Acton Water

Water Supply District of Acton

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Board of Water Commissioners Meeting Agenda Monday, March 31, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic, meetings are being held virtually via Zoom

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

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- Comments from the public
- Approve minutes from the meeting of 3/10
- 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
 - Bottled Water Rebate update

NEW BUSINESS:

- Review Annual District Meeting
- Discussion of Proposed Town of Acton Zoning Bylaw Changes
- 2025 Water Use Restrictions
- Spring Flushing Program
- Update on Remote Meeting Extension

EXECUTIVE SESSION: -- To consider the purchase, exchange, lease of real property as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the District.

Any agenda item(s) which did not come to the attention of the Board of Water Commissioners 48 hours prior to this meeting and were not reasonably anticipated.

Board of Water Commissioners and Finance Committee

Meeting Agenda

Monday, March 10, 2025 @ 7:00 PM

AGENDA

- Comments from the public
- Approve minutes from the meeting of 2/10 and 2/24
- 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
- MWRA MetroWest Expansion
- Annual District Meeting Presentation
- Warrant Article Assignments

NEW BUSINESS:

Recent Water Main Breaks

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

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

Finance Committee: Ron Parenti, John Petersen, Bill Guthlein

District Manager: Matt Mostoller

District Treasurer/Collector: Christine McCarthy

Moderator: William Mullin

Members of the Public: Corey Godfrey, Kim Kastens, Alissa Nicol

START OF MINUTES

Mr. Rosen opened the meeting of the Acton Water District Board of Commissioners at 7:00 pm.

Mr. Petersen opened the meeting of the Acton Water District Finance Committee with members Ron Parenti, Bill Guthlein, and John Petersen present at 7:01 pm.

Before starting the agenda, Mr. Mostoller introduced Corey Godfrey who has accepted the position of Deputy District Manager. Mr. Godfrey introduced himself to the board, he worked most recently with the Littleton Water Department as Superintendent of Water and Sewer for about 10 years. Prior to that he was the Water Quality manager, he has 8 years of consulting experience, and spent 2 years in the Peace Corps. The Board welcomed Mr. Godfrey, and Mr. Mostoller noted his first day will be April 1st.

Comments from the public

None at this time.

Approve minutes from the meeting of 2/10 and 2/24

Mr. Stuntz motioned to approve the minutes of 2/10/25. Ms. Amir Lin seconded, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Stuntz, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Rosen.

Mr. Stuntz motioned to approve the minutes of 2/24/25. Ms. Amir Lin seconded, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Ms. Amir Lin, Mr. Stuntz, Mr. Rosen.

Mr. Parenti motioned to approve the minutes of 2/10/25 and 2/24/25 meetings. Mr. Guthlein seconded, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Guthlein, Mr. Parenti, Mr. Petersen.

Appoint one Commissioner to sign warrants while conducting meetings virtually

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

Current sample data, if available

Mr. Mostoller provided the board with the February sample data. Center Acton remained offline for the entire month of February. South Acton sampled at 14.3 ppt, and North Acton remains at non-detect. North Acton does have some j-values which are estimated

numbers that do not count towards compliance. North Acton is beginning to show signs of breakthrough, so Mr. Mostoller has begun coordinating with Veolia for a media change. Mr. Mostoller plans to shut North Acton down until annual maintenance and the media change out are completed. All three plants are in use at the moment.

Mr. Rosen asked about plans for flushing. Mr. Mostoller responded that flushing usually happens in the second week of April, but they are contemplating either suspending or doing a targeted truncated flushing schedule. This would depend on their ability to accommodate flushing with maintenance, construction, and MassDEP requirements.

Discussion of Additional PFAS Upgrades

Mr. Mostoller reported that he is working with the vessel manufacturer to establish a firm delivery date. Mr. Rosen asked if this delay has impacted the construction progress, to which Mr. Mostoller affirmed that both are on pause until the delivery date is settled. Mr. Mostoller is working with the engineers and attorneys to come up with a plan.

MWRA MetroWest Expansion

Mr. Mostoller had no new news on the communities participating in the study. They are hoping to finalize the Inter-Municipal Agreement at the end of the week and get the request for qualifications out. They are specifically looking for a consultant who can kick off in May, with a 4–6 month window of work.

Mr. Rosen asked if Maynard is in a good position, which Mr. Mostoller confirmed they are internally working through some final details.

