

Water Supply District of Acton

693 MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE
P.O. BOX 953
ACTON, MASSACHUSETTS 01720

TELEPHONE (978) 263-9107

FAX (978) 264-0148

Board of Water Commissioners Meeting Agenda

Monday, May 11, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, meetings are being held virtually via Zoom

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85328457993>

Phone one-tap:

+13126266799,,85328457993# US (Chicago), +16469313860,,85328457993# US

Join via audio:

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago), +1 646 931 3860 US, +1 929 205 6099 US (New York), +1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC), +1 305 224 1968 US, +1 309 205 3325 US, +1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose), +1 689 278 1000 US

Webinar ID: 853 2845 7993

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85328457993>

- **Comments from the public**
- **Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually**
- **Approve Minutes from 4/21 and 4/27 meetings**
- **Swearing in of newly elected officials – Clerk**
- **Annual appointment by Board of Commissioners**
- **Annual appointment by District Moderator**
- **Swearing in of newly appointed officials – Finance Committee, Assistant Clerk**

NEW BUSINESS:

- Request for Assistance 6 Huckleberry Lane
- Review 3 Quarter Financials
- Operations Leadership

OLD BUSINESS:

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

Any agenda item(s) which did not come to the attention of the Board of Water Commissioners 48 hours prior to this meeting and were not reasonably anticipated.

Board of Water Commissioners

Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, April 21, 2026 @ 1:00 PM

- Comments from the public

EXECUTIVE SESSION: To conduct strategy sessions for contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

OLD BUSINESS:

- Annual Review of District Manager

NEW BUSINESS:

- Review and Approve District Manager Employment Contract
- Review and Approve District Manager Review Process

Present at Today's Meeting:

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

Finance Committee: John Petersen

District Manager: Matthew Mostoller

Treasurer/Collector: Ashley Pinard

START OF MINUTES

Mr. Stuntz opened the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and ensured that everyone could hear and be heard.

Comments from the public

There were no public comments at the outset of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION: To conduct strategy sessions for contract negotiations with nonunion personnel.

Mr. Rosen made a motion to enter an executive session to conduct strategy sessions for contract negotiations with non-union personnel, and that the Board will reconvene in open session. Ms. Lin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

Mr. Mostoller explained the logistics that would enable the executive session to occur, whereby the participants would exit the Zoom meeting and conduct the executive session

via a separate Teams meeting. Ms. Pinard will remain on the Zoom meeting until the other participants reconvene in the open session.

The open session was reconvened at 1:26 PM.

OLD BUSINESS:

Annual Review of District Manager

Ms. Lin moved to accept the annual review of Mr. Mostoller as presented. Mr. Rosen seconded the motion, which passed unanimously via roll call vote. Mr. Petersen inquired as to the period of time covered by this review. Mr. Stuntz responded that the review began in August and really covered a period up until final comments were assembled in December 2025. Mr. Mostoller explained the delays in completing the review, including the turnover of the original attorney assisting in the contract review process.

NEW BUSINESS:

Review and Approve District Manager Employment Contract

Mr. Rosen moved to approve the Administrative Contract of Employment as drafted on April 17, 2026. Ms. Lin seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously via roll call vote.

Mr. Mostoller thanked the Board for working through this process in a satisfactory way.

Review and Approve District Manager Review Process

Mr. Rosen moved to approve the District Manager Review Process as presented by Attorney Rozak reflecting the process conducted to date. Ms. Lin seconded the motion, which was passed unanimously via roll call vote. Mr. Petersen suggested the process should start with public comment on the District Manager's performance.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Rosen moved to adjourn the open session of the Board of Commissioners. Seconded by Mr. Stuntz. Which passed unanimously via roll call vote.

The meeting closed at 1:47 p.m.

Board of Water Commissioners

Meeting Agenda

Monday, April 27, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

- Comments from the public
- Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually
- Approve Minutes from 4/13/2026 meeting

NEW BUSINESS:

- Request for Assistance 15 Craig Road
- Discuss Requests for Legislative Assistance

OLD BUSINESS:

- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
 - Current sample data, if available
 - Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades
- Discuss Special District Meeting

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

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

Finance Committee: John Petersen

District Manager: Matthew Mostoller

Deputy District Manager: Corey Godfrey

Treasurer/Collector: Ashley Pinard

District Clerk: Joe Robb

Members of the Public: Jianna Eagar (Office Manager at 15 Craig Road); Ron Parenti, Bill Guthlein, Kim Kastens

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 this time.

Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually

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

Approve Minutes from 4/13/2026 meeting

Mr. Stuntz motioned to approve the minutes of 4/13/2026. Mr. Rosen seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

NEW BUSINESS:

Request for Assistance 15 Craig Road

Ms. Eagar came before the Board to request a one-time adjustment to a water bill totaling approximately \$25,000. She explained that the property (15 Craig Road) has been vacant for approximately two years and is currently on the market. While she conducts periodic inspections, a malfunctioning sensor-operated toilet went undetected for a period of time, resulting in excessive water use. Upon notification from the District, a plumber was immediately engaged, and the issue was resolved the same day.

Ms. Eagar stated that the water use was unintentional and provided no benefit to the property, and she expressed concern regarding the financial impact. She requested consideration for a one-time abatement.

The Board discussed the request and noted that the issue was caused by equipment failure and lack of monitoring, rather than a system-related issue. Commissioners expressed concern about setting precedent and the broader impact to ratepayers if such abatements were granted. Staff and Commissioners indicated that while an abatement would not be supported, the District could assist in establishing a payment plan to help manage the balance.

Ms. Lin moved to deny the request for abatement of the bill at 15 Craig Road. Mr. Rosen seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

Staff will follow up with the property representative to discuss payment plan options.

Discuss Requests for Legislative Assistance

Mr. Mostoller provided updates on ongoing legislative coordination efforts.

He reported continued work with State Representatives Cataldo and Sena, as well as Senator Eldridge, regarding regulatory requirements for bathroom facilities at unmanned water facilities. The District has been pursuing both a waiver through the State Plumbing Board and legislative remedies through the state budget process. Representative Cataldo has agreed to co-sponsor related legislation.

Mr. Mostoller also provided an update on coordination with MassDOT regarding infrastructure concerns at the Piper/Taylor Road and Route 2 crossing. The District has been in communication with Representative Cataldo's office to seek support for both immediate safety-related work and potential long-term infrastructure coordination with planned DOT improvements.

Mr. Godfrey provided an update regarding emergency conditions at the Route 2 intersection, where prior water main breaks led to roadway settlement. A significant sinkhole developed in the travel lane, creating an immediate public safety hazard. MassDOT performed temporary repairs and coordinated with the District on a permanent solution.

Due to the urgency, the District obtained an emergency procurement waiver to allow immediate work without a full bidding process. J.H. Lynch & Sons, Inc., the contractor already working with MassDOT at the site, began emergency repair work to excavate and stabilize the affected area.

Mr. Mostoller noted that the work is necessary to eliminate voids beneath the roadway and prevent further sinkhole formation. He also stated that MassDOT has requested full repaving of the intersection, which remains under discussion.

Ms. Lin moved to award the contract for emergency Route 2 road repairs to J.H. Lynch & Sons, Inc. of Millbury, Massachusetts, in the amount of \$158,005. Mr. Stuntz seconded, and the motion passed unanimously via a roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

Proceeding this discussion, Mr. Mostoller informed the Board of an upcoming Town of Acton culvert replacement project in the vicinity of 13 Main Street. The project will require temporary shutdown and reconfiguration of a section of water main.

Staff will provide temporary water service to impacted customers while the contractor installs a new main beneath the culvert. Due to required testing and disinfection procedures, the system will temporarily operate with two dead-end configurations.

Mr. Mostoller noted that these temporary conditions may result in minor water quality disturbances, though staff expect impacts to be limited. The Board was notified for awareness in the event of public inquiries.

OLD BUSINESS:

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Current sample data, if available

No data was available for the meeting.

Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades

Mr. Mostoller provided an operational update on PFAS treatment facilities:

- **North Acton:** The system was brought online following receipt of the remaining carbon media but experienced operational issues and was subsequently taken offline again due to pH concerns impacting our disinfection compliance.
- **Center Acton:** The facility remains offline, with staff working to bring it online in the coming days while addressing issues with the chemical feed system.
- **South Acton:** The facility is operating reliably following adjustments to the equalization basin system. Additional improvements are pending.

