Board of Water Commissioners

Meeting Agenda

Monday, July 13, 2026 @ 7:00 PM

- Comments from the public
- Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually
- Approve Minutes from 6/1/26 and 6/22/26 meetings

OLD BUSINESS:

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion of Finance Committee

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Erika Lin (Chair), Barry Rosen, John Petersen

Finance Committee: Ron Parenti

District Manager: Matthew Mostoller

Deputy District Manager: Corey Godfrey

Treasurer/Collector: Ashley Pinard

Members of the Public: Kim Kastens, Bill Guthlein, Michael Miller, Dan Groher, Steve Stuntz

START OF MINUTES

Ms. Lin 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 the start of the meeting.

Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually

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

Approve Minutes from the meeting of 6/1/2026 and 6/22/2026

Mr. Rosen moved to approve the minutes of June 1, 2026, as amended. Mr. Petersen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved via roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Petersen.

Mr. Petersen moved to approve the minutes of June 22, 2026. Mr. Rosen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved via roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Petersen.

OLD BUSINESS:

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Current sample data, if available

Mr. Mostoller reported that June 16th PFAS sampling results showed non-detect levels at all three operating treatment facilities.

Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades

Mr. Mostoller reported there were no updates regarding additional PFAS upgrades.

Drought Status and Water Use Restrictions

Mr. Mostoller reported that the State Drought Management Task Force recently upgraded several regions of Massachusetts to a Level 2 drought, while the Northeast Region, including Acton, remains at a Level 3 drought status. He stated that groundwater and pumping well levels continue to be monitored closely and indicated that, unless conditions improve, the District expects to imminently implement more restrictive water use measures limiting outdoor watering to hand watering only.

Mr. Mostoller reported that overall water demand remains elevated despite current restrictions. Staff have observed very few violations, with the District preparing to issue its first fine after repeated noncompliance. He noted that the District's primary goal remains public education and voluntary compliance.

Commissioners briefly discussed water use trends, compliance with restrictions, and operational considerations. Mr. Mostoller also noted that the aeration tower remained in service, and that operational needs continue to be monitored.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of Finance Committee

Ms. Lin opened a discussion regarding the future role of the Finance Committee. She explained that the purpose of the agenda item was to begin a conversation and gather perspectives, with no action or vote planned.

Mr. Mostoller provided background on recent Finance Committee membership challenges, including a decline in volunteerism generally, while thanking both Mr. Groher and Mr. Parenti for recently volunteering, and discussed the committee's advisory role as established in the District bylaws. He noted that the Finance Committee serves as an advisory body to the Board of Water Commissioners and discussed opportunities to improve collaboration and clarify expectations between the Board and the Committee for the betterment of the organization.

Mr. Rosen presented a draft Finance Committee Charter for discussion purposes only. He explained that the document was intended as a starting point for future conversations and not for adoption at this meeting. The proposed charter would clarify the committee's advisory role, outline responsibilities related to budget review and financial matters, establish expectations for communication between the Board and the Finance Committee, and provide a framework for future collaboration while remaining consistent with the District's bylaws.

Commissioners discussed the proposal and shared ideas for improving communication and cooperation between the Board and the Finance Committee. Topics included establishing regular joint meetings during the budget process, providing earlier opportunities for Finance Committee input on financial matters, and considering a multi-year budgeting approach to improve long-term financial planning.

Finance Committee member, Ron Parenti, asked whether the Finance Committee would retain the ability to publicly recommend against a warrant article supported by the Commissioners if the committee disagreed. Commissioners affirmed that the committee's independent recommendations could continue to be presented to District voters at annual or special district meetings.

The Board also discussed ongoing challenges in recruiting volunteers for advisory committees. Commissioners considered whether standing committees such as the Water Land Management Advisory Committee (WLMAC) could eventually be replaced with project-specific working groups established to address defined issues. Kim Kastens commented that formal committees provide greater public transparency through the Open Meeting Law and expressed support for maintaining standing committees rather than replacing them with informal working groups.

Ms. Lin concluded the discussion by stating that Mr. Rosen's draft charter would be distributed to the Board for further review and that the discussion would continue at a future meeting, with additional participation from Finance Committee members.

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

The meeting closed at 7:54 p.m.

The next Board of Water Commissioners meeting is scheduled for July 27, 2026.