

Board of Water Commissioners

Meeting Agenda

Monday, June 22, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

- Comments from the public

OLD BUSINESS:

- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
 - Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades
- Drought Status and Water Use Restrictions
- Free Cash Certification

NEW BUSINESS:

- Consumer Confidence Report for Calendar Year 2025

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Erika Lin (Chair), Barry Rosen, John Petersen

Finance Committee: Bill Guthlein

District Manager: Matthew Mostoller

Treasurer/Collector: Ashley Pinard

Environmental Analyst: Shawn Case

District Clerk: Joe Robb

Members of the Public: Kim Kastens, Alissa Nicol, Michael Miller

START OF MINUTES

Ms. Lin opened the meeting at 7:05 p.m. and ensured that everyone could hear and be heard. She noted meeting minutes within tonight's packet will be approved during the next Board of Commissioners' Meeting as the agenda item was not listed.

Comments from the public

Kim Kastens (Green Acton Water Committee) summarized recent comments submitted to the EPA regarding W.R. Grace and Nuclear Metals Superfund site monitoring reports. The committee flagged inadequate sampling plans for plume delineation and requested improved programs to better define lateral and bottom contamination extents.

OLD BUSINESS:

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades

Mr. Mostoller projected a July 24, 2026, final completion date for the South Acton PFAS project, while the Center Acton project timeline remains undetermined due to pending warranty items. Replying to Mr. Petersen's inquiry, Mr. Mostoller clarified that project completion requires fulfilling all contract obligations and punch list tasks. The three treatment plants continue to operate well following start-up of the new treatment systems.

Public outreach is ongoing to inform the community PFAS is now being effectively treated at all online treatment plants. Mr. Mostoller thanked Mr. Parenti for his article in the Acton Exchange, and announced an upcoming interview with Acton TV at the South Acton plant to further inform the public.

Mr. Mostoller noted legal action is underway by the Town of Littleton Water Department against local contributors of PFAS contamination. The District anticipates future consultation with District counsel on opportunities that may be available relative to Acton.

Drought Status and Water Use Restrictions

Mr. Mostoller reported that despite a state-recommended non-essential water ban due to critical regional drought conditions, District wells and plant operations remain in good condition. The exception is diminishing groundwater levels in North Acton. Local USGS stream gage flows are currently above the District's restriction triggers, though stream flow is diminishing approximately one month faster than last year. The USGS groundwater well on Wetherbee Street is well below normal for this time of year. Mr. Godfrey attended a briefing with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) on June 17th which emphasized the current conditions and desired actions. District staff continue to monitor conditions daily and evaluate operations and demand, as well as long range forecasts.

Mr. Mostoller provided updates on the South Acton aeration tower, noting recent damage was likely caused by a structural failure. Further assessment and potential repairs to the tower will require taking it offline, which may temporarily reduce production capacity and necessitate a Level 4 water restriction to manage supply. Implementing the level 4 restriction may come on short notice as logistics of the repairs are better understood. The worst case scenario if the tower requires a full replacement. Mr. Petersen inquired about

potential costs and Mr. Mostoller responded at least \$300-\$500K, although this is not an item he has high confidence in predicting the current market conditions. More information will be available as we engage with the equipment provider.

Ms. Lin motioned to authorize the District Manager to increase water use restrictions as needed to reflect current conditions. Mr. Rosen seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote: Ms. Lin, Mr. Rosen, Mr. Petersen.

Free Cash Certification

Ms. Pinard provided an update on free cash certification for FY 2025. Free cash expires on July 1st, if not appropriated beforehand. Our paperwork was submitted, but returned with questions, and timing will not allow FY25 free cash to be appropriated at this time.

Mr. Mostoller explained the audit delayed the initial certification process this year and suggested the process begin when the FY26 internal books are closed rather than waiting on the audit. Ms. Lin asked what the current timeline is for combining FY25 with FY26. Ms. Pinard explained that our consultant is encouraging the FY26 free cash application be submitted prior to audit completion to give additional time, but the timeline is unknown. Mr. Mostoller would be pressing for this to occur by September.

Mr. Petersen asked what consequences could be expected as a result of free cash expiring. Mr. Mostoller explained free cash supplies emergency contingencies like main breaks, and money would instead come from the operating budget. A review of the proposed articles will occur and may increase the articles being undertaken and change the proposed appropriations to meet additional needs.

NEW BUSINESS:

Consumer Confidence Report for Calendar Year 2025

Mr. Mostoller reported the USEPA will soon require Consumer Confidence Reports (CCRs) to be published every 6-months. The District anticipates following this schedule beginning in 2027. The 2026 Summer Water Words including the CY 25 CCR, will be delivered via WaterSmart on July 23rd and via USPS postcard on July 23rd or 24th. Notice of the CCR will be posted on the Acton Exchange bulletin board, on social media, and by fliers posted at multi-unit dwellings.

Mr. Mostoller summarized the CCR, emphasizing the PFAS results are from 2025, and does not reflect the undetectable concentrations currently seen in the system. All regulated contaminants remained below MCLs for 2025. The District continues to report a notice of non-compliance for the Clapp-Whitcomb treatment plant; and are required to report this

until improvements to the treatment plant are made. Mr. Petersen asked if the Clapp-Whitcomb treatment plant improvements will be included in the master plan. Mr. Mostoller confirmed it is a needed investment and should be included.

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

The meeting closed at 7:56 p.m.

The next Board of Water Commissioners meeting is scheduled for July 13, 2026.