

Board of Water Commissioners

Meeting Agenda

Monday, November 24, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

- Comments from the public
- Approve minutes from the meeting of 11/10
- 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
- Discussion of PFAS MDL Settlement Funds
- US EPA Lead & Copper Rule Improvements
- Route 2 Main Break
- Foster Street Water Main Improvement Project

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- Appoint District Clerk
- Recruitment for Treasurer/Collector

**Present at Tonight's Meeting:**

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

*Finance Committee:* John Petersen

*District Manager:* Matt Mostoller

*Treasurer/Collector:* Christine McCarthy

*Deputy District Manager:* Corey Godfrey

*Members of the Public:* Michael Watkins, Joe Robb, Ron Parenti, Alissa Nicol, Melissa Dunnet, Gill Watt

## **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**

No public comment was offered at this time.

### **Approve minutes from the meeting of 11/10**

Mr. Rosen motioned to approve the minutes of 11/10/25 as amended\* during the meeting. Ms. Lin seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

*\*Amendment noted:* A correction was made to the operational flow rate reference: “300–500 gallons per day” corrected to “300–500 gallons per minute.”

### **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. Ms. Lin seconded, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)**

##### ***Current sample data, if available***

Mr. Mostoller reported recent PFAS sampling results included in the meeting packet:

- **South Acton (11/4/2025): 15 ppt**
- **Center Acton (11/5/2025): 14.7 ppt**
- **North Acton (11/5/2025): Below detection limits**

Mr. Mostoller noted an email update was distributed to the PFAS update list (approximately 400+ recipients), and a strategy for December sampling was under discussion.

##### ***Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades***

Mr. Mostoller reported continued progress on PFAS treatment upgrades:

- At the Center plant, 80,000 pounds of granular activated carbon (GAC) were delivered and placed into empty vessels without issue.
- Backwashing of the new media was scheduled to begin the following morning, with potential minor localized water quality disturbances near Center Acton (not expected to be widespread and expected to clear quickly based on the South Acton experience).

Commissioner Rosen asked whether flushing rates would be similar to South Acton. Mr. Mostoller responded that Center Acton rates are expected to be slightly lower due to colder water while still achieving intended outcomes. South Acton targeted approximately 1,300 gpm and achieved it.

*Status of South Acton:*

Mr. Mostoller reported South Acton backwashing was completed on November 12, 2025, but the conditioning process had not progressed as hoped. Staff were working with the project team and developing a plan for conditioning at Center Acton given the challenges experienced at South Acton.

Mr. Petersen inquired about the estimate of purchased water to date. Mr. Godfrey replied that usage has been minimal: the interconnection was active for roughly five days, at a low flow rate (approximately 30–100 gpm on average). Staff noted additional purchased water may be needed in coming weeks as the second plant conditioning proceeds.

**Discussion of PFAS MDL Settlement Funds**

Mr. Mostoller provided an update on settlement receipts and ongoing planning:

- 3M settlement: first payment received in spring (approx. \$614,000); second payment received late September (approx. \$1.4 million). Total in hand: ~ \$2.0 million.
- DuPont settlement: additional payment in October (approx. \$350,000).
- Funds were deposited/invested via the District's money market account, earning slightly above 4% at the time of the meeting.

*Work group:* Mr. Mostoller stated he hoped to bring recommendations to the Board at the December 8, 2025 meeting, including how settlement funds may align with preliminary budget discussions.

*Purchased water eligibility:* Staff reported preliminary feedback indicated purchased water would not be an eligible PFAS project cost under current guidance, meaning it would need to be paid from the operating budget unless a separate approach is adopted. One option is

to utilize PFAS settlement funds to reimburse the FY26 operating budget for these expenses.

*Accelerated payment option (3M):*

Mr. Mostoller discussed evaluating an accelerated payment plan that would provide funds sooner, with a tradeoff:

- The District may have approximately \$1.2 million remaining from 3M under the standard schedule.
- If not accelerated, the next payment would be expected around June 2026, with annual payments continuing through 2033 (decreasing amounts).
- The accelerated option would forfeit approximately \$300,000 over an eight-year period, but staff indicated potential investment returns could offset that reduction and would provide more certainty and liquidity.

*Board direction / consensus:*

Commissioners expressed interest in pursuing the early payout option and requested counsel to continue reviewing the agreement terms. Commissioners also discussed the intent to earmark funds for PFAS-related needs (i.e., maintaining the funds in a PFAS-designated account/fund).

### **US EPA Lead & Copper Rule Improvements**

Deputy District Manager Godfrey provided an update on compliance planning for the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI):

- Regulation adopted October 2024, effective November 2027.
- Requires public water systems to identify and replace lead service lines within 10 years of the effective date (completion by 2037).

*AWD inventory status:*

- Approximately 6,700 service lines systemwide.
- Material is known for approximately 3,700 lines (just over half).
- To date, no lead service lines have been identified in the known inventory.

*Approach and resources:*

- Field verification is ongoing for older/unrecorded services.
- MassDEP released guidance allowing a statistical modeling approach to demonstrate absence of lead service lines for systems with substantial verified inventory and no lead findings to date.

