

Board of Water Commissioners

Meeting Agenda

Monday, June 2, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

- Comments from the public
- Approve minutes from the meeting of 5/12
- Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually

OLD BUSINESS:

- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
 - Current sample data, if available
 - Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades
 - NAWTP PFAS System Operation
- Discussion of 2011 John Deer Backhoe
- MWRA MetroWest Expansion
- Review Powdermill Place Water Connection Agreement

NEW BUSINESS:

- Request for Abatement - 20 Silver Hill Road
- Meeting Schedule July-December 2025

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

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

Finance Committee: John Petersen

District Manager: Matthew Mostoller

Members of the Public: Ruchi Jain, Kim Kastens, Bill Guthlein, Ron Parenti

START OF MINUTES

Mr. Stuntz opened the meeting at 7:01.

Mr. Stuntz altered the agenda order to accommodate a guest at the meeting.

Request for Abatement - 20 Silver Hill Road

Ms. Ruchi Jain, who is a customer of the District, joined the meeting. Mr. Mostoller provided some background to her request. Several months back on a monthly meter read, they identified a potential leak at 20 Silver Hill Road. The District sent out the leak notice, and eventually an exterior faucet was identified as the source of the leak. Mr. Mostoller added that the meter on this property was installed in 2023, which means it can pick up very low readings and they would expect it to be in good working order. The District was able to notify the customer and they could intervene and fix the leak, and the monthly reads returned to normal. Ms. Jain has reached out to see if there is any assistance the District can provide. Ms. McCarthy has extended a repayment plan to keep the account in good standing and allow the family to pay over 3 months, however Ms. Jain wanted to ask if the board may allow an abatement on the total due.

Ms. Ruchi Jain then shared her experience with the board. She noted that Mr. Mostoller and the staff have been very helpful in answering questions and their help is very much appreciated. Ms. Jain recounted that when they were first notified about the leak in February, they followed recommended steps to find it, such as testing the toilet. They did not find any leak source inside, and likely did not find the exterior faucet because of the snow.

Ms. Jain's bills before the leak were consistently between \$150-175 however it then jumped up to over \$800. They did try to read the meter themselves but were unsuccessful in doing so. Ms. Jain noted that they are able to pay but at least wanted to inquire about the possibility of an abatement since they did not use the water that drove those costs.

Mr. Stuntz then opened the board for questions and discussion on the topic.

Mr. Rosen asked if this was over 1 quarter. Mr. Mostoller replied it was picked up on a monthly read, and the leak was over the course of around 30 days.

Mr. Stuntz explained to Ms. Jain that the District has consistently not given out abatements for leaks but has prioritized finding and fixing leaks faster. Mr. Rosen and Ms. Amir Lin concurred with this assessment that even though the water was not actively used, it did pass through the meter. Mr. Stuntz thanked Ms. Jain for coming in and giving the board the opportunity to discuss this.

Ms. Jain asked if the sewer system is separate or different and if that would be affected.

Mr. Mostoller responded that the sewer bill is separate, but the sewer bill is based on usage from the District, so he would recommend making them aware of the leak so they can correct the sewer bill. Mr. Mostoller added that he and the staff are willing to assist with this. Mr. Rosen explained to Ms. Jain in further detail how the leak may affect her sewer bill.

Mr. Stuntz motioned to deny the request for abatement for 20 Silver Hill Road. Ms. Amir Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Stuntz.

Comments from the public

None at this time.

Approve minutes from the meeting of 5/12

Mr. Stuntz motioned to approve the minutes of 5/12. Mr. Rosen seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Stuntz.

Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually

Ms. Amir Lin motioned to appoint Mr. Rosen to sign warrants until the next regularly scheduled meeting. Mr. Stuntz seconded, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Stuntz.

OLD BUSINESS:

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Current sample data, if available

Mr. Mostoller reported to the board that only Center and South are in operation right now. Sampling was done on May 7th when North was still online. North sampled at non-detect in the treated water. Center increased to 13.3 ppt, and South decreased to 12.2 ppt. Mr. Mostoller anticipates that all three plants will be in operation in June.

Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades

Mr. Mostoller reported that construction on South and Center continues. Both buildings are technically weather tight and have walls and ceilings, but they do not have all their doors and windows. Mr. Mostoller hopes that next week they can set up the pumping equipment for the Bedrock wells. They have reached out to MassDEP requesting early start

up approval for the Bedrock wells prior to the PFAS system, but they have not heard back yet. The goal is to get Bedrock wells started in July.

