

Board of Water Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
Acton Water District
693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA
Monday, September 12, 2022

AGENDA

- Comments from the Public
- Approve minutes from meeting of 8/29/22
- Appoint one Commissioner to approve warrants while conducting meetings virtually
- Update on projects in progress from Jim Cray, Senior Project Manager, Wright Pierce

D. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the Knox Trail Solar Array
2. Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
 - Current sample data, if available
3. Discussion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Attend the Meeting of the Town of Acton Selectboard

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 and was recorded. The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM on Monday, September 12, 2022, by Mr. Stephen Stuntz.

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Erika Amir-Lin, Barry Rosen, Stephen Stuntz (Chair)
District Treasurer/Collector: Mary Jo Bates
District Counsel: Mary Bassett
Assistant District Manager: Matthew Mostoller
Finance Committee: Chuck Bradley
Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki

Public Present:

Kim Kastens

A. Comments from the Public

No comments this evening.

B. Approve Minutes from the Meeting of 8/29/22

Mr. Rosen motioned to approve the meeting minutes of August 29, 2022. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Ms. Amir-Lin, Mr. Rosen, and Mr. Stuntz.

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

Mr. Stuntz motioned to appoint Barry 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. Rosen, and Mr. Stuntz.

D. Update on Projects in Progress from Jim Cray, Senior Project Manager, Wright Pierce

Enclosed in tonight's packet to the Commissioners is a status update for all on-going projects with Wright-Pierce. This project update outline is included with tonight's minutes.

1. North Acton WTP-Suez PFAS Treatment System Design

Steve Stuntz: what kind of comments did DEP have on our 30% submissions? Jim Cray: we didn't have a lot of detail nailed down at the 30% so they provided us a list of what they are looking for.

Barry Rosen: after the 90% comes back, we will then work their comments in — do we then need to resubmit? Jim Cray: they won't ask for it to be resubmitted. DEP will provide their comments to Wright-Pierce and then they will provide their approval.

Erika Amir-Lin: have you been in contact with Suez about their lead time for actually going ahead with this? Jim Cray: we have been in contact with them since the last time we met, and they know when to anticipate delivery (April 2023 time frame) and they have no issues with that date.

Erika Amir-Lin: regarding North Acton, what happens between and April 2023. She is unclear of all the steps beyond the 90%. Jim Cray: want the bid documents from DEP by the end of 2022, so we can go out to bid in January and then go into construction in March 2023. Erika Amir-Lin: if there is some way to tighten up dates that would be great so that we aren't going into another summer with not using the plant.

2. Assabet Well #3 Construction

Erika Amir-Lin: when is the pump test scheduled for? Jim Cray: it depends on how start up goes. He doesn't anticipate start up taking more than a week and we can then roll right into the 5-day pump test after that. Erika Amir-Lin: what happens after that? Does DEP give us approval at the conclusion, or will there be a waiting period? Jim Cray: there is some sampling and water quality that they will need to look at and he isn't sure what the turnaround is for that. He can ask the hydrogeologist who has been working with DEP and try to get an idea as to how long it will take from when the pump test is done to when we can get the well activated and online.

Barry Rosen: during the 5-day pump test can any samples be withdrawn? Jim Cray: yes samples can be taken at any time during that time period.

Kim Kastens: What is the 5-day pump test tests for? Jim Cray: It is for a hydro-geo review which monitors the capacity and makes sure the approved capacity is within the range of what they anticipated it to be. We are checking the draw down and making sure the draw down is consistent with what we anticipated it to be and making sure the capacity of the well is where it should be. And there are some water quality requirements they want us to monitor. Matt Mostoller: the well was approved back into 2009 so DEP wants to make sure that the water quality and capacity match up as to what was observed in 2009.

3. Clapp-Whitcomb Backwash Evaluation

Steve Stuntz: what does the work consist of? Jim Cray: it is more to tell DEP what the plan is moving forward and how to address the backwash waste. We are going to present it as a no discharge option.

Chris Allen: the backwash affluent from the Clapp Whitcomb goes into the environment untreated and DEP cited us on a sanitary survey the last couple times. They will be issuing us an administrative consent order to correct the action. They have issued us a draft consent order which we are reviewing. This will give us enhanced ability to get SRF funding for this project. Clapp Whitcomb has not been in operation at all in 2022.

4. South Acton WTP-PFAS Pilot Study

5. Central Acton WTP-PFAS Pilot Study

6. Master Plan Update

7. Central Acton WTP Construction

Mary Jo Bates provided an update on the permanent financing. The District was notified by SRF last week that it will go into permanent financing in November. Our first payment will be due either in June or early July. The temporary loan has been at 0% since we broke ground.

