

Board of Water Commissioners  
Meeting Minutes  
Acton Water District  
693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA  
Monday, June 14, 2021

**AGENDA**

- A. Comments from Citizens
- B. Approve minutes from meeting of 5/24/2021
- 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
- 2. Update on the Central Acton Water Treatment Plant (CAWTP) Construction Project.
- 3. Update from Meeting with Owner of Associated Environmental Systems (AES) and Counsel at 8 Post Office Square.

**E. NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. Results of System-Wide Leak Detection Survey Conducted in April/May of 2021.

**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

**Citizens:**

Kim Kastens  
Ron Parenti  
Victoria Selesnik

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, June 14, 2021 by Mr. Barry Rosen.

**A. Comments from Citizens**

Kim Kastens thanked Chris and Matt for doing the interview with Acton TV. Prior to meeting starting, the Commissioners were discussing the spaghetti plot that Ron Parenti sent them. Kim asked if they could share that tonight. This spaghetti plot shows rain fall over a 12 month period since 2013.

**B. Approve Minutes from Meeting of 5/24**

Mr. Stuntz motioned to approve the minutes of May 24, 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 Mr. Stuntz as the Commissioner to approve warrants while conducting meetings virtually. 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 spoke and said the District has three out of four samples back from the month of May. The Clapp Whitcomb facility continues to be non-detect; the South Acton Water Treatment Plant was at 16.1 Parts Per Trillion (PPT), the Conant I well was at 15.5 PPT, and the North Acton Water Treatment Plant sample is still pending. Today was the due date for that and hopefully we will receive results within the next couple days. We will then update the information on the District's website.

Barry Rosen: Is the NAWTP on or off-line? Mr. Allen stated that it is currently online. We changed the pumping scheme. We shut down the Kennedy I well. Kennedy II is contributing at 75% capacity. And the Marshall well which is currently below 10 PPT and has been raised to 100% and is pumping at 45 gallons per minute. The thought is the lower concentration at Marshall well will have an impact on the finished water from the plant. The NAWTP is contributing at approximately 65% of its typical capacity.

Mr. Allen mentioned that there have been two meetings with the PFAS working group. The next meeting is Thursday, June 17<sup>th</sup>. Right now just we are getting everyone's ideas on the table. No input for the Board yet. It's a good diverse group.

Enclosed in tonight's packets to the Commissioners is an email from Vicki Selesnick. Mr. Allen has been in contact with her. Ms. Selesnick mentioned that she is a member of the sensitive subgroup, as she is 6 months pregnant. She is asking the Board to reimburse homeowners who have had to make financial adjustments to account for the unsafe PFAS levels.

Barry Rosen: referred to a European report regarding PFAS calculations and their total safe levels for pregnant women of 360 nanograms per week for a 100 pound individual which is a fraction of an ounce per week of total PFAS. They concluded that water was not a major contributor to PFAS. He noted from this report that fish meat, fruit, fruit products, eggs and egg products contributed the most to PFAS in humans and that the EC study committee felt that water was not much of an issue.

Mr. Rosen informed Ms. Selesnick of the International Bottled Water Association – they establish limits and not every bottled water producer belongs to them. Their standard is 5 PPT for single PFAS and for more than one PFAS it is 10 PPT. [<https://bottledwater.org/bottled-water-pfas/> ]

Erika Amir-Lin asked Ms. Selesnick what she felt an appropriate solution would look like to you given her situation and a good path going forward for you and your family? Ms. Selesnick stated that for short term is continuing to purchase bottled water. She wants to use her tap but would like to get some sort of response if there were any steps to reimburse or give discounts in order to have safe water. Ms. Amir-Lin asked Vicki what reimbursement or discount is she looking for? Vicki responded that ideally she would like to receive a percentage of her bottle water sales. Ms. Amir-Lin asked her what her thoughts were on if there was availability to a public water filling station would she be interested in that. Vicki stated she would consider it as long as the water was deemed safe.

Steve Stuntz: pleased to hear the numbers reported today from Matt that our PFAS levels are substantially below 20 PPT. He stated that our responsibility is safety for everybody. We are pushing hard on getting that level as low as it can go. We are looking at the next proposal to reduce PFAS in North Acton and it's

a \$5M expenditure to bring it down. We need to start looking at ways to satisfy smaller groups of populations rather than spending large amount of money total treatment in the entire system. Mr. Allen stated that we have discussed providing alternate drinking water supply in our working group. We haven't come to a consensus, but it has been a high point of discussion.

