

Board of Water Commissioners

Meeting Agenda

Monday, November 10, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

- Comments from the public
- Approve minutes from the meeting of 10/20
- Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually

NEW BUSINESS:

- MassDEP Emergency Declaration
- Discuss District Clerk Appointment

OLD BUSINESS:

- Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
 - Current sample data, if available
 - Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades
- 549 Main Street Public Opening Event
- RFP for Nagog Hill Tank Cell Tower Lease
- Review Powdermill Place Water Connection Agreement

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

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

Finance Committee: Bill Guthlein

District Manager: Matt Mostoller

Treasurer/Collector: Christine McCarthy

Deputy District Manager: Corey Godfrey

Members of the Public: Alissa Nicol, Ron Parenti, John Petersen, Kim Kastens, Gill Watt

START OF MINUTES

Mr. Stuntz opened the meeting at 7:02 p.m. and ensured that everyone could hear and be heard.

Comments from the public

No public comment was offered at this time.

Approve minutes from the meeting of 10/20

Mr. Rosen motioned to approve the minutes of 10/20/25. Ms. Lin seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, Mr. Stuntz.

Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually

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

NEW BUSINESS:

MassDEP Emergency Declaration Current sample data, if available

Mr. Mostoller reported that the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) has issued an Emergency Declaration to provide flexibility to public water suppliers during drought conditions and regional supply constraints.

Mr. Mostoller emphasized that this is a tool implemented statewide as needed, and is intended to allow systems to implement temporary operational changes, such as activating emergency interconnections and adjusting supply sources, to ensure service reliability.

Mr. Mostoller explained that the District will be establishing the emergency interconnection with the Towns of Littleton and Concord in November and December as a proactive readiness exercise, ensuring that the system remains fully operational should PFAS conditioning require additional source of supply.

In response to questions from Board members, Mr. Mostoller confirmed that the District continues to monitor effluent clarity, pH levels, and PFAS concentrations, all of which remain within regulatory expectations. He noted that approximately a dozen customer

inquiries had been received regarding temporary water discoloration, which can occur when flow patterns change during drought operations or flushing activities.

Mr. Parenti suggested that updates also be shared through the *Acton Exchange* to further improve community awareness. Mr. Mostoller agreed and encouraged customers to verify that their contact information is current in the [WaterSmart Portal](#) and the [Town of Acton Blackboard Connect System](#) so they can receive important alerts and advisories in real time.

Ms. Lin asked about the response from customers after the reverse-911 notification was utilized. Mr. Mostoller stated that the system remains available as a communication tool and will be used as needed but many people are not receiving the message or calling back to ask why they were called instead of listening to the pre-recorded information. He reiterated that the duration of the emergency declaration is currently unknown, and that the District will continue to coordinate closely with MassDEP and local partners.

Discussion of District Clerk Appointment

Mr. Mostoller reported that District Clerk, Mr. William Stanford, has notified the District that he will conclude his service prior to the end of his term in spring 2026. The position will appear on the ballot at the next Annual District Election.

Mr. Stuntz suggested that discussion of potential candidates and appointment planning continue at the November 24 meeting, after the position has been formally advertised to the public.

~Separate from this agenda item, Mr. Mostoller also announced that Treasurer/Collector Christine McCarthy has submitted her resignation effective January 13, 2026. He thanked Ms. McCarthy for her three years of dedicated service and noted that transition planning is already underway to ensure continuity of operations and financial management during the transition period.

OLD BUSINESS:

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Current sample data, if available:

Mr. Mostoller reported that no new PFAS sample data were available since the previous meeting. Regular monitoring continues in coordination with MassDEP, and recent system upgrades are progressing as part of ongoing efforts to restore PFAS concentrations to below the regulatory threshold.

Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades

Mr. Mostoller informed the Board that the District recently received six truckloads of granular activated carbon (GAC) as part of the South Acton filtration system project. Once backwashing is complete, we will move to the conditioning phase. This process will continue through November, after which performance samples will be collected and submitted to MassDEP to verify that the new GAC is effectively reducing PFAS concentrations to acceptable levels.

