and landscaping coverage required. She said plantings were expected to begin around the third week of June and may need regular watering through at least September, depending on weather. The Housing Authority is evaluating options, including water deliveries, permitted watering hours, and recommendations from its landscaping vendor.

Mr. Rosen suggested that the Housing Authority consult its landscaper about approaches such as seed mixes with fast-establishing nurse grass, mulch, and subsurface irrigation, which can reduce water use and target plant roots. Ms. Bible responded that the project includes substantial tree plantings and other deep-volume locations, that irrigation was not budgeted because normal construction water use had been assumed, and that site conditions, including ledge, complicate underground options. Mr. Mostoller confirmed that the site has challenging conditions.

Ms. Lin thanked Ms. Bible for explaining the situation and stated that, based on the discussion, she did not believe the Board should grant an exception. Mr. Mostoller cautioned that the matter was not on the posted agenda and that a formal vote would be inappropriate. Mr. Petersen agreed and stated that any future request would need to be specific, such as a request to water on a defined additional schedule, rather than a general concern. Ms. Bible confirmed that she had not expected a vote and had only intended to provide context because exemptions were being discussed.

Free Cash Certification

Mr. Mostoller reported that the District is in the final stages of preparing its free cash certification submission to the Department of Revenue. Materials have been uploaded to the DOR portal, but he paused the final submission to resolve an outstanding issue in the capital projects account. Mr. Mostoller stated that he and Ms. Pinard had worked on the issue and were working with the District's consultant, and that progress is being made on the account for the Baldco Land Acquisition matter. He said the District is close to submission but wants to ensure the information is correct before filing.

NEW BUSINESS:

Reserve Fund Transfer

Mr. Mostoller reported that the Finance Committee met the prior week and reviewed FY26 budget constraints, including employee education, lab analysis, and Lights, Power and Fuel, which is largely driven by electrical utility bills. The Finance Committee endorsed a reserve fund transfer in the amount of \$100,000 from the current year operating budget reserve line item to Lights, Power and Fuel.

The Board discussed whether Mr. Petersen's participation in the Finance Committee created any issue with his vote as a Commissioner. District Counsel Spencer Holland stated that he did not see an issue. Mr. Guthlein confirmed that the Finance Committee had voted on the transfer and signed the authorization.

Mr. Petersen moved to transfer \$100,000 from the reserve fund to Lights, Power and Fuel. Mr. Rosen seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote: Mr. Petersen, Mr. Rosen, and Ms. Lin.

Commissioners agreed to coordinate with the District office to sign the required document.

Arlington Street Water Main Break

Mr. Mostoller reported on a water main break on Arlington Street near the transition to Squirrel Hill Road. The incident began at approximately 11:00 a.m. on May 21, 2026, and was completed at approximately 7:00 a.m. on May 22, 2026, requiring roughly 20 hours of staff response. Crews were already nearby and were able to shut down the affected section quickly, helping minimize disturbance.

Mr. Mostoller stated that the repair was challenging because the water main was not located where staff initially expected it to be. Crews excavated to approximately seven feet and eventually located the main around 9:30 p.m. The main was located almost directly

under a gas main, and the work was also complicated by the slope of the road. Mr. Mostoller said nearby residents were supportive and understanding, and that he was able to explain the work to a nearby family and their children that approached the excavation.

Mr. Mostoller noted that the District's operations staff is relatively young and that the incident provided important learning moments. He also described a recent service line leak that should normally take about half a day to repair but instead took three days due to similar conditions, poor historical marking, and proximity to a gas main. He emphasized the importance of continued investment in buried infrastructure, which is less visible than treatment plants but critical to the system. He also noted that the Arlington Street event generated significant overtime and that, after the initial repair was completed and service restored, the next segment of pipe failed, extending the work.

Mr. Petersen asked about the relationship between the repair difficulties and the District's GIS system. Mr. Mostoller explained that legacy GIS data is not necessarily highly precise because much of it is based on older plans or transferred records. The failed pipe was asbestos cement, which is difficult to locate in the field, and the neighborhood appears to have been developed in a piecemeal fashion, resulting in incomplete or inconsistent historical information. The Board thanked staff for the update and noted that residents appeared appreciative of the work despite the approximately 20 homes affected.

Meeting Schedule July-December 2026

The Board reviewed the proposed July through December 2026 meeting schedule included in the packet. Mr. Rosen noted that he would be unavailable for the proposed September 22 meeting due to travel. Mr. Petersen noted that additional meetings may be needed once free cash is certified, including meetings to review a warrant and prepare for a special meeting. Ms. Lin stated that the Board can call additional meetings as needed once the timeline is known.

Mr. Mostoller explained that the September schedule was affected by Labor Day, Yom Kippur, and staff availability. The Board discussed moving the second September meeting to Wednesday, September 23 so that all Commissioners could attend. Mr. Petersen also commented that, although the Board has been meeting virtually, he would like to see a few meetings per year held in person. The Board discussed that business may be somewhat lighter later in 2026 as the District moves out of a capital-intensive period, although planning and FY28 budget work will be upcoming.

Ms. Lin moved to approve the July through December 2026 meeting schedule as presented, with one alteration moving the second September meeting to Wednesday,

September 23, 2026. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and the motion passed unanimously by roll call vote: Mr. Petersen, Mr. Rosen, and Ms. Lin.

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

The meeting closed at 8:09 p.m.

The next Board of Water Commissioners meeting is scheduled for June 22, 2026.