

Board of Water Commissioners

Meeting Agenda

Monday, September 29, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

- Comments from the public
- Approve minutes from the meeting of 9/15
- 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
 - Bottled Water Rebate
- MWRA MetroWest Expansion

NEW BUSINESS:

- Discussion of Renaming 549 Main Street Property
- 549 Main Street Public Opening Event

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

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

Finance Committee: John Petersen

District Manager: Matt Mostoller

Deputy District Manager: Corey Godfrey

Members of the Public: Brewster Conant Jr, Alissa Nicol, Ron Parenti, Jody Harris, Lori Cooney, Susan Mitchell-Hardt

START OF MINUTES

Mr. Stuntz opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. and ensured that everyone could hear and be heard.

Comments from the public

None at this time.

Approve minutes from the meeting of 9/15

Mr. Rosen motioned to approve the minutes of 9/15/25. Ms. Lin seconded, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Ms. Lin, Mr. Rosen, Mr. Stuntz.

Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Current sample data, if available

Mr. Mostoller reported to the board that there was no new sample data. October sampling will begin soon, and they will begin the commissioning process for the new PFAS treatment plants.

Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades

Mr. Mostoller reported to the board that Center Acton is in the final stages of wiring and communications work, as well as the final site work. South Acton is in the process of connecting the new treatment plant to the existing treatment plant building.

Mr. Mostoller then shared the current start-up plan. On October 8, the vessel company AqueoUS Vets will be onsite for a mechanical check of the equipment and installation. Center Acton is then set to accept media on October 9th, which is expected to be a 2-day process. Then on November 5th, there is a scheduled media delivery for South Acton.

Mr. Mostoller reported a new change in the South Acton project. After discussion with the consultants and the carbon vendor, they have decided to move forward with

preconditioned media for that site. This will include a slight price premium but will speed up the conditioning process and minimize the water used to precondition the media.

Mr. Stuntz asked when MassDEP will be able to inspect the upgrades. Mr. Mostoller replied that MassDEP inspection depends on how long it takes for the conditioning to happen, and if they can do it for the entire system as one operating unit. MassDEP is currently a wild card in the plan as it will depend on when the project teams can conduct sampling, get results, and schedule MassDEP to visit. The current strategy is to get Center Acton up and running in 1 month, then jump into South Acton. This process will depend on how things go in Center Acton and MassDEP's availability.

Mr. Petersen asked how much the preconditioned media cost. Mr. Mostoller estimated it came to about a \$17,000 change order. Mr. Mostoller noted they don't have all the change orders for this project in hand yet, but they do anticipate that the contingency funds for the project will absorb this preconditioned media cost, and the other costs accumulated along the way.

Bottled Water Rebate

Mr. Mostoller reported to the board the third quarter Bottled Water Rebate. They are down a net 5 customers, they removed 8 from the program and added 3. Of those removed 5 properties were sold, 1 tenant moved, and 2 no longer qualified. A total of 155 rebates will be issued on the bill next week. 140 of those will be on-bill credits, and they will be cutting checks totaling \$630 for the 15 eligible tenants.

MWRA MetroWest Expansion

Mr. Mostoller informed the board that this item is a placeholder in the agenda. The RFQ closed September 19th. Mr. Mostoller reached out to Maynard about the submissions but has not heard back yet.

Mr. Stuntz asked how proposals will be evaluated, if an engineering group is doing the evaluation. Mr. Mostoller replied that the members of the communities in the IGA nominated a group to make recommendations to the Maynard Town Administrator. Mr. Mostoller confirmed he is a member of that recommendation group.

Mr. Stuntz asked if there was any update for the District on Kelly's Corner. Mr. Mostoller replied that Kelly's Corner is undergoing the paving, curbing, and landscaping phase. The necessary water work wrapped up. The only involvement left from the District involves raising the gate covers for the paving work.

NEW BUSINESS:

Discussion of Renaming 549 Main Street Property

Mr. Stuntz introduced this item, reminding those in attendance that 549 Main Street is the legal name of the property in question. Mr. Stuntz also informed everyone that the District is not in a position to name or refer to the property as ‘conservation land’ as the District does not buy land for conservation but for water supply purposes.