Mr. Mostoller explained that an additional carbon shipment is scheduled for Monday, November 24, and staff are preparing to handle the delivery with acknowledgement of the proximity to the Thanksgiving holiday.

Mr. Petersen asked about the operational flow rate of 300–500 gallons per minute and how that compares to normal system operations. Mr. Mostoller responded that the rate is on the lower end of normal operations but is consistent with manufacturer recommendations during the initial conditioning period. Once the filters stabilize, flow will gradually increase.

Mr. Mostoller added that the District is working on additional PFAS infrastructure upgrades to strengthen long-term system performance and resilience. These include refining monitoring equipment and flow control systems, optimizing vessel sequencing, and expanding data collection on carbon performance to improve predictive maintenance and extend the lifespan of the media.

He explained that the new bedrock wells are still in limited production, and that verification sampling will occur later in November to document the effectiveness of the upgrades. The District remains in close communication with MassDEP and its engineering consultants throughout this process.

In response to Mr. Petersen's question about operational modeling, Mr. Mostoller stated that the system's flow optimization and pressure control curves are being validated through real-time field data and will continue to be refined during ongoing performance testing.

Mr. Rosen asked if PFAS progress would be included in upcoming public communications or newsletters. Mr. Mostoller confirmed that once sampling confirms stable performance, a public update will be issued summarizing the project's completion and status.

He concluded by noting that AWD's long-term goal is to ensure consistent compliance under future regulatory standards while maintaining cost-effective maintenance and reliability for customers.

549 Main Street Public Opening Event

Mr. Mostoller wanted to provide an opportunity for any feedback on the event. It was well attended and reflected the broad interest in and support for the project. Mr. Mostoller expressed his thanks to everyone that participated and planned the event.

Mr. Stuntz and Mr. Rosen both expressed support for hosting the event, noting that it was a great tool to help educate the public about infrastructure investments and the District's proactive work on water quality improvements.

RFP for Nagog Hill Tank Cell Tower Lease

Mr. Mostoller provided an update on the ongoing Request for Proposals (RFP) regarding the Nagog Hill Tank Cell Tower Lease. He explained that *TowerCo*, the current leaseholder, had requested permission to construct a new access road to the cell tower site, citing concerns about site access.

Mr. Mostoller clarified that the District's existing easement already provides for vehicle and utility access, and that building an additional road would result in unnecessary land disturbance and potential environmental impact. He stated that staff had communicated these concerns to *TowerCo* and recommended that the District not approve the new road request. The Board expressed support for this position.

Mr. Rosen moved that the Acton Water District decline *TowerCo*'s request to construct an additional access road at the Nagog Hill Tank site, while continuing to cooperate on other aspects of the lease agreement. Ms. Lin seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, Mr. Stuntz.

Ms. Nicol asked whether the District was aware that *TowerCo* has another similar installation in Acton near the school campus. Mr. Mostoller confirmed that we were approached by *TowerCo* at the same time they approached the schools and have been following that permitting process.

Review Powdermill Place Water Connection Agreement

Mr. Mostoller reported that the temporary water connections and pipe lining work associated with the Powdermill Place project are expected to be completed by early December. The work includes connecting temporary services to customers and finishing the relining of existing mains to restore consistent flow prior to the final tie-in. In the spring, the project will require installation of new pipe to avoid utility conflicts that made lining work near impossible.

Mr. Rosen asked whether *Wright-Pierce Engineers* would receive additional compensation for what he described as “re-engineering” portions of the project and whether they would continue to oversee installation of the new 8-inch ductile iron main connecting to the relined sections.

Mr. Mostoller explained that while *Wright-Pierce* remains involved in coordination and technical review, the segmented nature of the project, combining replacement and relining work under separate scopes, has introduced challenges that might have been avoided with a single, comprehensive replacement plan. He remarked that he believes a unified approach with the sewer installation would have been more efficient both in design and construction sequencing.

Mr. Petersen asked about the timing of the final connection and whether the new main would improve long-term reliability. Mr. Mostoller confirmed that once the work is complete and final pressure testing is performed, the newly lined and connected sections will provide some improvements to water quality and quantity along that segment of Powdermill Road.

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

Meeting Closed at 7:52 p.m.