Ms. Amir Lin asked what work remains for the Bedrock wells, Mr. Mostoller responded pumping equipment needs to be installed, then hooked up, then they need to program the equipment and run equipment tests.

NAWTP PFAS System Operation

Mr. Mostoller reported that the North Acton plant is offline for the first media change. Unfortunately, during the carbon load, they realized they were shorted about 2,000 pounds of carbon. They are working with Veolia and Calgon to remedy this. In the interim, they are taking steps to utilize the plant while they wait for the additional carbon to arrive. Currently it looks like they have enough carbon to meet the minimum requirements for a few weeks as per the operating permit. However, once the new media arrives, they will have to shut down again for up to two weeks to condition that additional media.

Mr. Stuntz asked what percent of the carbon necessary was missing. Mr. Mostoller estimated that about 80% was delivered, and they were shorted about 20% of what they needed in total. Currently it seems the issue arose because Calgon calculates the carbon volume one way, and Veolia, the purchaser of the carbon, calculates it a different way. They are in talks about how to prevent this in the future.

Discussion of 2011 John Deere Backhoe

Mr. Mostoller followed up on the John Deere discussion from the previous meeting. They received estimates for repair and replacement. They have decided to go ahead with the repairs which will cost about \$35,000, and in 2-3 years they expect to purchase a new piece of equipment and transition the 2011 John Deere to the backup machine and retire the current 1994-yard machine.

Mr. Stuntz asked how much a new Backhoe would be, Mr. Mostoller said they ranged about \$140,000 - \$200,000 or more. Mr. Rosen asked how long until the 2011 backhoe is back in operation. Mr. Mostoller does not have a firm date on that as they are still working to identify where they can get the necessary parts to make the repair. Mr. Mostoller reminded the board that they are using a rental unit in the interim which they will continue to use until they repair the 2011 John Deere.

MWRA MetroWest Expansion

Mr. Mostoller informed the board that the collaborative work on this has slowed, so the RFQ will come out at the end of the week. Currently they have 8 communities that have

signed the intergovernmental agreement. The Town of Lincoln may also join however they have had some recent personnel changes and are still reviewing the agreement.

Ms. Amir Lin asked how long they expect the work to take. Mr. Mostoller replied that the contract term is for a few months with the understanding that they would prefer it sooner than that. Ms. Amir Lin asked what the wait period for the RFQ is, Mr. Mostoller replied that it is 10 days so that only very interested parties will respond.

Mr. Mostoller added that while it's unfortunate that the RFQ slowed down, it's understandable as many of their collaborators are part of town governments with more hurdles than the District, and recent Town meeting responsibilities. He reported despite delays he still sees value in this collaboration.

Review Powdermill Place Water Connection Agreement

Mr. Mostoller had an update for the board on the Powdermill Place Connection Agreement, both parties have signed and work on the sewer has begun. However, water work will be delayed until early fall as the town didn't want to shut down the road completely to allow both utilities to work at the same time. Because the water segment of the project is smaller, that was delayed.

Ms. Amir Lin asked if the sewer work would be complete in the early fall. Mr. Mostoller explained how the sewer work is being done in three sections, and where those sections are. Once they work past where water work needs to happen, then the relining should start.

Mr. Stuntz asked how long it will take to reline. Mr. Mostoller estimated about two weeks with the temporary water system being the most time consuming portion of the project.

NEW BUSINESS:

Meeting Schedule July-December 2025

Mr. Mostoller included the draft meeting schedule in the packet and asked the board for their comments. Mr. Stuntz reported he will be out of town on September 8th but will be back on the 15th. Mr. Rosen reported he will be out of town on September 15th, but he is able to bring his laptop and still attend. Mr. Amir Lin had no reported conflicts.

Mr. Mostoller thanked the board for their comments and said he will send out a revised draft to approve at the next meeting.

Mr. John Petersen commented that at the Finance Committee meeting last Friday they discussed the meeting schedule, and they had discussed letting meetings be driven by events like the review of the master plan. Mr. Petersen added that the Finance Committee

is very interested in spending time looking at the issue of financing water mains. Mr. Stuntz thanked Mr. Petersen for his comments.

Mr. Rosen motioned to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Amir Lin seconded, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Stuntz.

Meeting Closed at 7:37 p.m.