Mr. Stuntz introduced Mr. Brewster Conant Jr. who has a presentation to share with the board about the name of this property. Mr. Conant thanked Mr. Stuntz for the information and the introduction, and Mr. Conant’s presentation was then shared on screen.

Mr. Conant explained that there is a lot of interest in the public or common name of this property. He explained that many are not enamored with the current legal name of 549 Main Street as voted to use in the CR. He noted that this name doesn’t capture the property’s features, and when put into a GPS it directs drivers to the wetland area where there is no parking, or to the Conant 2 well. Mr. Conant believes that with the public event for the property at the end of October, now is the time to select a new or common name for the property. Mr. Conant used the Acton Conservation Land Naming Guidelines to identify the main themes of the property and generate lists of possible names. The main themes identified were conservation and public use, notable historical relevance or past owners, noteworthy features, and the special use of the property. Mr. Conant then shared the key words and phrases in each of these four categories that could be mixed and matched to generate a name. Mr. Conant acknowledged there are more suggested names in his letter to the board dated 9/23/25. In his opinion, Mr. Conant believes these possible names are preferable to the street address. Mr. Conant also acknowledged that certain features on the property like the meadow could have a standalone name. Mr. Conant hoped for an opportunity to honor his father and his commitment to open space by naming the meadow, ‘Brewster’s Meadow’. Mr. Conant then shared several photos of existing signage on the property to demonstrate how it leaves room for other features, history, and use of the property to be explained to the public. Mr. Conant also shared several historical photos of the property and the meadow specifically.

Mr. Stuntz thanked Mr. Conant for his presentation. The commissioners then began a discussion about the common name for the property. Mr. Stuntz and Mr. Rosen agreed that signage for the proposed ‘Brewster’s Meadow’ would focus people’s attention on the meadow as a natural feature.

Mr. Mostoller recounted the board’s original reasoning for keeping the street address as the legal name. The primary reason was that the property held so many different features and themes that they felt it would have been very difficult to choose only one thing to

highlight at the exclusion of others, and that a non-specific name wouldn't favor one feature above others. However, Mr. Mostoller acknowledged this was not a very creative choice, and the community seems to prefer a more creative name over the street address. Mr. Stuntz remarked that because the process for this property was very long, and there were multiple parties and priorities involved, naming wasn't settled so the street address was chosen.

Mr. Conant asked about how the name is listed in the CR, which Mr. Mostoller clarified that the CR required a name for submission, and they used the street address for that name.

Mr. Petersen commented that he thought it would be better for the name to be on the shorter side and recounted the strategy the school used for renaming a building. Mr. Petersen noted that in this conversation many seem to be gravitating to the meadow as a feature of note. Mr. Petersen also noted that the District might get better ideas if they include the public in any potential naming processes, and that they could solicit names, get the public involved, and make an announcement of the chosen name.

Ms. Lin commented that the District did not give unique names in other recent land purchases. She remarked on Mr. Mostoller's previous point about the multi-purpose nature of the property, and added it was purchased for water supply protection, and the stewardship remains with the District. Ms. Lin said she is generally not in favor of naming the property differently than the District's other properties, as the street address is fine for use and there are a multitude of issues that could arise from the naming process. Ms. Lin remarked that the meadow seems to be a separate conversation. However, she stated she is generally not in favor of assigning a new name to the whole property, and that they should keep the utilitarian name so the District can be consistent for its property management.

Mr. Conant commented that there are places with a different official name versus their common name like Camp Acton. Operationally he understands it's probably simpler to keep it as is, but there is an interest from the public for a change. Because there were other parties like the Town of Acton involved it was not clear to him who had the responsibility of naming the property. He again reiterated the benefits of naming the property while noting that the operational name could be different.

