

Board of Water Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
Acton Water District  
693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA  
Monday, December 6, 2021

**AGENDA**

- A. Comments from the Public
- B. Approve minutes from meeting of 11/22/2021
- C. Appoint one Commissioner to approve warrants while conducting meetings virtually

**D. OLD BUSINESS:**

- 1. Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
  - Current sample data, if available
  - Any updates or discussion from the PFAS Working Group
- 2. Review of Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2023(FY'23)
- 3. Update on the Central Acton Water Treatment Plant (CAWTP) Project
- 4. Update on Permitting of New Bedrock Source

**Present at Tonight's Meeting:**

Commissioners: Erika Amir-Lin, Barry Rosen (Chair), Stephen Stuntz  
District Manager: Chris Allen  
District Treasurer: Mary Jo Bates  
District Counsel: Mary Bassett  
Environmental Manager: Matthew Mostoller  
Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki  
Finance Committee: Chuck Bradley

**Public Attendees:**

Alana Flores  
Marni Zelnick  
Ron Parenti

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. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM on Monday, December 6, 2021 by Mr. Barry Rosen.

**A. Comments from the Public**

Alana Flores, Wachusett Drive – asked two questions:

- 1. Can you tell us what parts of Acton have the treatment facilities or filtration facilities or both?
- 2. In Indian Village we have had mixed information for plan or timeline wells for West Acton wells – what is the current plan is for treatment or filtration to West Acton and what is the timeline?

Chris Allen stated that the District has four filtration plants. West Acton is equipped with Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) which is media filtration. That does reduce some of the mineral constituencies and removes all PFAS in those sources. Prior to PFAS, the media was changed annually. Because of PFAS we now change the media more frequently, about semi-annually. No plan to add full scale filtration in West Acton but could change in short term. We will eventually add filtration but currently the Central Acton Plant, consolidating the Conant I and II sources for iron and manganese filtration, will be coming online soon. Over the past twelve years we have constructed three filtration plants and West Acton will be

the fourth. 85% of our supply will be fully filtrated once the Central Acton plant is commissioned. Still awaiting commissioning of Central Acton Treatment Plant to determine what the levels of PFAS are in the supply to the system. No current plan to add or construct additional filtration in West Acton but could change within the next few years.

Ms. Flores: If Indian Village was interested in helping to promote the construction of filtration is there something to advocate for through the District, or town? Mr. Allen stated it will be through the District.

Steve Stuntz: we can tell you the priorities as we move through keeping the water as safe as we can within regulatory compliance and within the ability to build treatment plants. We do listen and we do try to figure it and put it in the constraints within what we can do.

Erika Amir-Lin: what you can talk to when talking with friends, neighbors and residents is that all of this does cost money and the more willing our customers are for us to spend money the faster we can get to new projects. So, building support for us taking on new debt which may cause higher rates for a while. Those are the conversations where people get on board its easier for us to prepare to do something big.

Ron Parenti: update on the solar array, noticed utility poles going up, and sees fewer construction vehicles so wondering if anything or unusual had happened within the past week . Mr. Allen stated that they are putting the modules in place. The poles are for the interconnection to the electrical grid on Lawsbrook Road. The project is moving along as scheduled. Most of the heavy construction is complete, and once the modules are in place, the array is close to commissioning.

Marni Zelnick, Wachusett Drive (Indian Village): clarification regarding the \$13 million project. What is that project? Mr. Allen stated that it is a Greensand Plus filtration plant that is being built in Acton Center (industrial facility across from main post office on Main Street – the filtration plant will be built behind Associated Environmental Systems (AES). This filtration plant will be treating the Conant I and II sources. The plant will remove iron and manganese from those sources and should be commissioned shortly after the holidays in early 2022.

Following up to Erika’s comment about advocating amongst our neighbors and residents in Acton – Ms. Zelnick asked is it our understanding that the only way to have treatment for West Acton is that the consumers pay for it or is there no other funding? Mr. Allen stated that ultimately the rate payers do shoulder the burden of any debt that is incurred through the Debt Fee on the quarterly water bill.

#### **B. Approve Minutes from Meeting of 11/22/2021**

Mr. Stuntz motioned to approve the minutes of November 22, 2021. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Ms. Amir-Lin, Mr. Stuntz, and Mr. Rosen.

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

Mr. Rosen motioned to appoint Ms. 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: Ms. Amir-Lin, Mr. Stuntz, and Mr. Rosen.

#### **D. OLD BUSINESS:**

##### 1. Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

- Current sample data, if available
- Any updates or discussion from the PFAS Working Group

Matt Mostoller provided an update:

Preliminary data from some samples

North Acton – 16 Parts Per Trillion (PPT) (continue to be in compliance) and continuing to see a decrease in PFAS at this facility across the Ultra-filtration membranes of about 5-6 PPT.

For the fourth quarter of 2021, the entire system will be in compliance however we will be sending out public notice with third quarter results in the January bills.

Chris Allen stated that the PFAS Working Group meeting is planned for this Thursday, 12/9. He did circulate to the group the report for the temporary treatment system for North Acton to review and comment on. There are currently 57 bottle water rebate applications; we had only one denied (it was a commercial property on Great Road). To date, \$2,415 total in rebates.

#### 2. Review of Draft Budget for Fiscal Year 2023(FY'23)

Mr. Allen mentioned that Counsel will draft a warrant article for the borrowing of Kelly's Corner. He recommends not approving the budget until January in case any other issues arise. Steve Stuntz has no other comments from last meeting; Barry Rosen has no comments. Erika Amir-Lin has no comments and agrees to wait until January to approve the budget.

#### 3. Update on the Central Acton Water Treatment Plant (CAWTP) Project

Mr. Allen provided an update. The Greensand Plus filters have been checked out and are up to compliance. Vendor has been onsite. Media has been loaded. Pumps, compressors and chemical feed systems have all been checked out. The contractor is undertaking the permanent switch gear installation. Conant I has been interconnected to the repurposed line for raw water transmission. The vendor will be onsite tomorrow to run that pump to check it and run it to waste. And then subsequently we will fill that raw water transmission line feeding the treatment plant that runs along Main Street and up post office square. Conant I and II will then be able to supply raw water to the facility. Per the Engineer, Wright-Pierce, MassDEP certification should occur soon after the new year with the facility in a normal operating configuration.

#### 4. Update on Permitting of New Bedrock Source

Mr. Allen mentioned that our contact at MassDEP has retired. We do not have an approved permit for this source yet.

We received contact from Landvest and there is a meeting scheduled for tomorrow at the District office with different parties who are interested (including the Water District, Sudbury Valley Trustees, Acton Conservation Trust, and the Town of Acton will all be in attendance) to discuss the 549 Main Street parcel.

*Ms. Amir-Lin motioned to adjourn the open meeting at 7:35 PM. Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Ms. Amir-Lin, Mr. Stuntz, and Mr. Rosen.*