

Board of Water Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
Acton Water District
693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA
Monday, June 27, 2022

AGENDA

- A. Comments from the Public
- B. Approve minutes from the meeting of 6/6/22
- C. Appoint one Commissioner to approve warrants while conducting meetings virtually
- D. Update from Jim Cray, Senior Project Manager for Wright-Pierce on projects in progress

E. OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Land Lease with Baldco on District Property at 104 Powdermill Road-Rear
- 2. Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
 - Current sample data, if available
 - Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health advisory for PFAS
- 3. Update on search for Treasurer/Collector and Board Secretary
- 4. Amendment to the Memorandum of Land lease for the Lawsbrook Solar Array

F. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) with the Town of Acton
- 2. Current drought conditions in Massachusetts
- 3. Consumer Confidence Report for Calendar Year 2021

EXECUTIVE SESSION: To consider the purchase, exchange, lease of real property at 549 Main Street as an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the District.

Due to the Covid-19 stay-at-home order by Governor Charles Baker, the Board of Water Commissioners meeting was not held at the Acton Water District Office; instead the meeting was held via Zoom Webinar and was recorded. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, June 27, 2022 by Mr. Stephen Stuntz.

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

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

District Manager: Chris Allen

District Treasurer/Collector: Mary Jo Bates

District Counsel: Mary Bassett

Assistant District Manager: Matthew Mostoller

Finance Committee: Ron Parenti

Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki

Public Present:

Kim Kastens

A. Comments from the Public

Kim Kastens informed the Commissioners that at on the Green Acton website (www.greenacton.org) there is a new post from the Energy Committee called the "AWD solar project off and running" and states that "Green Acton offers appreciation for and congratulations on this clean energy agreement".

B. Approve Minutes from the Meeting of 6/6/22

Mr. Rosen motioned to approve the meeting minutes of June 6, 2022. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir-Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

C. Appoint One Commissioner to Approve Warrants While Conducting Meetings Virtually

Mr. Rosen motioned to appoint Erika Amir-Lin as the Commissioner to approve warrants while conducting meetings virtually until the next meeting of the Commissioners. Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir-Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

D. Update from Jim Cray, Senior Project Manager for Wright-Pierce on projects in progress

Please see the attached project update memo from Jim Cray from Wright-Pierce.

Erika Amir-Lin: regarding the Assabet Well 3 construction - schedule regarding the VFD schedule. What other equipment or supply issues exist? What's the picture for this work? Jim Cray: We met with N. Granese & Son, the General Contractor, last week and they don't see any other issues with equipment coming in which includes the other electrical equipment. The instrumentation panel may be delayed. Erika Amir-Lin: Is there a delay in compliance sampling with DEP? Is that going into the system in August? Jim Cray: they will be ready for inspection and approval in August. Chris Allen: MassDEP is requiring a 5-day pump test. They allowed us to postpone until well was constructed. Erika Amir-Lin: This won't be ready for the summer; it appears that it would be realistic for September. Jim Cray: yes that is realistic.

Erika Amir-Lin: communication with Suez, what is the schedule realistic regarding availability of components? We are waiting to follow up with but they do have the equipment available. We sent the preliminary contract language to the District for review and we got comments back. It will be based on the duration of the rental. As of now, they have systems available so we just need to get that locked in and give them a time of when we want it onsite.

Erika Amir-Lin: what has to happen between this 30% technical design memo and being ready for bidding? Jim Cray: we have three options that we have gone through with the District. Once we get direction from the option that the District wants to go with we will proceed with design.

The three options include:

1. installing a cast in place concrete tank in the basement of the facility and two process transfer pumps in the basement.
2. exterior precast tank that would be installed outside the facility with submersible transfer pumps. These trailers would be off to the side.
3. reusing the existing Kennedy Well building and using it as the equalization tank

Erika Amir-Lin: issues in past with Wright Pierce going over budget. How are you guys approaching this in terms of what does our staff look like? Do we have a team or one or two people working on these projects? Jim Cray: we do have a team. I and four other people are assigned to these projects. Each project is adequately staffed.

Barry Rosen: regarding the Assabet 3 Well – it is a larger VFD than is required. What is the disadvantage if we must use the old VFD? Jim Cray: from an operating perspective it will be maxed out at a much lower power and not ramped all the way up to the 50 horsepower. The biggest disadvantage is that it is old. It is not intended to be a permanent solution because it is old.

The Commissioners are looking for a regular update from Wright-Pierce and Jim is happy to attend a monthly meeting to provide updates.

E. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Land Lease with Baldco on District Property at 104 Powdermill Road-Rear

Chris Allen –no updates tonight. The lease currently expires this Thursday, June 30th.

