



Water Supply District of Acton

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Board of Water Commissioners

Meeting Agenda

Monday, August 2, 2021 @ 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/81291782744>

Or One tap mobile :

US: +13126266799,,81291782744# or +19292056099,,81291782744#

Or Telephone:

Dial(for higher quality, dial a number based on your current location):

US: +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 301 715 8592 or +1 346 248 7799 or +1 669 900 6833 or
+1 253 215 8782

Webinar ID: 812 9178 2744

International numbers available: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/kcl9Y7WKOW>

- **Comments from Citizens**
- **Approve minutes from the meeting of 7/12**
- **Appoint one Commissioner to approve warrants while conducting meetings virtually**

OLD BUSINESS:

- **Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)**
 - Current sample data, if available
 - Any updates or discussion from the PFAS Working Group
- **Update on potential Bedrock well source in Acton center off Main Street**

NEW BUSINESS:

- **Review/discuss the proposed 40B on Massachusetts Avenue near District land**
- **Proposal of the Town of Acton's Water Resources Advisory Committee (WRAC) for a water study**

Executive Session-- To consider the purchase, exchange, lease of real property as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the District

Board of Water Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
Acton Water District
693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA
Monday, July 12, 2021

AGENDA

- A. Comments from Citizens
- B. Approve minutes from meeting of 6/28/2021
- C. Appoint one Commissioner to approve warrants while conducting meetings virtually

D. OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Update on Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).
 - Current sample data, if available
 - Any updates or discussion from PFAS Working Group

E. NEW BUSINESS:

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

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:

Kim Kastens

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, July 12, 2021 by Mr. Barry Rosen.

A. Comments from Citizens

Kim Kastens had questions regarding the Annual Water Quality Report –

1. On Page 1 – the quarterly debt fee will increase to \$60 as of July 1st. There was conversation at the beginning of the year to give a break in the increase to the households were low income that were designated by the Town. What happened to that idea? Steve: who the Town gives a discount to we follow that same rule as the town. That is our policy. There had been a suggestion by the Finance Committee to have a progressive element to it such that the lower income houses would get a rate cut. She was just wondering what happened to that discussion. Steve: he thought the discount applied to the capital rate as well as the operating rate. Chris: the discussion based on the Finance Committee's recommendation was to have a weighted debt fee such that higher users would pay more of the debt fee. That has been examined and been discussed but not adopted . Kim: will there be any more discussion. Chris: yes it is still under investigation. Bill Guthlein is doing the homework on this but has been tabled due to the retirement of one of the Committee members and the District Moderator is still trying to find an appointee

for the vacancy. Kim stated that Green Acton has become more interested in social justice topics so this would be one of them.

Kim Kastens: Comments on PFAS. Is the PFAS working group working on a mechanism to bring in public comment? Barry asked to hold off on that question until we get to the PFAS part of our agenda.

2. Kim Kastens: Table on treatment methods on each of the sites on page 6 and noticing that Clapp Whitcomb has carbon filtration. Historically what was the reason for using carbon at this site. Mr. Allen mentioned that carbon was installed due to organic color and other water constituents in the source. Does a good job without pretreatment. We got lucky with the PFAS contamination in the West Acton sources. Prior to that installation it was located in South Acton for remediation of the Grace contamination for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) there. The carbon was moved to West Acton to help remove constituents there. Mr. Stuntz: the Water District land was covered with pine trees and they were producing a lot of color in the West Acton wells. That was two District Managers ago. We used to be able to reactivate the carbon but can't do that anymore. We now replace it with new media annually.

3. Kim Kastens: Water Quality table and wondering if any of the detects which are at allowable levels are rising over time? Mr. Mostoller stated that he will have to look at the trend tables and he will follow up with her off line.

Kim Kastens: On the page on "do you want to be more involved" is it only citizens or all residents who are welcomed to attend. Mr. Allen is not aware of the distinction. It is an important distinction due to the large immigrant population in town. Mr. Stuntz stated that we think of the citizens as the Water District but we can see why that someone would think the other way. Kim Kastens suggests that we should be more sensitive to the wording. Mr. Rosen stated that the meetings are public and the public is welcome to attend so we will change that wording.

B. Approve Minutes from Meeting of 6/28

Mr. Stuntz motioned to approve the amended minutes of June 28, 2021. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Mr. Stuntz, Ms. Amir-Lin, and Mr. Rosen.

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

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

E. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Update on Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS).