Mr. Rosen commented that he thinks the meadow is an important feature to call out and give it's own name like the suggested 'Brewster's Meadow'. However, Mr. Rosen expressed mixed feelings about naming the whole property. Of the suggestions given, Mr. Rosen leaned towards a name that included 'Water Protection Land' because that was the primary reason the District got involved. Mr. Rosen recounted some contentious

discussions with the Town of Acton during the acquisition of the property that he still is not content with, and he would rather not re-hash those disagreements. Mr. Rosen reiterated that the original name was chosen because they needed to file it with the state as a CR. Mr. Rosen continued that he understands the request for a common name, which he's not 100% opposed to, but noted he would prefer something that identified the District.

Ms. Alissa Nicol commented that it is her understanding that the Town is responsible for maintaining the trails on the property, and that because of this the trails would need to be listed on the Town's website for promotion. She also noted that she doesn't believe the District is bound to adhere to the Conservation Commission's naming conventions, but the public access element of this property does make it different than the District's other properties. She stated she thinks it is appropriate for the property to have a common name in addition to the legal name.

Mr. Mostoller commented to Ms. Nicol's point about the Acton Trails page. He has been in conversation with the Conservation staff, and they will have the link for those trails direct people to the District's website, where the information will live. He noted that this property does not function like regular conservation land, so the public access is relative to the trail network, but not to every square foot of the property. He also noted that the District has already begun some promotion for the property using the legal name.

Mr. Stuntz then wrapped up discussion of this agenda item. He noted that for the purposes of the public opening, they will think about a common name for the parcel but also noted that a common name may develop naturally over time. He continued that the meadow seemed to stand out to many as a feature worth identifying or giving its own name. He thanked Mr. Conant for all his work, who in turn thanked the board for their time and discussion. Mr. Stuntz asked for this item to be put on the agenda for the next meeting to see if the board can come to resolution on the naming.

549 Main Street Public Opening Event

Mr. Mostoller updated the board on their plan for the 549 Main Street Property opening event. He noted they have been delayed in planning this. The event was originally supposed to be in June 2024, but they were busy trying to get the CR finalized. It was then scheduled for August 2024, but then Alex Walhstrom, who had been working on the event plans, left the District. Then the event was further delayed as the Conservation Department at the Town was busy trying to get the Moritz Conservation Land grant finalized, and the project through town meeting, and in recent months they were able to finalize the trail network on that property. With that property having celebrated its opening in August, the

final trail details have been hammered out for 549 Main Street allowing the official opening to proceed.

The public opening will be held on October 28, 2025, at 2:00 p.m. Acton TV will be covering the event, and Mr. Conant and his sister have confirmed their availability.

Mr. Mostoller wanted to ask the board about any speaking roles they foresee on that day. Mr. Mostoller said he would appreciate an opportunity to speak about the project and that Mr. Conant has offered to speak about the historical context of the property. He noted they could make an offer to the town to send a representative to speak, and potentially from SVT, or Acton Conservation Trust.

Mr. Rosen confirmed they should offer a speaking role to the town. Mr. Stuntz agreed with Mr. Mostoller's suggestions but added that they should invite the Acton Minutemen. Mr. Mostoller noted that dedicated parking for the property does not exist but they are planning on using the Center Acton Treatment Plant Site near the Conant 2 well as a jumping off point, to hold the ceremony near the Bedrock Wells, and from there celebrate the land, the wells, then begin a guided tour to the Davis Trail. Mr. Mostoller noted he will also reach out to Senator Jamie Eldridge, Representative Cataldo, and Representative Sena who was especially important to their award of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) program grant.

Ms. Lin also suggested that they reach out to the state as Acton Water District was the first special district to receive the MVP grant, and they were recognized at a ceremony by the Lieutenant Governor at an event for the project. The board confirmed that they were pleased to follow through on Mr. Mostoller's suggested list of speakers and noted it would be good for Mr. Stuntz as the Chair to make welcoming remarks.

Mr. Conant commented that he thinks inviting the state would be a great idea but wanted to ask which funding agencies were involved in the process. Mr. Mostoller confirmed that EEA provided two grants and explained the context behind the unique award of the MVP grant and Drinking Water Supply Protection grant.

The board and those present continued to discuss posters or signage about the project, with the possibility of using Mr. Conant's historical images from the presentation, the information for public access on the website, and the trail clean up before the event.

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

Meeting Closed at 8:07 p.m.