- AWD hired Blue Conduit to support modeling and inventory validation.
- Expected preliminary model results in January–February 2026.
- Even with modeling, AWD anticipates validating approximately 340 service lines in the field to meet confirmation requirements.

*Goosenecks / galvanized services:*

- Lead goosenecks are not currently required to be replaced in Massachusetts, but AWD wants to understand where they may exist.
- Modeling will also help identify galvanized service lines, which can guide future renewal planning.

*Customer notification letters:*

- Annual notices are required for customers with lead/galvanized/unknown materials.
- AWD will send an updated round in December 2025, including updates where statuses have changed since last year.
- Staff confirmed MassDEP templates are used, and AWD is exploring clearer communication to reduce customer confusion (e.g., parsing unknowns by segment).

Mr. Watkins asked whether lead is present in source water or endpoint sampling. Mr. Godfrey and Mr. Mostoller responded that there is no lead in source water. Trace lead can appear at endpoints in older homes due to premise plumbing materials. AWD performs routine lead/copper sampling (e.g., 60 homes twice per year). The action level referenced was 0.015 mg/L, and results have been below that level in recent years.

Mr. Petersen asked whether the current sample is representative enough for the statistical model. Mr. Godfrey replied that *Blue Conduit* will assess representativeness (by age/installation period, etc.) and may recommend additional targeted field checks if gaps exist.

## **Route 2 Main Break**

Mr. Mostoller reviewed the Route 2 water main condition and recent breaks:

- Major main break occurred July 2025, between Route 2 travel lanes.
- A second break occurred late October 2025, just south of the July repair location.
- After consultation (operations, engineering, internal review), AWD decided not to repair the second break at this time.
- The affected main has been isolated since late October.

- AWD completed hydraulic modeling and stated it can still meet fire demands in the area while pursuing a more durable solution.

*Interim action:* AWD plans to retain DOT's paving contractor (Lynch) to complete limited road surface repairs while AWD develops a longer-term plan.

*Infrastructure notes:*

- The main is a 6-inch AC (asbestos cement) main, considered undersized for a major highway crossing.
- A longer-term replacement solution is being explored, potentially coordinating with anticipated work around 2028 (crossover rework), but AWD is also evaluating whether earlier action is feasible.

Mr. Petersen asked about the approximate length of watermain involved. Mr. Mostoller replied that the scope of work is not yet defined; AWD is still evaluating appropriate project limits and constructability/traffic constraints.

### **Foster Street Water Main Improvement Project**

Mr. Mostoller reported:

- Contractor and subcontractor mobilized.
- Temporary water service connection installed.
- Lining work underway/anticipated; staff targeting completion to remove temporary water service as soon as feasible due to cold conditions.

Planned shutdown:

- During the week of December 8, 2025, AWD anticipates a 2–3 hour shutdown to improve the connection near Foster Street and School Street (valve assembly work).
- Expected impact area: from School Street & Wadsworth Road to Parker Street, including Pondside and Heritage, plus nearby streets.
- AWD does not anticipate significant water quality disturbance; primary impact is brief service interruption.

*Communication plan:* Door tags and/or email notices will be provided approximately 2–3 days prior.

### **NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **Appoint District Clerk**

The Chair invited candidates to speak regarding their interest in the District Clerk position. Two residents addressed the Board:

- Michael Watkins described his background (geology and IT), volunteer work, and community involvement, including his attendance at Water Resources Advisory Committee and Green Acton Water Committee meetings.
- Joe Robb described his background (geology/hydrogeology), environmental consulting leadership experience, role as Chair of the Water Resources Advisory Committee, and prior clerk experience with a local nonprofit.

*Disclosure:* Commissioner Rosen disclosed a professional relationship with Mr. Robb through WRAC collaboration and noted familiarity with Mr. Robb's organizational skills.

Commissioners asked both candidates about availability for the Annual District Meeting (March) and special meetings; both indicated they could be available with planning. Mr. Watkins stated he would support Mr. Robb's appointment and volunteered to assist as a teller at meetings if needed.

Mr. Stuntz moved to appoint Mr. Joe Robb as the Acton Water District Clerk until the next regularly scheduled election. Mr. Rosen seconded, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Rosen, Ms. Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

Mr. Robb was sworn in by Mr. Godfrey, Assistant Clerk.

### **Recruitment for Treasurer/Collector**

Mr. Mostoller updated the Board on the Treasurer/Collector recruitment:

- Posting was open approximately two weeks and closed on November 24, 2025.
- AWD received 10 applicants.
- Staff completed an initial review and identified candidates to advance.

*Proposed interview process:*

- Interview up to four candidates in the first round.
- Use a single round with staff and a participating Board member, then bring finalists to the full Board for consideration.
- Goal: complete selection and onboarding steps before the holidays and ensure overlap/training with outgoing Treasurer/Collector Christine McCarthy, who is expected to remain through the first two weeks of January.

*Scheduling discussed:*

- First-round interviews targeted for the week of December 8, 2025 (noting limited availability in early December).
- A follow-up full Board meeting to consider finalists was discussed for December 16, 2025 (daytime, in-person at the District), with flexibility considerations noted for travel and remote participation.

Commissioners expressed support for expediting the process to preserve training overlap.

**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 8:10 p.m.**