Mr. Stuntz: if individuals wanted to use Brita filter – what is the effect if people used Brita and what it would do to PFAS? Ms. Amir- Lin stated that Brita filters are not certified to remove PFAS. Mr. Stuntz wonders if there is anything out there that is certified to remove PFAS for the homeowner. Mr. Mostoller stated that the certified agencies don't meet the 20 ppt. It is a misnomer and hopefully that will be changing soon. He cautions everyone around using that terminology “certified”.

Ron Parenti: possible treatment strategies and if they have been interacting with neighboring towns and what they plan to do for mediation? Mr. Allen stated that some neighboring towns have constructed systems (i.e. Hudson, Devens, Ayer, and Westfield). All have a responsible party (PRP) to help pay for these new systems in these towns. Mr. Mostoller stated that all these towns were in excess of 70 PPT and had point sources that were contributing to the PFAS concentrations in their sources.

Mr. Allen mentioned that the working group is looking into a water filling station so we may have more information to provide to the Board on June 28<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Rosen invited Vicki to attend the June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting and at that point we should have more insight for her.

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

Mr. Allen provided an update on the Central Acton Water Treatment Plant construction project.

He stated that progress has been made with utilities. National Grid is scheduled to complete the gas installation; EverSource has provided an invoice to Waterline for their work and has allowed the contractor to install the pad mount transformer for main power to the plant. There still remains the automatic transfer switch which has a ship date of August 19<sup>th</sup>. Waterline has expressed some concern about that component. Waterline has decided to put a temporary service in the plant which will provide main power but will not allow back up power to main circuit and that would be contingent upon the automatic transfer switch. They are working on developing that plan. There will be no additional cost to District. Estimate it to be \$25k at no charge to the District. They still want the plant up and running in August. The plant is currently about 75% complete.

Contract 2 is pretty much completed with exception of the Conant I Well being tied into the raw water transmission line to the new plant. The paving is completed per specifications. The contractor needs to clean up some things at 8 Post Office Square and will be supplied a punch list by the engineer.

### 3. Update from meeting with owner of Associated Environmental Systems (AES) and Counsel at 8 Post Office Square.

Mr. Allen provided an update from the meeting with the owner of Associated Environmental Systems and their Counsel at 8 Post Office Square. He stated that he and Counselor Bassett met with them on site. We walked the work area and observed their concerns. There is a misunderstanding regarding the term “Restoration”. Mr. Allen stated that he considers restoration as a disturbed area, such as where you would dig a road up to put a new pipe in and then repave it. The owner considers restoration as curb to curb paving, sidewalk restoration, along with multiple things that weren't in the scope. He expressed concern of restoration of his parking lot. We discussed his desire to have the private right of way paved fully and some additional curbing. He was planning on doing it just prior to our project breaking ground.

The thought is that the additional work would be best put on Waterline's subcontractor for paving and restoration and there may be additional scope that would be paid by the association. He will keep Mr. Peter in the loop and the lawyers will no longer need to be involved going forward.

**E. NEW BUSINESS:**

1. Results of System-Wide Leak Detection Survey Conducted in April/May of 2021.

Mr. Allen provided an update on the results of the system-wide leak detection survey that was conducted in April/May of 2021. He stated that this is something that we do bi-annually. There was a list of leaks found and currently all have been fixed. He noted that they found a couple more leaks since the survey was done but those have been repaired.

3 Bromfield Street – hydrant leak (main valve that leaks) – repaired on 5/6

16 Washington Drive – main leak – repaired

56 Charter Road – service leak – repaired

301 Central Street – service leak – repaired

Other New Business:

WLMAC – Mr. Rosen had a meeting with Bill Mullin, District Moderator. He stated that we will leave the filling of the WLMAC positions off the agenda until we get a handle on the PFAS situation.

*Mr. Stuntz motioned to adjourn the open meeting at 8:10 PM. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Ms. Amir-Lin, Mr. Stuntz, and Mr. Rosen.*