Mr. Mostoller also noted that well cleaning activities are underway in South Acton, temporarily reducing available capacity.

In response to questions, staff confirmed that seasonal demand has begun to increase, and the District has relied on storage capacity at the Wampus Hill tank to meet peak demand.

Discuss Special District Meeting

Mr. Mostoller reported that the Special District Meeting was successfully conducted and that the budget was approved. He noted that the meeting received positive feedback but required significant staff effort to prepare and execute.

Mr. Mostoller emphasized that while the outcome was successful, the District has limited staff and resources, and similar efforts in the future would require careful consideration of competing priorities.

Ron Parenti commented that the presentations were clear and effective, and suggested that similar efforts should be made for future meetings to support public understanding.

Mr. Robb reported that attendance at the Special District Meeting was 63 voters, compared to 50 at the Annual Meeting, indicating increased engagement. He also commended the clarity of the presentations.

Commissioners discussed the tone of the meeting, noting that questions from attendees were largely informational, and that voters appeared satisfied with the responses and understanding of the budget.

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

The meeting closed at 7:44 p.m.

The next Board of Water Commissioners meeting is scheduled for May 11, 2026.

DRAFT

From: [Matt Mostoller](#)
To: [John Petersen](#); ronaldparenti@comcast.net; william.guthlein@verizon.net; william.charles.mullin@gmail.com
Cc: [AWD Commissioners](#); [Joe Robb](#); [Corey Godfrey](#); [Ashley Pinard](#)
Subject: RE: Good News: A returning FinCom Member; Thank you Ron
Date: Monday, May 4, 2026 2:38:00 PM

Gentlemen,

This is great news, thank you Ron for continuing your service to the District.

I have been in touch with the Clerk and John will be sworn in as a Commissioner on June 1st. This is the standard reorganization meeting for the year. I can plan to post a meeting for the 27th to wrap up any business requiring John's participation. Please provide a preferred time and agenda.

If Ron is available, we can swear him in during the 5/11 BOC meeting.

-Matt

From: John Petersen <john.s.petersen@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, May 2, 2026 10:57 AM
To: ronaldparenti@comcast.net; Matt Mostoller <Matt@actonwater.com>; william.guthlein@verizon.net; william.charles.mullin@gmail.com
Subject: Re: Good News: A returning FinCom Member; Thank you Ron

Hi Bill,
Thank you for working to get the fincom back up to full strength!
Best regards,
John

On Saturday, May 2, 2026 at 10:09:17 AM EDT, Bill Mullin <william.charles.mullin@gmail.com> wrote:

Hello District Team!

I hope this email finds you well!

- Very good news!
- I spoke with Ron Parenti this morning, and Ron is willing to resume his position on the District Finance Committee.
- As we know, another vacancy exists, so my (our) work must continue to find a new member.
- Also, I continue to offer, and hope, that someone who may want to check us out a bit more,

would be willing to serve as an Associate Member.
But for now, Mr. Guthlein will not be a sole practitioner!

Matt, can you please arrange with Ron to get him sworn in?

Thank you Ron and all!

And, please please please, can you continue to search for new FinCom members? It is a tough slot to fill and, as you know, my personal network is not as wide as it once was.

Best regards,

Bill Mullin

From: [Matt Mostoller](#)
To: "Rohit Saini"
Cc: [Ashley Pinard](#); [AWD Commissioners](#)
Subject: RE: Request for Adjustment of Water Bill – Account #414-13902
Date: Thursday, May 7, 2026 5:58:00 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)
[image002.png](#)
[Meeting Agenda for Monday 051126.pdf](#)

Rohit,

The meeting agenda with a link to the Zoom meeting is attached for your use.

-Matt

From: Rohit Saini <rohit.saini@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, May 6, 2026 4:41 PM
To: Matt Mostoller <Matt@actonwater.com>
Cc: Ashley Pinard <Ashley@actonwater.com>; AWD Commissioners <Commissioners@actonwater.com>
Subject: Re: Request for Adjustment of Water Bill – Account #414-13902

You don't often get email from rohit.saini@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi Matt,

Thanks for getting back. If I had means to pay it, I definitely would have.
Please do send me the meeting invite and I will attend.