Annual District Meeting Presentation

Mr. Mostoller shared the Finance Committee's presentation and Mr. Petersen went through the presentation. The presentation went over the FY 26 Budget, expenses and trends, background on warrant articles, free cash, water supply volume, and drivers of the budget. The presentation took just under 7.5 minutes. Mr. Petersen and Mr. Mostoller reviewed several alternate slides at the end of the presentation, one of which was based off a chart used in the previous year.

The board then opened a discussion of the presentation. Mr. Rosen commented that he would like additional information about expenses and revenue trends, and the differences between the two. Ms. Amir Lin commented that she believes the presentation has too much information and recommended reducing the information either on the slide or what is said. Regarding the alternative chart options, Ms. Amir Lin favored the chart used in the previous year's presentation.

The board then had a brief discussion on the budget drivers slide, and the supply versus distribution slide. Mr. Guthlein commented that he is happy with the presentation and would maybe reconsider if the debt service slide is necessary. Mr. Parenti commented that he disagrees with Ms. Amir Lin and Mr. Rosen about the amount of information, he thought it was the right amount and maybe the presentation could be improved by slowing down.

Mr. Mullin commented that he was very happy with the presentation, and it made good use of using words, numbers, and pictures. He did share some concern about the collaboration between the finance committee and the board of commissioners, as he thought it was important for the finance committee to assert their independence in their messaging.

Ms. Kim Kastens commented that she agreed with Mr. Mullin, and suggested that one bullet point regarding meter replacement, which showed a steep increase, could be improved with some additional information. Mr. Petersen clarified that this bullet point refers to a specific warrant article.

Ms. Alissa Nicol commented that the voters appreciated the presentation and the information on the warrant articles last year. She commented that anything written on the slides should be referenced verbally. She added that it is a little confusing that the finance committee is presenting rather than the commissioners as on the district website they have no other responsibilities than to recommend the budget. By comparison, at the Acton town meeting, the selectboard shares the budget and the finance committee make a statement. She agreed that the slides have too much information and mentioned a town resource guide for presentations that include typographical guidelines. Lastly Ms. Nicol added that the graphs or presentation could be printed and given to the voters, and Acton TV could help create a video with additional information that voters could watch before the meeting.

Mr. Mostoller thanked Ms. Nicol for her comments and responded to a comment from Mr. Mullin about the role of the finance committee. The finance committee is in an advisory position to the commissioners, providing advice on short- and long-term financial health of the district. They technically are not an independent body because they're in an advisory role and expected to work with the commissioners. Mr. Mullin commented that if the finance committee is not independent, that makes it more difficult to recruit people for the committee.

Mr. Mostoller suggested that he, Mr. Petersen, Mr. Rosen, and Ms. McCarthy meet offline to parse through this feedback and strike a balance between this feedback. Mr. Mostoller

and the board thanked Mr. Petersen for his work on creating this presentation and applying the various pieces of feedback throughout the process.

Mr. Petersen shared a few thoughts in response to specific feedback on several slides and asked for a final decision for which alternative slide with the graph option people preferred. The consensus seemed to support the additional slide Mr. Mostoller provided based on the previous year's presentation.

Ms. Kastens commented that because it is an information heavy presentation, printing out the presentation and providing it to voters would allow them to take notes and keep it for reference.

The board thanked everyone for their input and closed discussion on this topic.

Warrant Article Assignments

Mr. Mostoller shared the Warrant Articles and their assignments on screen, and went through all of them, asking the commissioners and finance committee if they had any questions on their Article Assignments. On Article 5 Mr. Parenti had a question as to how Articles 5 and 6 are linked, which Mr. Mostoller reviewed. Mr. Mostoller explained the reauthorization of these funds is for Mass General Law compliance, and the limits may be altered later on if needed. The Mitigation fund was established in 2018, and the New Service Meter Installation fund was established in 2023.

For Article 11 Ms. Amir Lin asked for the referenced 2011 Warrant Article for the specific language.

For Article 12 Mr. Rosen asked for clarification that there is an existing tower on the site, which Mr. Mostoller affirmed there is a mono pole onsite. Mr. Mostoller reviewed the background of that warrant article.

Mr. Mostoller finished the review of the Warrant Articles.