8. Kelly's Corner Water Main Project Construction

Chris Allen stated that he attended the pre-construction meeting in Worcester with DOT and the project will take 1100 days total timeline (over 3 years); the contractor who is doing the water construction stated that this work will start in March 2023 and will finish in September 2023; most of the work will take place during the evening as the Acton Police Department told the contractor that he can only work from 9AM to 2:30PM due to school/bus traffic and can work in the evening from 9PM to 5AM.

9. Miscellaneous Items

Chris Allen: For the Central Acton Pilot, the pilot system has to be exterior. Is there any way to get that placed inside? Jim Cray: we will need to meet with Eric Groton from Blue Leaf to see how it would impact access if it was put inside as there isn't much room inside the Central Acton plant. Chris Allen: it would be beneficial to have the Central Acton construction projects run concurrently (PFAS upgrade and the bedrock).

D. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) for the Knox Trail Solar Array

Chris Allen provided update. This PPA was under negotiations for several months. We retained Special Environmental Counsel Spencer Holland from Mirick O'Connell. He did a lot of review and negotiation on the power purchase agreement that was proposed by EDF. We are satisfied with where it stands, and the final draft is in the Commissioners' packets. Counselor Bassett stated that we seek Board approval and authorization for the District Manager to execute the PPA. Chris Allen stated that this array is behind the meter power supply at South Acton Water Treatment Plant and there is a grid interconnection so there will be excess power to the grid. Not only will we benefit from the full renewal supply to the plant but also get net metering credits from our other sources of supply on the electric grid in addition to the land lease rent of \$47K per year. There are multiple benefits to the PPA.

Mr. Rosen motioned to authorize the District Manager to sign the Purchase Power Agreement for Knox Trail Solar Array. Erika Amir-Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Erika Amir-Lin, Barry Rosen, and Stephen Stuntz.

2. Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

➤ Current sample data, if available

Chris Allen - South Acton and Central Acton Water Treatment Plants are serving water to customers. Couple samples in July and August that had exceeded at NA and SA. We recently sampled for PFAS but do not have results yet. We will do additional sampling of NA this month when it comes back online later this month. Trying to manipulate and manage these concentrations on the fly by changing capacities. We saw some higher levels at some of our sources. Christofferson at a 58 PPT which is the highest we have seen that and Assabet 1A was in the mid-40s PPT. Matt Mostoller: we did additional sampling that we are waiting on results for.

Kim Kastens: She noticed that the PFAS levels in Central Acton have been increasing. It seems to be on a bad trend right now. What are your thoughts on that? Matt Mostoller stated that before the Central Acton Plant came online we had several months' worth of PFAS data in that area from Conant I and II wells and historically we had high PFAS levels. We were aware that there were concentrations of high PFAS in that area. It was same time of year and same conditions in 2020 when we saw those levels increase. Seems to be seasonal. That is why we went ahead to do PFAS pilot study as we know it is an ongoing concern.

3. Discussion of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Request for the Acton Selectboard

All three Commissioners will attend meeting. Erika Amir-Lin is going to refrain from speaking as a Commissioner as she is attending but for a different agenda item. Barry Rosen: you may get questions that may suggest the District increase the water rates. You may have to explain why this is beneficial to Acton. Steve Stuntz: we have to spend this money and we could raise the rates but is that is not in the best interest for all of the Town of Acton. Chris Allen stated that the letter explains that rate increases will happen. And we are going to be addressing PFAS for multiple years and will impact rates for a couple decades so you can say the rates will go up and we are just trying to mitigate the immediate increase based on the ability to have money available from the town to allocate the ARPA money to the Kelly's Corner project. Erika Amir-Lin: just from a financial strength standpoint with only relying on raising rates as our strategy is a bad strategy overall so there is something to be said where we are pushing prudent decision making on the part of the District and the Town should be happy to support that. Barry Rosen: was there any feedback from the Town regarding the letter? Chris Allen: no feedback but Chris did inform the Town Manager prior to the letter being sent. that it was coming. Matt Mostoller: will make the connection that having reliable robust water system is vital to the success of the community. Remind them that the District does a pretty major role in what they are trying to do in economic development, housing, quality of life...he suggests making that pitch as Steve is asking.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Attend the Meeting of the Town of Acton Selectboard

Commissioners will be attending tonight's Selectboard meeting at 7PM.

Kim Kastens: also, to be discussed at the Selectboard are the new rates for the sewer for the wastewater plant. One of the things that is listed as a reason for increasing the cost for increasing the charges is the PFAS testing program. She is wondering if there has been testing of the influent and affluent at the wastewater treatment plant for PFAS. Matt Mostoller: it is his understanding that are going to undertake it. The plant operator asked Matt some questions about labs and process, etc. but he has not seen any results. They were gearing up for testing but has no further details.

Mr. Rosen motioned to adjourn the open meeting at 6:54 PM. Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Ms. Amir-Lin, Mr. Rosen, and Mr. Stuntz

Next meeting: October 3, 2022