

Key Topics: Drought/Water Conservation Update, PFAS6 Update, COVID-19 Update
SCADA Project Update, Election of the President

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

December 14, 2021

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

This meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Those in attendance via *Zoom* were:

Cambridge Water Board (CWB): Ann Roosevelt, Jim Burruss, Mike McNeley, Kathleen Kelly and Jason Marshall

Cambridge Water Department (CWD): Sam Corda, Dave Kaplan, Jamie O'Connell, Anna Van Dresser, Fred Centanni, Krystina McNally, Ed Dowling and Mark Gallagher

A. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 16, 2021 MEETING

Mr. Marshall moved, and Mr. McNeley seconded the motion to approve the November 16, 2021 minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Drought /Water Conservation Update: Overall, for the calendar year precipitation is about 15" above average. November precipitation was ~1.8 inches below the monthly average.

Covid-19 Update: Status quo - masks are required in all indoor public spaces. Completed putting in all the air filtration devices in the building. The DPW continues to measure the level of Covid19 in the wastewater. Due to the Omicron Variant, there has been an uptick of Covid19 cases in the State.

PFAS6 Update: Continuing bid specification development and still in full compliance with the MassDEP PFAS6 Regulations. Ideally, the GAC Media Replacement Project will go out to bid early next year. We expect that the project will be completed in the Spring of 2022.

Ms. Roosevelt asked if we know why September had higher PFAS6 levels. Mr. Corda said comparing this data to previous years, it is not known why September is the peak month; it could be temperature, precipitation or other reasons driving/causing this.

SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) Project Update: The SCADA Upgrade includes replacing all Program Logic Controllers (PLCs) and the ozone generators. SCADA is the software that runs the treatment plant. PLCs are located throughout the plant and allow SCADA to communicate with the treatment process equipment. It allows an operator at the control panel to operate any function within the facility. The replacement of the ozone generators should improve our energy efficiency by reducing the ozone energy use by about 20%. In addition to energy savings, the new ozone generators will generate a higher concentration of ozone for disinfection.

The \$7.3 million cost includes the design, construction, integration of hardware and software, switching over from the old system to the upgraded one, replacement of UPS system (back-up

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power) and improvements to the control room which include a new console, updated HVAC system, and adding a SCADA room and office space.

Currently we are reviewing the process/protocol of keeping the plant running during the SCADA System transition. We will use both systems (old and new) in parallel during the transition of the 5 process trains. Once completed we intend to keep both systems running in parallel until we are confident things are running properly.

Design process is at 90% and the planned schedule is to put the project out to bid the first quarter of 2022, award the contract, begin the work and be completed in about a year. The plan is to use the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding for about half of the cost of the SCADA Project.

The City webpage has a link to see the intended allocation of the ARPA funds. Mr. Centanni offered to email the link to the Board.

Questions/Comments: Ms. Roosevelt asked if we are worried about SCADA and hacking?

The decision was made to keep the SCADA as it is now - no access or connection to the outside. It is a standalone/Air Gapped System with no physical connection to the outside world. Mr. Marshall said he was happy to hear this and thinks it's a smart decision. Mr. Marshall added it's another benefit of our standalone water system and the benefits of more control.

When connected to MWRA water, does this provide an "entrance" to our SCADA system?

No. The MWRA water system is "digitally" completely separate from our system. Their system provides the water when we physically open our valves to the MWRA water system.

C. OPERATIONS

Transmission and Distribution:

Questions/Comments: North Point Extension – Ms. Roosevelt said we should add the standard "ductile iron lined" terminology to all new North Point Piping references to make this clear.

Ms. Roosevelt said its great you're doing lead service replacement and questioned if there is available money from ARPA for that. Mr. Corda said there is not, but recently an infrastructure bill was passed in congress and on the next round we may get some money earmarked for lead service line replacement.

Watershed:

Questions/Comments: Ms. Roosevelt commented on the large number of projects.

Ms. Roosevelt is quite impressed by how Mr. Kaplan and his team are staying on top of all the watershed development projects. Mr. Dowling gives his thanks to the Law Department for supporting/responding to help us properly comment on these projects.

Mr. McNeley asked for more information on the Watershed dam repair work. Mr. Kaplan said there have been meetings with our consultant to discuss and prioritize the findings from the dam and gatehouse inspections. The inspections have uncovered nothing significant and as such we may shift priorities to performing various repairs versus any major construction. We will send out the final report once received.

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Water Operations:

Questions/Comments: Under the guidance of MassDEP we are drawing down Stony Brook Reservoir (6 feet lower than normal) to help control invasive aquatic mill foil in small portions of the shoreline. We still have plenty of elevation to supply our daily demand for the winter.

Engineering:

Comments: 16 construction permits issued for November for a variety of uses. On average 200-300 permits are issued per year for water type work. Water main service leak layer: Developing a single database to consolidate from multiple data bases – to simplify all of our Distribution System information for easy access.

Business/Billing:

Comments: Sewer abatement cycles add to the quarterly totals. Water fund balance looks good.

D. ACTION ITEM

Election of the President:

Ms. Roosevelt was nominated to be the President of the Cambridge Water Board for 2022.

Mr. Burruss moved, and Mr. McNeley seconded the motion to elect Ms. Roosevelt as President of the Cambridge Water Board for CY2022. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

Regarding the Climate Change Presentation scheduled for next month – Ms. Roosevelt asked which City departments are involved with Climate Change. Mr. Corda responded that two departments are involved: The Community Development Department “CDD” and Department of Public Works (DPW) are involved. DPW oversees the projects and the engineering firms who are doing the work. Mr. Corda said John Bolduc of the Community Development Department is going to give the presentation next month to the Board.

Upon hearing of Mr. Dowling’s imminent retirement from the Cambridge Water Department, Ms. Roosevelt thanked him for his 32 years of service to the Water Department. Congratulations Mr. Dowling.

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/AGENDA – Meetings via Zoom

- January 11, 2022: Approved/Climate Change Presentation
- February 8, 2022: Approved/TBD
- March 8, 2022: TBA/TBD
- April 12, 2022: TBA/TBD
- May 10, 2022: TBA/TBD
- June 14, 2022: TBA/TBD

Mr. Burruss moved, and Mr. Marshall seconded the motion to adjourn the Zoom meeting at 6:11pm. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.