Mr. Rosen moved to extend the lease until August 1, 2022, with an increase in rent to \$200 for the month of July. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir-Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

2. Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

- Current sample data, if available
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) health advisory for PFAS

- Current sample data, if available:

Chris Allen: currently serving water to the public are the North Acton, South Acton, and Central Acton Water Treatment Plants. The current data table is posted on the District website. Everything remains in compliance. North Acton went up to 19 PPT in the May sample but everything as of now is under 20PPT. Assabet 1A does not seem to be impacted by the reconfiguration of the waste stream at the SAWTP. We are pumping more waste to the waste water treatment plant. It was at 46 PPT. That is higher than it has been but in the range that this well has been historically.

Matt Mostoller: regarding the raw water sampling – we are experiencing periods of no rain so that may be driving that. He would be hesitant in saying that we have seen no impact in the redirection of the waste because we aren't seeing normal recharge in that area. We did conduct sampling last week for North Acton and Central Acton which was completed last week and will receive results the first week of July.

- EPA health advisory for PFAS:

Matt Mostoller – the EPA recently updated their health advisory for four of the chemicals where two are regulated in MA and two we sample for but aren't regulated. They have now established health advisories for PFOA and PFOS that are lower than what they had been at 70PPT but significantly lower than our lab analytical capabilities. Those two particular ones are interims and are waiting for more scientific review from their scientific advisory board. This will feed into their evaluation of a maximum contaminant level which they acknowledge will be higher than these numbers. What Matt is been hearing from the EPA is 4 PPT will be the lowest that they will try to enforce. These are just guidelines. Here in MA we are at 20PPT. MA DEP has not made any official statements on what these numbers mean. They are simultaneously working on a three year review of the maximum contaminant level that they adopted. They are working on determining how they will use this information and what it means to MA. It appears that they will still use 20 PPT as an enforceable standard. They may review some of their health advisory language and may back off pushing bottled water as an alternative because at the parts per quadrillion level we can't even determine that bottled water is any safer. He was on a call last week with DEP and they made a point of "we need to be careful with pushing an alternative if we don't know if the alternative is better". Matt Mostoller: There is a lot going on but there aren't a lot of answers. Operationally we aren't changing course and we continue to use the MA guidelines about health concerns and sub population. It has not changed our sample frequency or our focus on minimizing the exposure to our customers.

3. Update on Search for Treasurer/Collector and Board Secretary

Mary Jo Bates gave an update to the Board on the search for Treasurer/Collector.

She stated that the District has received 12 applications; the Search Committee has met 3 times; and interviewed 6 people. We do not have a candidate to present to Commissioners. Applications are still

coming in and the Search Committee will continue to review them. We are hoping to have one candidate to present to the Commissioners at the next open meeting.

Chris Allen: Lynn Protasowicki will remain as Board Secretary as long as meetings remain virtual. If they go back to in-person she will withdraw from the position.

4. Amendment to the Memorandum of Land Lease for the Lawsbrook Solar Array

Mr. Allen stated that this amendment was voted on at the last Annual Meeting for the addition of a 5 year term. Board would need to approve and execute and will be notarized by Counselor Mary Bassett. This extends the lease to a 35-year total with options.

Mr. Rosen moved to approve the amendment to the memorandum of land lease for the Lawsbrook Solar Array. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion and it was approved by a roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir-Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

F. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) with the Town of Acton

Mr. Stuntz stated that the Board needs to approve it and Chris Allen will sign it.

Mr. Stuntz moved to approve the Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) with the Town of Acton and authorize Mr. Allen to sign on behalf of Commissioners. Mr. Rosen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir-Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

Kim Kastens: she would like to know what this IMA is about. Matt Mostoller: it is related to the opportunity to purchase a parcel of land in Acton for multiple purposes (i.e. water supply protection, conservation land, scenic value). Where the Town and Water District will continue working together towards acquiring that property we wanted to put in place an IMA to spell out what that relationship looks like and what our understanding for each entity is. These are pretty common documents that are used when multiple government entities are working towards a common goal.

2. Current Drought Conditions in Massachusetts

Chris Allen stated that the Massachusetts Drought Task Force met last week and declared our region (southeast and northeast regions) in significant drought. Our current outdoor conservation program is rendering demand manageable. That could change should the environmental conditions continue to be dry.

3. Consumer Confidence Report for Calendar Year 2021

Chris Allen stated that we promulgated our annual Consumer Confidence Report, aka, Annual Water Quality Report, which is mandated by regulation to be delivered to all customers by July 1st . We did a hybrid postcard and email delivery, as has been typical. It is posted on the District's website. Matt Mostoller stated that there is a pending regulatory change that will require us to send this CCR out twice per year.

Mr. Stuntz motioned to adjourn the open meeting and move into Executive Session at 7:48 PM to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease of real property as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the District. Mr. Rosen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir-Lin, and Mr. Stuntz

Next meeting: July 25, 2022