Thanks
Rohit

On Wed, May 6, 2026, 3:46 PM Matt Mostoller <Matt@actonwater.com> wrote:

Good afternoon Rohit,

I plan to put your request on the Board of Water Commissioners' meeting agenda for Monday May 11th. I want to share with you that the Board recently denied a similar request for a water leak in an unoccupied structure. Staff was instructed to work with that property owner on a payment plan, which I understand was already offered to you by Ashley. If the home is going to remain unoccupied, you may want to consider having service shut off at the street, which will suspend ongoing fees from being collected and protect you from future leaks in the home. If you are available to attend the Zoom meeting at 7pm, I can send you the link. If you would like to reconsider the payment

plan, I am available on Thursday morning or Friday to discuss your options.

Thank you, Matt

Matthew Mostoller

District Manager

Water Supply District of Acton

[693 Massachusetts Avenue](#)

P.O. Box 953 Acton, MA 01720

P 978-263-9107 F 978-264-0148

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!



From: Rohit Saini <rohit.saini@gmail.com>

Sent: Friday, May 1, 2026 5:46 PM

To: Matt Mostoller <Matt@actonwater.com>; Ashley Pinard <Ashley@actonwater.com>

Subject: Request for Adjustment of Water Bill – Account #414-13902

You don't often get email from rohit.saini@gmail.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Sir/Madam,

My name is Rohit Saini, and I am the owner of the property located at [6 Huckleberry Ln, Acton](#). I am writing to request a review and adjustment of my recent water bill.

In February, I received a call from your department informing me that a significant water leak had been detected at my property, which has been unoccupied for several years. This was unexpected, as I had personally shut off the main water supply valve months earlier. I conveyed this information to your representative at the time.

Despite being on my way to the airport for a scheduled flight, I immediately went to the property to investigate. Upon arrival, I discovered a major leak caused by the failure of a SharkBite shutoff valve—the same valve I had previously turned off. There are two shutoff valves at the property: one located before the meter and one after the meter. The failed valve was the one after the meter.

There was no reasonable way for me to anticipate that the shutoff valve would fail (break into pieces) in this manner. As soon as I was notified, I acted promptly to address the issue and shut off the valve before the meter to stop the leak. I also met with one of your employees at the site after resolving the immediate problem.

Recently, I received a water bill totaling \$6,652.99 for account number 414-13902. Given that the property has been vacant and no water has been used for months—both before and after the incident—this charge is the result of circumstances beyond my control.

I respectfully request that you review my case and consider a one-time adjustment or waiver

of the excess charges. I would greatly appreciate your understanding and assistance in resolving this matter. I'm available anytime to come and see you in person. Please feel free to call me at 603 2330704 if you have any questions/concerns.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Rohit Saini

This communication is intended only for the use of the individual or entity named as the addressee. It may contain information which is privileged and/or confidential under applicable law. If you are not the intended recipient or such recipient's employee or agent, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, copy or disclosure of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify us immediately at (978) 263-9107 or via return internet email to sender and expunge this communication without making any copies. Thank you for your cooperation



693 Massachusetts Avenue
 P.O. Box 953
 Acton, MA 01720
 (978) 263-9107

April 2026 Quarterly Water Bill

Payment due

May 07, 2026

Account Information

Account Number: 414-13902
 Number of Units: 1
 Property Address: 6 HUCKLEBERRY LANE

Last Readings and Usages (in cubic feet)

Date	Reading	Cubic Feet	Gallons
3/12/2026	135185	49,663	371,479
12/11/2025	85522		

1 Cubic Foot = 7.48 Gallons

365
 1 T1 P1
 ROHIT SAINI
 6 HUCKLEBERRY LANE
 ACTON, MA 01720-3731

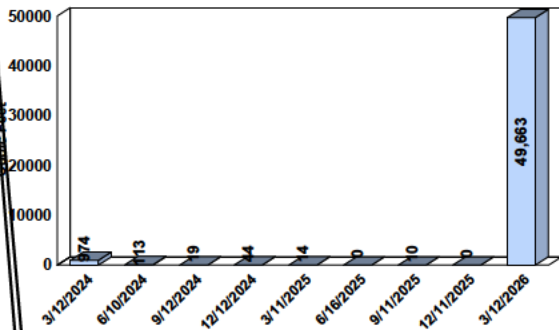
DFTAFDTTDTATFFFTDTTATADFDADA

Balance and Charges

Previous Balance	\$80.75
Current Charges	\$6,652.99
Total Amount Due	\$6,733.74

14% interest per annum is charged to overdue accounts.