NEW BUSINESS:

Recent Water Main Breaks

Mr. Mostoller shared with the board a recent pattern of water main breaks. This began with a break on New Year's Day, then another break on the Route 2 on ramp, followed by a break on Main Street, one on Huron Road, and one on Alcott Street. Additionally, we have had two or three smaller leaks to repair which have been under similar circumstances. These have been a particularly challenging two months for staff to deal with these breaks. Because it has been very cold, there have been equipment failures, and conflicts with other utilities, many of these have taken twice as long to repair. They have run into issues

particularly with stormwater infrastructure as at least half of these breaks had direct issues with the stormwater infrastructure.

Mr. Mostoller brings this up because these breaks have drained the appropriation for emergency water main breaks. They can use funds from the O&M budget lien item to help cover ongoing costs.

The other piece is how these breaks have affected customer expectations. Mr. Mostoller then reviewed the District's protocol for water main breaks. The first priority is to identify the break and shut it down, communication is secondary. This is because addressing the break quickly will limit the extent of damage. The District has added a water main break FAQ on the website to address questions. The website, pre-recorded voice mail message, and social media are where breaks will be communicated. The District will not use a reverse 911 call unless the break is widespread or meets other thresholds necessitating this level of notice. Mr. Mostoller also noted that unless the District explicitly says otherwise, customers may presume the water to be safe for consumption, bathing, and other activities. Mr. Mostoller noted that people close to the break may lose water, while those further away may have color or pressure issues. Mr. Mostoller also noted that they are seeing higher paving costs from this pattern of breaks. Currently the overtime budget is doing ok but paving has gotten more expensive.

Lastly, Mr. Mostoller reminded the board they are not funding a water main project for this upcoming fiscal year. H noted once PFAS treatment is complete, we will be renewing our interest in investing in water mains and storage tanks.

Mr. Petersen asked if they have metrics for water main breaks similar to what power companies do during an outage, that way they can know the scale and impact of the break.

Mr. Mostoller explained that they don't have a system capable of producing that data, as electricity meters can be better automated to provide that data. The other issue is that impact is varied, some customers may have no water, low pressure, discolored water, or some combination of effects. Mr. Petersen then advocated for a system that would assess those impacts to better understand impacts. Mr. Mostoller explained what impacts would trigger DEP regulations, and that we have guidelines on categories of emergency events in the system and expected response level.

Mr. Parenti motioned to adjourn the meeting of the finance committee. Mr. Guthlein seconded, and it was unanimously approved via a roll call vote, Mr. Parenti, Mr. Guthlein, Mr. Petersen.

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

Meeting closed at 8:28 pm.



Acton Water District - PWS 2002000

Summary of Treated Water Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) 2025

Sample Location

Sample Date	Clapp/Whitcomb WTP	Central Acton WTP	North Acton WTP	South Acton WTP
January 23, 2025	Not Sampled	11.8	Not Sampled	15
January 27, 2025	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	ND	Not Sampled
February 26, 2025	Not Sampled	Not Sampled	ND	14.3
March 10, 2025	Not Sampled	10	ND	15.5

Notes:

WTP = Water Treatment Plant

Units are in parts per trillion (ppt) or ng/L

ND = below method detection limit

Not Sampled = PFAS samples are not collected at each WTP on the same date or when a WTP is not producing water for consumption

Results provided are the sum of 6 PFAS Compounds - PFOA, PFOS, PFNA, PFHxS, PFHpA, and PFDA

Exceeds Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 20 ppt or ng/L

All treated water data is shared with consumers to be transparent. Not all of the data presented here will meet MassDEP data acceptance standards.

Abatements for 4 Quarters

	Jun-24	Count	Sep	Sep-24	Count	Sales of the	Dec-24	Count		Mar-25	Count
Bottled Water	\$ 7,365.00	165	\$ 7,4	\$ 7,425.00	166	\$	7,155.00	159	₩.	7,215.00	161
Toilet	\$ 00.009	9	\$ 1,1	1,100.00	11	\$	1,600.00	16	s	400.00	2
Clothes Washer	\$ 00.009	4	\$ 6	00.009	4	\$	450.00	3	\$	900.006	9
Fixtures	\$ 109.74	2	\$	1	0	\$	20.00	1	₩.		0
Elderly Abatement	\$ 894.78	13	\$ 7.	728.43	10	\$	786.11	11	s	878.64	11
Self ID Rebate						\$	1,065.00	71	S	-	0
Total	\$ 9,569.52	190	\$ 9,853.43	53.43	191	\$	\$ 11,106.11	261	\$	9,393.64	180