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

Mr. Mostoller – we have our June results. Clapp Whitcomb is still non detect (ND); SAWTP is at 18.7 parts per trillion (ppt); Conant 1 well is at 16.2 ppt and the NAWTP is at 21.5 ppt. Data has been submitted to DEP. Assuming that they accept all the data it does appear that the second quarter will be in violation of the PFAS Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) in North Acton. We had a 30.2 ppt sample in April that really spiked us at that location. That was prior to making any of the recent adjustments that has brought us down closer to the 20 ppt regulatory limit.

Mr. Rosen inquired about the NAWTP plant as to whether it is on or offline right now? Mr. Mostoller stated that it is scheduled to be shut down tomorrow. We needed to run it to collect our July samples. Its' been running for about 2 weeks. And we'll rest it pending the outcome of those results.

Ms. Amir-Lin inquired as to how long are we waiting on results. Mr. Mostoller stated that its been about 20-25 business days.

Mr. Allen stated that in regard to the current state grant funding, we applied on July 8th for \$150K, the maximum for a system of our size. This is the three phase roll out, but we can only receive one grant. There is a maximum of \$666K per phase, \$2 million total. The first phase's application deadline was July 8th and is expected to be awarded by July 29th. The District applied for the purpose of supplying alternate drinking water for the impacted subgroups of pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants (< 2yrs old), and people with physician diagnosed compromised immune systems.

Updates on the PFAS Working Group

Mr. Allen mentioned that the group has been discussing alternate drinking water for the impacted subgroups. We have been looking at rebates and vending machines for filling stations. Members have been taking action items and coming back to group with their findings. There has been some debate between members on what would be good for us. There are complexities to vending machines, i.e., the need for a sewer connection for discharge of filtration reject, so public sewer access is a prerequisite. It is a Very Small System, and thus needs a license operator to maintain regulatory compliance and sampling submitted to lab to confirm water quality, and we are still gathering information on the mechanical maintenance on a system like this. Next meeting of the group is on Thursday, July 22nd.

Mr. Rosen - will we have to send another public notice out based on current Mass DEP information? Mr. Allen stated that yes we will. Mr. Mostoller stated that in the grant application we did indicate that in the next round that we would be publicizing a program if the Commissioners vote to approve that so we did commit to that with MassDEP.

Mr. Rosen - if North Acton Water Treatment Plant (NAWTP) stays offline but is still running... Do we have to continue to test the processed water if it remains offline and report that to the state? Matt: if we make a full commitment to not utilize the source we don't have to sample it, and we don't need to do public notice related to that source; we don't have to provide alternate drinking water if concentrations of PFAS6 stabilize. If we can find the additional water somewhere else, that could change things. We just don't have that additional water to supplement right now.

Mr. Allen - Last meeting we made some asks from town representation. There has been some desire for us to experiment with discharging additional volumes to the wastewater plant from the South Acton Water Treatment Plant (SAWTP) vs onsite processing and infiltration and subsequent return to the local aquifer. That is going to be checked into by Mark Hald, the Assistant Town Manager. And there was an ask to sample the effluent of the wastewater plant and that will, also, be looked into by Mark.

Mr. Allen - American Rescue Plant funds – consideration for this contamination and possible investment of those funds and a solution to this PFAS problem. This would require the Town of Acton to so designate the funds appropriately.

Kim Kastens: a mechanism for public input for the working discussions. Mr. Allen stated that this would be the time in the open meetings with the Board of Water Commissioners. Ms. Amir-Lin stated that it is more effective to comment here in open session so that all the Commissioners can hear the comments from the public.

Mr. Mostoller – we should be publicizing the June results this week. He updated the Board that the Mass Department of Environmental Protection (MA DEP) created a hazardous waste site listing for PFAS as it relates to Conant I and II well fields. MassDEP sent out an RFI asking two property owners at 531 and 533 Main Street, and their former operators on those sites as to whether or not they had any processes that


could have contained PFAS. Ms. Amir-Lin asked if this is an action that they have taken with other municipalities. Matt stated that they have with Littleton and Ayer. And they have sent out 100 RFIs. It's been a challenging process for them.

Mr. Mostoller stated that the Acton Water District is one of the largest water systems dealing with PFAS right now in the state of Massachusetts.

Mr. Stuntz motioned to adjourn the open meeting at 7:30 PM. Mr. Rosen seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Ms. Amir-Lin, Mr. Stuntz, and Mr. Rosen.




Property Information	
Property ID	F2-B-6
Location	516 MASS AV
Owner	ONEIL RICHARD J JR


**MAP FOR REFERENCE ONLY
NOT A LEGAL DOCUMENT**
 Town of Acton, MA makes no claims and no warranties, expressed or implied, concerning the validity or accuracy of the GIS data presented on this map.
 Geometry updated 06/18/2021
 Data updated 08/19/2020

Print map scale is approximate. Critical layout or measurement activities should not be done using this resource.