Quarterly Water Use History



Rain Barrels - Discount Rain Barrels Available Order by April 26th.

www.actionwater.com/conservation/rain-barrel-program

Outdoor Water Use For updates on the status of outdoor water use restrictions throughout the year visit

www.actionwater.com/conservation/outdoor-water-restrictions

PFAS Update - For the most up-to-date information including sampling results please visit our dedicated webpage

www.actonwater.com/pfas

Spring Water Main Flushing Our spring water main flushing program in the Acton Center area will be truncated this year as we look to conserve water under new operational conditions at our facilities look for road signs in areas we anticipate will be affected. A schedule will be posted and updated on our website.

COLLECTOR'S COPY - You can pay this bill through our website or detach and return with your payment by: 05/07/2026

Contact Information

Email

Phone Numbers

Please update your contact information.

Indicate amount enclosed. Do not send cash.

Amount Due \$6,733.74

Payment Enclosed

Account Number 414-13902

Payment due May 07, 2026

Make Checks Payable to:

WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT OF ACTON
 P.O. BOX 953
 ACTON, MA 01720

Rates are per Unit	Summer	Wintier
Service Charge	\$15.00	\$15.00
Debti Fee	\$63.50*	\$63.50*
Between 0 and 300	0.000	0.000
If greatier tihan 300:		
All usage up tio 1500	0.076	0.064
Between 1501 and 3000	0.096	0.082
Between 3001 and 4500	0.113	0.101
Between 4501 and 6000	0.132	0.119
Greatier tihan 6000	0.150	0.138
Municipal	0.082	0.082

Services and Fees are subject to and governed by the [Water Supply District of Acton Rules, Regulations and Rates](#).

Statutory interest is due on payments made thirty days past due, as provided by M.G.L., Ch69, Sec 44. and insufficient funds check fees will be charged as provided by M.G.L., Ch 69, Sec 44. A minimum of \$10.00 will be charged for returned checks.

Unpaid water bills are a lien on the real estate and collection may be made by sale of the real estate as provided by M.G.L. Ch 40, Secs. 42A-42F

* DEBT FEE -As off this billing, tihe debti ffee includes tihe ffollowing charges per uniti:		
Description	Total Costi	Debti Fee
North Action Watier Treatmenti Planti	\$6.0 Million	\$9.85
South Action Watier Treatmenti Planti	\$13.47 Million	\$23.48
Centier Action Watier Treatmenti Planti	\$11.796 Million	\$19.57
NAWTP PFAS	\$0.684 Million	\$2.00
Kelly's Corner & 549 Main Stireeti	\$2.7 Million	\$8.60

Pay your Bill Online

Did you know you can pay your bill online? Visit our website and look for the "Pay Online" button in the middle of the screen.

High Water Pressure

Sustained pressure that exceeds 80 psi can damage onsite plumbing and may affect your water fixtures. Some areas of our system exceed this pressure and you may consider having a licensed plumber install a pressure-reducing valve.

Senior Citizen Discount

A Senior Citizen discount is available to water users aged 65 and over who own their own residence and have an individually metered water service.

To apply for this discount, customers must first receive approval for the Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption offered by the Town of Acton. Applicants for this exemption must satisfy income and asset requirements specified by the Town, and requests for an exemption can be submitted to the Town's Assessor's Office. Information about this program is available by calling 978-929-6621 or through the following link: www.acton-ma.gov/134/Assessor

Following the approval of an exemption by the Town Assessor, customers can then submit a copy of their Certificate of Exemption from the Town of Acton and a copy of their tax bill to the Acton Water District. The District will then authorize a water bill abatement in the same percentage as the real estate tax exemption, utilizing the winter reading cycle for the calculation. The abatement will be applied to the next water bill. Abatements will expire after one year, but can be renewed annually. For more information, please contact our Treasurer/Collector at 978-263-9107, or Treasurer@ActonWater.com

Visit our website at www.ActonWater.com

Follow us on [Twitter@ActonWater](https://twitter.com/ActonWater)

Like us on Facebook to stay updated facebook.com/ActonWater

Please update us with your contact information, so that we can keep you better informed.

**WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT OF ACTON
P.O. BOX 953
ACTON, MA 01720**

Acton Water District - PWS 2002000

Summary of Treated Water Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) 2026

Sample Date	Sample Location			
	Clapp/Whitcomb WTP	Central Acton WTP	North Acton WTP	South Acton WTP
January 7, 2026	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	15.2
January 13, 2026	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	3	Not Sampled
January 28, 2026	Not Sampled	11.6	Not Sampled	Not Sampled
February 4, 2026	Not Sampled	12.5	2.9	Not Sampled
February 18, 2026	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	14
February 26, 2026	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	ND
March 18, 2026	Not Sampled	13.8	Not Sampled	ND
April 23, 2026	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	ND
April 29, 2026	Not Sampled	ND	ND	Not Sampled

Notes:

WTP = Water Treatment Plant

Units are in parts per trillion (ppt) or ng/L

ND = below method detection limit

Not Sampled = PFAS samples are not collected at each WTP on the same date or when a WTP is not producing water for consumption

Results provided are the sum of 6 PFAS Compounds - PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, PFHpA, and PFDA

Exceeds Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20 ppt or ng/L

All treated water data is shared with consumers to be transparent. Not all of the data presented here will meet MassDEP data acceptance standards.



Mass.gov

SEARCH

> [EEA](#) > ... > [Drought Management Task Force](#) > [Drought Monitoring](#)

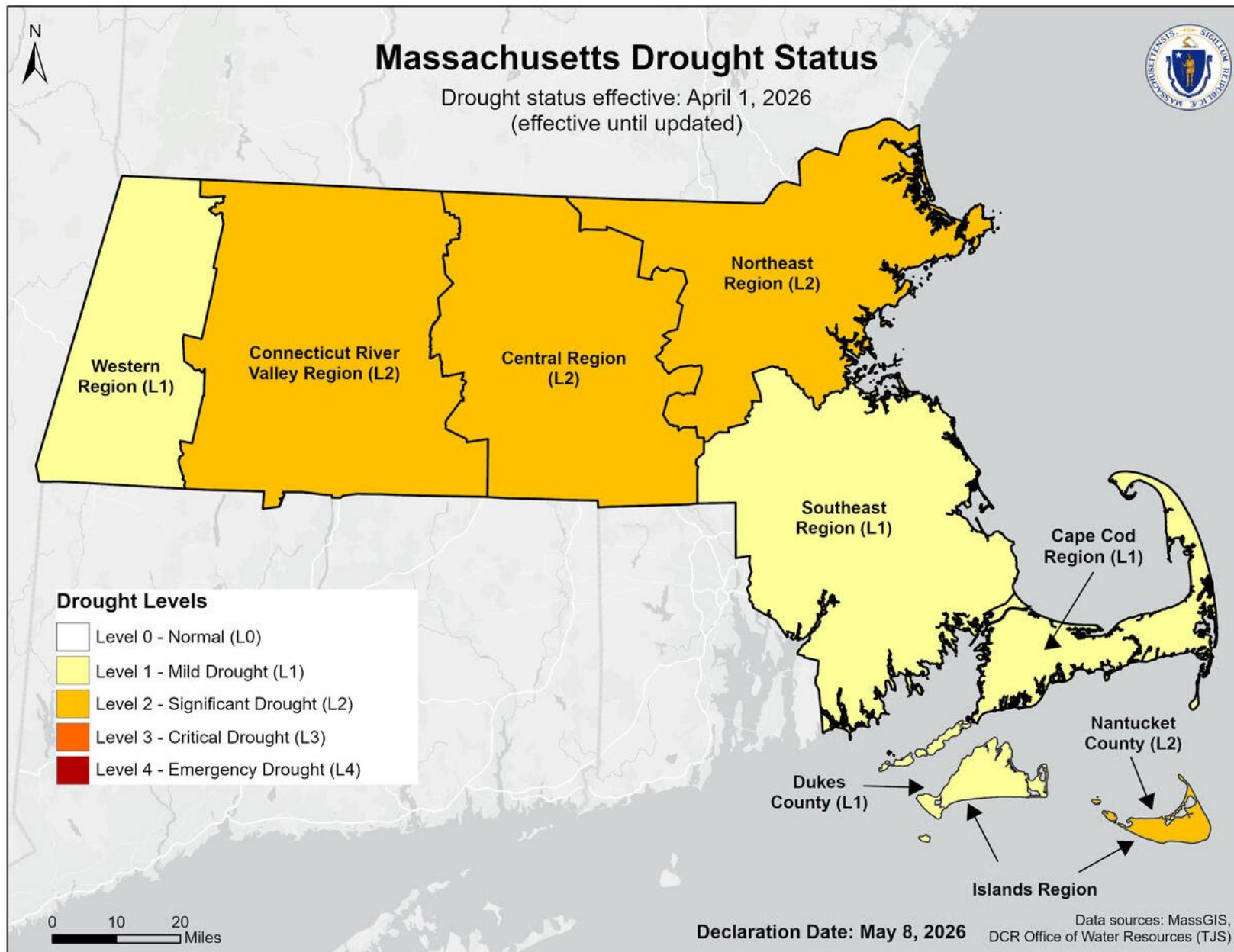
OFFERED BY [Drought Management Task Force](#) [Water Resources Commission](#) [Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs](#) Show 1 more