Bottled Water rebate totals include payments sent directly to tenants



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

Executive Office of Energy & Environmental Affairs

Department of Environmental Protection

100 Cambridge Street Suite 900 Boston, MA 02114 • 617-292-5500

Maura T. Healey Governor Rebecca L. Tepper Secretary

Kimberley Driscoll Lieutenant Governor Bonnie Heiple Commissioner

March 21, 2025

Re: Significant and Critical Drought Conditions Persist in All Massachusetts Drought Regions

Dear Water Management Registrants and Permittees:

As we approach spring and the beginning the of irrigation season, we want to reach out to you with updates on the ongoing drought in Massachusetts which has not dissipated over the winter months. Following nearly seven months of below-normal precipitation, on March 7, 2025, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Rebecca Tepper declared:

- Level 3-Critical Drought in the Northeast, Central and Connecticut River Valley Drought Regions, and
- Level 2-Significant Drought throughout the rest of Massachusetts (the Southeast, Cape, Islands and Western Drought Regions).

This is not where we had hoped to be this spring. We are still in a precipitation deficit across the state and despite temporary surges in streamflow from recent precipitation events, streamflow and groundwater have worsened in nearly all regions, and recharge that typically occurs at this time of the year to reservoirs and groundwater is diminished.

Therefore, MassDEP encourages everyone to begin the 2025 season with an eye to conservation. Please review any conditions pertaining to outdoor water use restrictions in your Water Management permit or registration. Any drought triggered restrictions required through a Water Management registration will be in effect at the start of the irrigation season on April 1st this year. If you hold both a registration and a permit that includes seasonal restrictions on nonessential outdoor water use, then the restrictions required in your permit are controlling.

Public Water Suppliers (PWS) that impose mandatory use restrictions are required to notify
MassDEP, per 310 CMR 22.15(8). PWSs that impose voluntary water use restrictions are asked to
notify MassDEP as well. A MassDEP Notification of Water Use Restriction form can be found at
https://www.mass.gov/info-details/outdoor-water-use-restrictions-for-cities-towns-and-golf-courses#current-city-and-town-water-restrictions-.

Please send a completed form to Brittany Segill by email (preferred) at brittany.segill@mass.gov, or by US Mail to Mass DEP Water Management Program, 100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900, Boston, MA 02114.

Outreach Materials for the Public: The Department of Conservation and Recreation Office of Water Resources has developed a library of outreach materials that PWSs can use on their websites to inform customers about the drought and about specific conservation measures. The library of outreach materials can be found at: https://www.mass.gov/info-details/water-resources-toolkit-library-of-outreach-materials. Please feel free to use any of the materials here on your departmental websites or in any other outreach to your customers. Two pieces you might find useful about pipe flushing and increased fire danger during drought can be found at the end of this mailing.

Any PWS having difficulty meeting demands, drought-related or not, may request a Declaration of Water Supply Emergency ("Emergency Declaration") from MassDEP. The provisions of the Emergency Declaration process are outlined in regulations at 310 CMR 36.40. Suppliers should contact their MassDEP Regional Drinking Water Program Chief (see contact information below), or Duane LeVangie of the WMA Program at (617) 780-1962, to discuss concerns or begin the Emergency Declaration process.

The Emergency Declaration will require the public water supplier to submit a plan for MassDEP review and approval that includes provisions to remedy the emergency. Such a plan could include measures to purchase water from another supplier, use emergency sources, implement aggressive conservation measures, and provide a mechanism to restrict nonessential outdoor water use for those PWSs that do not currently have enforcement capability to implement such measures.

MassDEP appreciates your efforts to conserve water and manage this valuable resource.

Very truly yours,

Kathleen Baskin

Kathleen M Baskin

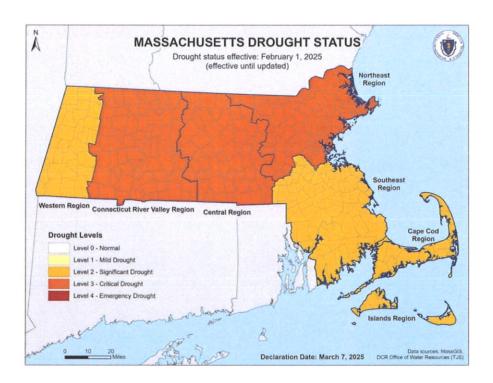
Assistant Commissioner, Bureau of Water Resources