Map Theme Legends

Wetlands

 Field Surveyed Wetlands
Town of Acton (Ongoing)

 Town Atlas Wetlands
(1988)

DEP Wetlands Data


 Shoreline

 Hydrological Connection

 Mean Low Water Line

 Wetland Limit

 Closure Line

 Reservoir (with PWSID)

 Marsh/Bog

 Wooded Marsh

Salt Marsh

 Cranberry Bog

 Tidal Flats

 Beach/Dune

Contours

Spot Elevation

X

Contours

 Index Contours

 Index Depressions

 Intermediate Contours

 Intermediate Depressions

Chris Allen

From: Ronald Parenti
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 8:58 AM
To: Chris Allen
Cc: AWD Commissioners; WRAC
Subject: Acton Water 2050 Study
Attachments: WRAC 2050 Report 2.pptx

Follow Up Flag: FollowUp
Due By: Wednesday, July 28, 2021 7:30 AM
Flag Status: Flagged

Chris,

At the last meeting of the WRAC, the committee voted to request the participation of the WLMAC in the Acton Water 2050 study that the WRAC is planning to initiate. The goal of this study is to assist the Town and the Water District to prepare for the anticipated water supply needs over the next 3 decades. Accurate estimates of the Town's build-out population and the Water District's withdrawal capability following the exploitation of all available in-town sources will be key factors in this analysis. The build-out prediction derived in the 1998 Master plan for the town of Acton was approximately 30,000, so it is reasonable to ask if the Water District will be able to support a population of that size. Options that might be explored to avoid a shortfall include the use of zoning changes to limit growth, and an expansion of supply by connecting to alternative water sources such as the MWRA. A related question is the long-term cost of maintaining a distributed network of specialized treatment plants that will likely need to be expanded and upgraded over time to satisfy increasingly strict water quality standards.

A draft outline of the study report is attached. As the outline indicates, the WRAC is requesting that WLMAC assist in the characterization of the District's future output capacity. I would like to discuss the study outline, and the request to work with WLMAC, at the next District meeting.

Ron

Top-Level 2050 Water Needs Report Outline

- Introduction (WRAC)
- Overview of Acton's water resources and supply infrastructure (WLMAC)
 - Description of current distribution system and planned upgrades
 - Appraisal of undeveloped water resources within Water District
 - Potential impacts of population growth, contamination events, emerging contaminant regulations, and state-imposed withdrawal limitations
 - Estimate of maximum population supportable by District sources
- Town population modeling (Consultant)
 - Update of Town's 1998 population growth model
 - Growth curves for multiple zoning restriction scenarios
 - Growth recommendations collected from outreach meetings
- Long-term strategies to achieve water supply needs for 2050 (WRAC)
 - Assessment of the Water District's ability to meet projected supply needs
 - Zoning modifications to manage population growth
 - Groundwater protection zone modifications
 - Wastewater management recommendations
 - Likelihood that options for out-of-Town water sources will need to be explored
- Conclusions (WRAC)

Census Data as of July 1,2019

	<u>Wayland</u>	<u>Acton</u>
<u>U.S. Census Data</u>		
Population	13,835	23,662
Households	4,786	8,795
Persons per Household	2.87	2.67

Cost Estimate of a Rebate Program

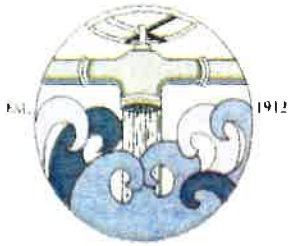
	Wayland Rebate Reported Experience	Acton Pro Forma \$32 per month	Acton Pro Forma \$15 per month
Monthly Rebate Offered	\$ 32.00	\$ 32.00	\$ 15.00
Participants	625	1,069	1,069
Participants as % Population	4.52%	4.52%	4.52%
Participants as % Households	13.06%	12.2%	12.2%
Estimate of Monthly Cost	\$ 20,000	\$ 34,206	\$ 16,034
Monthly Cost:			
per Participant	\$ 32.00	\$ 32.00	\$ 15.00
per Household	\$ 4.18	\$ 3.89	\$ 1.82
per Population	\$ 1.45	\$ 1.45	\$ 0.68

Wayland offers a water rebate program to individuals in the PFAS sensitive subgroups of pregnant, breastfeeding, and immunodeficient persons. No attempt is made to validate participants qualifications. Wayland reports 625 participants and a monthly cost of \$20,000.