Drought Status

Find out the current drought status in Massachusetts, learn about past droughts and find past drought declaration maps.

Current Drought Status

Feedback



*The drought levels shown in the map above are in effect until the next drought declaration

May 8, 2026:

Today, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper declared worsened drought conditions in several regions of

Massachusetts. The Connecticut River Valley, Central, and Northeast Regions and Nantucket County are now in a Level 2 - Significant Drought. The Western and Southeast Regions and Dukes County have moved to a Level 1 – Mild Drought. Conditions have slightly improved in the Cape, which is now a Level 1 – Mild Drought. During March, Massachusetts received approximately 3 to 5.5 inches of precipitation, which is normal for this time of year. Some areas – like Essex, Middlesex, Dukes, and Nantucket Counties – got less than normal, about 0.5 to 1.5 inches below average.

During April, precipitation was well below normal in Massachusetts. The state’s monthly totals ranged from 1.5 to 3 inches. The greatest deficits occurred across Martha’s Vineyard and Nantucket, where only .75 to 1 inch of rainfall was observed – equating to departures of 3 to 4.5 inches below normal. Over the past 3 to 6 months, most of the state has received only 60 to 90 percent of normal precipitation. Nantucket continues to experience the most significant deficits, with totals near 50 percent of normal over both time periods. As a result, in spite of temporary relief from snowmelt in March, recent rainfall has not been enough to make up for the longer-term precipitation and groundwater deficits that have built up over the past two years. While conditions may appear improved in the short term, key indicators such as groundwater take longer to recover and continue to reflect these deficits.

Although recent precipitation and snowmelt have led to some localized improvements, the overall system remains below normal. The current drought, which began in 2024, continues to affect the natural environment like streamflow, vernal pools and ponds and dependent species, fish migrations and declining groundwater. The drought is also drying out vegetation and ground cover. While local water supplies are currently stable, the persistence of drought conditions, combined with the start of growing season and increased water demand, makes continued conservation even more important.

As outlined in the [Massachusetts Drought Management Plan](#), continued detailed monitoring of drought conditions must continue. The drought levels also require ongoing coordination among state and federal agencies to implement drought response actions such as water-use restrictions. Additionally, engagement with municipalities, including local Boards of Health (BOH), is essential. This includes providing technical outreach and assistance to water suppliers and affected municipalities. Residents are asked to report to their local BOH if wells are drying up; BOHs are asked to [report on the condition of local private wells](#). The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) will continue to assist communities in managing their water systems. However, private well users and other sources of water within the same river basins are impacted by drought conditions. All sources of water, regardless of their location or type of withdrawal, ultimately draw from the same river basin. It is important for all users to do their part to conserve water. Please note that even during a drought, to continue operational activities such as flushing and spring maintenance, water suppliers may need to use higher volumes of water.