Cc:

Duane LeVangie, WMA Program Chief, DEP Boston (617-780-1962) Melissa Dwinell, Drinking Water Chief, DEP NERO (857-278-5348) Robert Bostwick, Drinking Water Chief, DEP CERO (774-239-6003) Jim McLaughlin, Drinking Water Chief, DEP SERO (857-260-1002) Andrew Kelly, Drinking Water Chief, DEP WERO (617-875-2710) Julia Blatt, Mass Rivers Alliance Lydia Olson, Mass Rivers Alliance Lydia Olson, MWWA Steve Estes-Smargiassi, MWRA

Summary Guidance for Public Water Suppliers

If you hold both a **Water Management Registration and a Permit that includes seasonal restrictions** on nonessential outdoor water use, **then the permit is controlling** and you are required to institute the restrictions detailed in your permit.



Level 3 (Critical Drought) - Northeast, Central and Connecticut Regions

All nonessential outdoor water uses should be banned.

Level 2 (Significant Drought) - Southeast, Cape, Islands and Western Drought Regions

All nonessential outdoor water uses should be banned, except that watering ornamentals and flower gardens with drip irrigation, hand-hold hose or watering cans may be permitted, to be used only after 5 p.m. or before 9 a.m.

Private Wells

Households and businesses that draw water from private wells should conserve water by abiding by the water use restrictions in place in their community.

Restricted Nonessential Outdoor Water Uses do NOT include use required for:

- health or safety, including public cooling facilities such as splash pads and swimming pools,
- washing boats, engines, or marine equipment to prevent saltwater corrosion or the transfer of invasive aquatic species,
- producing food, including vegetable gardens, fiber, and for maintaining livestock,
- meeting the core functions of a business, including
 - o plant nurseries to maintain stock,

- o golf courses as needed to maintain greens and tees, and limited fairway watering,
- o venues for weddings and special events that water gardens, flowers and ornamental plants with a hand-held hose or drip irrigation,
- o professional washing as needed to apply paint, preservatives, stucco, pavement, or cement to buildings, parking lots, driveways and sidewalks,
- irrigating public parks before 9:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m.,
- irrigating recreation fields before 9:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m.,
- irrigating publicly funded shade trees and trees in the public right-of-way; or
- establishing new lawn to stabilize soil following new construction, or repair/replacement of a Title 5 system.

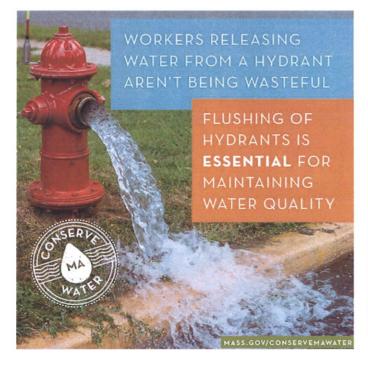
Other Emergency Measure to Consider

- Flushing Programs Suppliers may consider delaying routine pipe flushing until later in the fall, if such a delay will not adversely affect water quality. Suppliers with mandatory flushing schedules should contact your DEP Regional Drinking Water Program Chief to discuss concerns or to delay routinely scheduled pipe flushing.
- **Review Emergency Interconnections** Suppliers whose supplies may be vulnerable if drought conditions continue should now review their available interconnections to other sources or to neighboring water supply systems and evaluate how quickly interconnections can be activated if needed.
- Emergency Response Plans For the last year, the MassDEP Drinking Water Program has been working with PWSs to ensure that all emergency response plans are brought up to date as required by 310 CMR 22.04(13). Suppliers should review their plan and assess preparedness to deal with drought conditions (and other extreme weather conditions). Any changes or updates needed in an ERP should be made as required by 310 CMR 2.04(13). For more information on emergency response planning, visit https://www.mass.gov/lists/emergency-response-for-public-water-systems

This graphic can be found in the Mass.gov library of social media products on water conservation at

https://www.mass.gov/doc/download-hydrant-flushing/download

And this can be found at https://www.mass.gov/doc/download-drought-increases-fire-danger-graphic/download

