

Key Topics: Drought Update, PFAS Update, City of Cambridge Water Supply: Impacts of Deicing Salts on Ambient and Finished Water Presentation

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

**MEETING MINUTES**

April 11, 2023

*Due to COVID-19, this meeting is available virtually on Zoom. This meeting is being recorded.*

Pursuant to chapter 2 of the acts of 2023 adopted by Massachusetts general court and approved by the governor the city is authorized to use remote participation at meetings of The Cambridge Waterboard now through March 31, 2025.

This meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m., those in attendance via *Zoom* were:

**Cambridge Water Board (CWB):** Ann Roosevelt, Kathleen Kelly and Mike McNeley.

**Cambridge Water Department (CWD):** Mark Gallagher, Fred Centanni, Julie Greenwood-Torelli, Dave Kaplan and Jamie O'Connell.

**A. MINUTES OF MARCH 14, 2023, MEETING**

Ms. Roosevelt moved, and Ms. Kelly seconded the motion to approve the March 14, 2023, minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Ms. Roosevelt welcomed Mark Gallagher in his new role as acting managing director.

*Drought /Water Conservation Update:* The Drought Status is at level zero. Our reservoirs are full. We artificially brought up Hobbs Brook in anticipation of dropping Stoney Brook levels. This allowed MassDOT to perform inspections of their culverts that go under Route 95. We are naturally bringing Stoney Brook back up and we anticipate normal levels within the next two weeks. We are producing more water than we are consuming.

DOT has been organizing an inter-agency salt working group. CWD, MWRA, DCR, representatives of Fish and Wildlife and DOT were invited to attend their conference. All groups were asked to put together some slides that would be incorporated into the larger presentation for the Bureau of Water Resources.

*City of Cambridge Water Supply: Impacts of Deicing Salts on Ambient and Finished Water-*  
As presented by David Kaplan in slideshow format. A link to this presentation can be found at:  
(INSERT LINK)

*Questions/Comments:*

Solar energy radiant heating is possible but not cost effective for sidewalks/driveways.  
Mr. Kaplan has heard of it on a small scale but not large-scale parking lots.

*Questions/Comments:*

*Will there be techniques developed to get rid of salt in the finished water. If so, where would it be put?* Mr. Kaplan said he is not aware of techniques to get rid of a hyper concentrated brine.

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*Questions/Comments:* Mr. McNeley appreciates CWD's proactive approach and sees this as a serious topic and one that the board should support. Mr. McNeley asked how the board could help and asked if encouraging the legislator to limit liabilities on "slip and falls" so that private parking lots could minimize the amount of salt they deploy. Mr. McNeley asked if there are other things from a public outreach perspective that the board could do.

Mr. Kaplan said the Interagency Salt working group is drumming up support to try to pass legislation in Massachusetts. We are going to have to figure out some mechanism to try to hold commercial sites accountable and provide some incentive to use less salt. Public safety is dominating the conversation. "Slip and falls" are a huge problem on many commercial sites, resulting in over salting of many properties in the watershed. Mr. Kaplan said we don't have the enforcement capabilities to go to every site and there are a lot of regulated sites that are falling through the cracks.

Mr. Kaplan said he would keep the board apprised of where those conversations go. If there is anything we think the board can get involved with to help us out, we will be sure to reach out and let the board know.

*Questions/Comments:* Ms. Roosevelt asked if encouraging the use of sand on private lots could be considered as another option instead of using salt? Mr. Kaplan said sand has no melting possibilities and just provides traction. Run off ultimately fills in basins, wetlands, and streams. There are very few instances where sand makes sense. CWD tries to avoid recommending sand.

PFAS Update: There was a QAQC problem with the March sample and the lab notified us of this early on. We did a re-collect; results are not yet in. April has been collected. Filters 5 & 6 have been online for about 6 months. It's time for us to start getting some numbers on what is going on with the carbon. We received our new PFAS testing instrument and we are waiting on the PromoChrom extractor. We have some lab site alterations to make for the equipment. We are hoping to unpack and get up and running in June or July 2023. We got a Mass DEP waiver to do quarterly monitoring because we've been coming in under their 10ppt threshold. We did not initiate this, and this doesn't mean that we won't continue monthly sampling for our benefit. We will continue monthly sampling and once we have the PFAS testing equipment installed we will be doing a lot more testing.

## C. OPERATIONS

### Transmission and Distribution:

*Questions/Comments:* When will Huron Ave., Phase 2 be finished?

Mr. Gallagher said it hasn't started yet for us. The activity seen there now is DPW sidewalk and bike lane expansion for the Glacken Field. The only utility work will be moving some of the catch basins and installing the water main.

### Watershed:

*Questions/Comments:* Ms. Roosevelt is continually shocked by the amount of development that is going on in our watershed and asks if we should be looking, as a city, to buy parcels near Stoney Brook.

Mr. Kaplan thinks land acquisition is a good strategy. If a parcel that is close to streams or our reservoir is developable and we can take it out of development, it's a high value piece of property for us. What we are seeing at Stoney Brook is that development is limited in Lincoln

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and Weston and it's mostly residential. Ms. Roosevelt suggested they speak further about this topic offline before her upcoming meeting where Ian Wang is going to be the speaker.

**Water Operations:**

*Questions/Comments:* March PFAS results pending.

**Engineering:**

*Questions/Comments:* Mr. Gallagher said there are approximately 1,900 lead services left; replacing on average, two lead services per week. With all the water main projects going on we are renewing lead services right up to the meter instead of just up to the property line. Previously if we did lead service up to the property line, this was considered done and checked it off the list. Now the new Lead and Copper Rule that will come out next year says you can't do that. Now if it's even partial it must go back on the Lead service list, and we will have to maintain and monitor it. It's up to the property owner if we go all the way in. For services done only from the main to the property line, we would have to do periodic sampling for lead (if allowed in by property owner.) Otherwise, we would have to document that we have done our due diligence. So, our list may change a little bit. If any property owner initiates contact because they have a lead service, we will schedule this.

**Business/Billing:**

*Questions/Comments:* None

**D. ACTION ITEMS**

None

**E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST**

No Comments

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**G. NEXT MEETING DATES/AGENDA – Meetings via Zoom**

- May 9, 2023: TBA/TBD
- June 13, 2023: TBA/TBD
- September 12, 2023: TBA/TBD

Mr. McNeley moved, and Ms. Roosevelt seconded the motion to adjourn the Zoom meeting at 6:16 pm. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.