Residents can report dry environmental conditions and submit photos to help monitor the situation on the [Massachusetts Water Impact Reporter](#). Additionally, a [FAQ](#) is now available for questions regarding the current drought status and water conservation; and [private well owners can learn more](#) for information on how the drought may impact them.

State agencies will continue to closely monitor and assess conditions across the state, coordinate any needed dissemination of information to the public, and help federal, state, and local agencies prepare additional responses that may be needed in the future. The DMTF will [meet](#) again on May 7 at 10:00 AM. For further information on water conservation and what residents can do, visit the EEA's [drought](#) and [water conservation](#) pages.

Below are recommendations for communities and individuals living and working within a Level 1–Mild Drought and Level 2–Significant Drought Regions including those utilizing a private well. Residents and businesses are strongly urged to check with their local water system in case more stringent water restrictions are in place. Many systems may have other more severe local conditions and constraints on water supply.

For Regions in Level 2 – Significant Drought

Residents and Businesses:

- Minimize overall water use
- Follow local water use restrictions;
- For any upcoming outdoor water use, limit watering to hand-held hoses or watering cans, to be used only after 5 p.m. or before 9 a.m
- Fix indoor leaks, such as from toilets, faucets, and showers, which result in more than 60 percent of indoor use; and,
- For larger buildings and businesses, conduct water audits to identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation opportunities.

Immediate Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

- Limit or prohibit installation of new sod, seeding, and/or landscaping; watering during or within 48 hours after measurable rainfall; washing of hard surfaces (sidewalks, patios, driveways, siding); personal vehicle or boat washing; and,
- Establish water-use reduction targets for all water users, identify top water users and conduct targeted outreach to help curb their use.

Short- and Medium-Term Steps for Communities/Municipalities:

- Establish a year-round water conservation program that includes public education and communication, taking advantage of the state's [library of outreach materials](#)
- Provide timely information to local residents and businesses;

- Implement or establish drought surcharge or seasonal water rates;
- Check emergency inter-connections for water supply; and,
- Develop or refine your local drought management plan using guidance outlined in the state [Drought Management Plan](#)

For Regions in Level 1 – Mild Drought

Residents and Businesses:

- Minimize overall water use;
- Consider installing a rain barrel to collect rainwater for lawn and garden watering
- For any upcoming outdoor water use, limit watering to one day a week (only from 5:00 pm – 9:00 am), or less frequently if required by your water supplier
- For larger buildings and businesses, conduct water audits to identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation opportunities;

Communities/Municipalities:

- Limit or prohibit installation of new sod, seeding, and/or landscaping; watering during or within 48 hours after measurable rainfall; washing of hard surfaces (sidewalks, patios, driveways, siding); personal vehicle or boat washing; filling of swimming pools, hot tubs.
- Establish a year-round water conservation program that includes public education and communication, taking advantage of the state's [library of outreach materials](#);
- Provide timely drought and water conservation information to residents and businesses;
- Check emergency inter-connections for water supply; and
- [Develop a local drought management plan](#)

Past Droughts and Declaration

Drought History

The information in this [Drought Status History](#) dates to 2001, when the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan was developed in response

to a period of deficient precipitation that began in 1999. The most severe drought of modern times was the drought of the 1960s, equivalent to a drought emergency. A less severe drought occurred in the early 1980s.

The Commonwealth experienced another impactful drought in 2016-2017 with drought levels reaching Level 4 Drought (Warning) out of five levels of drought; the drought impacted the agricultural sector, some water supplies, the natural environment and many habitats and species.

[Read more about the drought, how it fared and the state responses and actions.](#)

Additional Resources

[What should communities do during a drought](#)

[Precipitation Data](#)

[Hydrologic Conditions Reports](#)

[Average Precipitation Statistics](#)

[Standardized Precipitation Index \(SPI\)](#)

[Information for Private Well Owners](#)

[Massachusetts Drought Management Plan](#) (English, PDF 5.47 MB)

Help Us Improve Mass.gov

Did you find what you were looking for on this webpage?

Yes No

[State Organizations](#)



Mass.gov

[Digital Accessibility Statement](#) [Privacy Policy](#) [Site Policies](#) [Public Records Requests](#)

© 2026 Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Mass.gov® is a registered service mark of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.