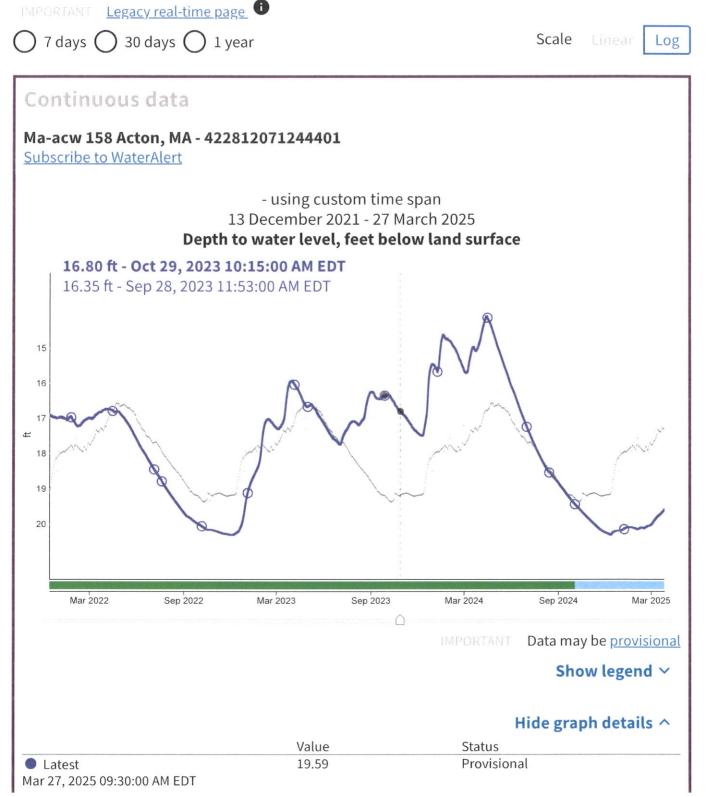




An official website of the United States government Here's how you know

MENL

Ma-acw 158 Acton, MA - 422812071244401



Ma-acw 158 Acton, MA - USGS Water Data for the Nation

Selected 16.80 Approved Oct 29, 2023 10:15:00 AM EDT O Selected 16.35 ft Approved field measurement Sep 28, 2023 11:53:00 AM EDT Compare Not available with custom time sp Median Showing data on graph Hide graph details ^ Hide today's statistics ^ Statistics are not currently supported for the data type: Depth to water level, ft below land surface Hide today's statistics ^

Change ime span Subscribe to WaterAlert View related graphs

Download data View data records

Water data for this data type is available from 2007-10-01 to 2025-03-27

Select a date range:

mm/dd/yyyy	
mm/dd/nan/	
mm/dd/yyyy	
Or	
Enter days before today:	1200

Change time span

Hide change time span ^

Available data

Show all data types

Scient data: ypes to gradii lighteategones based or The zary the date were conrected

Learn about the data collection categories.

Continuous data

1 data types available - data from 2007-10-01 to 2025-03-27

Hide these data types

Continuous data are collected via automated sensors installed at a monitoring location. Learn about Continuous data

Data type

Data date range

Graphed

Depth to water level, feet below land surface

2007-10-01 2025-03-27

Hide these data types

Daily data

1 data types available - data from 2000-10-23 to 2025-03-26

Show these data types

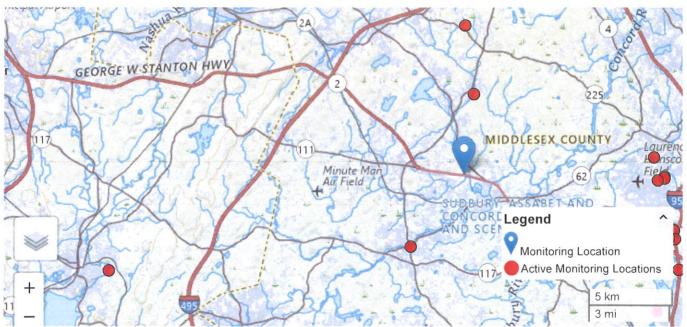
Field measurements

3 data types available - data from 1964-11-10 to 2025-01-07

Show these data types

Discrete sample data

0 observed properties (data types) available



lational Boundaries Dataset, 3DEP Elevation Program, Geographic Names Information System, National Hydrography Dataset, N...

Interested in understanding how to access the upstream/downstream data? <u>Learn about the Network-Linked Data Index (NLDI)</u>

Summary of all available data

Location metadata

Operated in cooperation with:





Massachusetts DCR - Office of Water Resources

USGS - Cooperative Matching Funds

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