Estimate of Membership in Each Sensitive Subgroup

Births per annual Massachusetts Birth Report		
2015	94	150
2016	116	187
2017	127	184
Average	112	174
Projected 2021 (+5% 2017)	133	193
Estimated Pregnant Population	100	145
Estimated Breastfeeding	125	181
Immunocompromised (plug)	400	888
as % of Population	2.9%	3.8%
Total Participants (calculated above)	625	1,069
Birth - 6 months	69%	Average Ever and Six Months
6 months - 1 year	48%	Average Six Months and Twelve Months
1 - 2 years	19%	Average Twelve Months and Zero
Breastfeeding Estimates from CDC by state data, Massachusetts		
Ever	80.7%	
Six Months	58.1%	
Twelve Months	37.9%	

Acton Water



District

Acton Water District

Sensitive Subgroup Bottled Water Rebate Program

In recognition of ongoing presence of Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) in certain sources of water utilized by the Acton Water District (AWD), the Board of Water Commissioners (Commissioners) voted to offer rebates to residential water customers in the sensitive subgroup (Sensitive Subgroup), as defined by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP), to assist with the purchase of bottled water. A credit will be applied to your quarterly water bill for qualifying customers receiving a direct water bill. Qualifying customers who do not receive their own water bill must provide proof of residency in a property served by AWD as part of their application (attached) and a check will be mailed.

Efforts to limit the concentration of the six PFAS (PFAS6) compounds regulated by (MassDEP) have been ongoing since the spring of 2020. Updated information about PFAS6 levels in Acton are available at www.actonwater.com/pfas.

PFAS are widely used in common consumer products as coatings, on food packaging, outdoor clothing, carpets, leather goods, ski and snowboard waxes, and more. Certain types of firefighting foam—historically used by the U.S. military, local fire departments, and airports to fight oil and gasoline fires—may contain PFAS.

PFAS in drinking water is an important emerging issue nationwide and implementing permanent solutions will require additional time and planning. Therefore, the Commissioners voted that a credit or rebate will be available to residential customers in the Sensitive Subgroup as follows:

- \$15.00 per month for each household with pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants* or people with a compromised immune system as diagnosed by a health care provider.

This rebate program is valid until the Commissioners determine that the program is no longer applicable or funding is exhausted. This rebate program is not intended to operate as a guarantee regarding any exposure to PFAS and does not purport to limit exposure to PFAS from any source. The District strongly recommends that the Sensitive Subgroup confirm that the bottled water they purchase has been tested for PFAS and complies with the MassDEP maximum contaminant level for PFAS6.

*Infant is defined by the American Medical Association and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention as being under the age of 1 year old.

Acton Water



District

Acton Water District

Sensitive Subgroup Bottled Water Rebate Form

Please make sure you read this application carefully, fill out completely, and sign bottom.

Customer Information

Name: _____	Service Address: _____
Telephone: (day) _____	Mailing Address: _____
(evening): _____	Account number (from water bill):* _____
	Email Address: _____

Terms and Conditions: Please Read and Sign Below

*Acton residents who do not receive their own water bill must include proof of residency in a property served by the Acton Water District (AWD) and include a copy of a current utility bill (electric, cable, phone, cellular, etc.) with their name and address, driver's license, or other identifying documents.

I certify, under pains and penalties of perjury that either I, or a member of my household is a member of the Sensitive Subgroup (pregnant or nursing women, infants (less than one year old), and people diagnosed by their health care provider to have a compromised immune system) and that the information I have provided is true and accurate. I acknowledge that I will be receiving this rebate (available on a first come basis as funding allows) only until the AWD determines that this rebate is no longer applicable. I understand and acknowledge that participation in the AWD Sensitive Subgroup Bottled Water Rebate Program is voluntary and does not guarantee that I will not be exposed to PFAS from any sources and is not required by any law and regulation. If I should no longer need bottled water, or the number of eligible subgroup members in my household changes, I agree to contact AWD immediately to reflect the change in eligibility and/or corresponding rebate amount.

I have read, understand, and agree to the terms and conditions of this rebate program.

Signature of applicant

Date

For District Use Only	Date Application Received: _____
Rebate Amount: \$ _____	Date Approved: _____ Date Denied: _____ (reason): _____
First Billing Cycle: _____	Comments: _____
Date Check Sent: _____	_____

Mail to: Bottled Water Rebate Program, Acton Water District, P.O. Box 953, Acton, MA 01720