

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2024

This meeting is available virtually on Zoom. This meeting is being recorded.

This meeting was called to order at 5:08 p.m. Those in attendance via *Zoom* were:

Cambridge Water Board (CWB): Ann Roosevelt, Kathleen Kelly, Benjamas Lendorff and James Burruss.

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

A. MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 13, 2023, MEETING

Mr. Burruss moved, and Ms. Roosevelt seconded the motion to approve the February 13, 2023, minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PFAS Update: Carbon replacement, which began in February, has been completed for the first two filters. Filters 5 & 2 change outs will commence March 18, 2024, and will be completed in time for our next quarterly (Quarter Two - April) compliance sample. We anticipate Quarter Two PFAS6 compliance sampling will be back in the "no detect" range.

Questions/Comments: We are working our way from the outside to the center of the plant for the GAC replacements so that we will have more balance. We technically have two treatment plants. We have train one and train two. To balance things out it makes sense to work on each side of the treatment plant and work our way out and to the center. This approach will mean we won't have filters that are older on one side of the plant than the other side. We have filter timers on each individual filter so now we can determine what that loading rate is.

Questions/Comments: New EPA regulations haven't come out yet. Currently PFAS6 regulations 20ppt per quarter is the standard for the state *monthly* monitoring. PFAS6 regulations in the State of Massachusetts of 10ppt/or under puts us into *quarterly* monitoring status. We want to be under 4ppt.

Fresh Pond Watershed Hydrology Presentation: Presented in slide format by Dave Kaplan. A link to this presentation may be found at:

Questions/Comments: Is Little Fresh Pond connected to Fresh Pond Reservoir? No, it is not, but there are pipes and valves that we can manipulate to back-fill Little Fresh Pond. We will open valves and provide, in the summertime when Little Fresh Pond is lower, irrigation for the golf course. If Little Fresh Pond were to get higher than Fresh Pond Reservoir there is a pumping station that pumps water out of Little Fresh Pond into a 66" drain that runs through the golf course and routes water north to Wellington Brook. The pump station is managed, owned, and maintained by DPW with real time feedback. DPW has control over the pumping station because it is part of the municipal storm sewer system that they manage per their permit.

Key Topics: PFAS, Fresh Pond Watershed Hydrology Presentation

Questions/Comments: Have there been accidents or breaks when stormwater has entered Fresh Pond? Mr. Kaplan replied there have been none during his tenure at the water department.

Questions/Comments: Fresh Pond holds 1.4 billion gallons of water. Fresh Pond is kept artificially higher than the surrounding water table and Little Fresh Pond. Ground water monitoring wells were installed in 1997 and measure how high or low the water table is. Land features also intercept and route ground water away from Fresh Pond.

Questions/Comments: Re: Algae and Little Fresh Pond:

Is algae caused by weather, heat or run off from the golf course? Mr. Kaplan said it's tough to say why there is algae without a comprehensive study about the nutrient sources. Little Fresh Pond is conducive to algae blooms because it is relatively shallow and with not a lot of turn over. These conditions give algae time to sit and take advantage of nutrients.

Questions/Comments: Ms. Kelley asked in so far as the overall health of the reservation, wildlife and balance of the eco system, do we know what effect golf course chemicals may be having on the entire ecosystem, barring getting into the water? Mr. Kaplan said we can't speak for the fate and transport of each individual chemical that the golf course is putting down.

The golf course has heard the concerns and steps are being taken to start addressing those concerns. They are looking into greening their practices and using fewer chemicals.

Questions/Comments: How many chemicals do we test for?

In addition to the golf course, there is a myriad of potential sources from our 24 square mile watershed that's fairly developed. We've tested for a select suite as part of the UCMR. Everything we have tested for tested as "non detects". Fresh Pond meets its designated use as a water source and meets drinking water standards.

Questions/Comments: During heavy rains, there is some flooding of the golf course. Is that connected to the engineering that we've done or simply natural tendencies?

Mr. Kaplan said the water table is high, elevations are shallow, soils are tight. It's conducive to flooding in that area.

Questions/Comments: I-95S Car Fire, Waltham: A car fire resulted in release of small amounts of oil, vehicle fluids, and firefighting water into Hobbs Brook Reservoir on 2/22/2024.

Quantities released were too small to trigger DEP reporting. The car fire was put out with water. It is of note that firefighting foams containing PFAS were outlawed.

C. OPERATIONS

Transmission and Distribution:

Questions/Comments: None

Watershed:

Questions/Comments: Little Fresh Pond Shoreline/Old Field Birch Grove Seating Area Reconstruction. Bid not yet awarded. Bid documents are being reviewed and finalized.

Key Topics: PFAS, Fresh Pond Watershed Hydrology Presentation

Questions/Comments: Ms. Roosevelt asked what is included in the (Fresh Pond Reporting) Census? Ms. O'Connell said it's a summary of how many people are visiting the reservation through a select number of entrances that we monitor.

Questions/Comments: Ms. Roosevelt commented on the large number of sub-divisions in the water shed.

Questions/Comments: Re: Enbridge request to cut 55 trees on CWD land for utility work. We requested a lot of supporting documentation to illustrate that this project cannot move ahead without our approval and our land. We asked them to put together some additional information to give us a clear understanding illustrating why this is the only way they can accomplish the work that they need to do.

Questions/Comments: One of our caretakers has been monitoring remote areas of our watershed on foot and found illegal deer stands on our watershed property in Lincoln. We've been able to approach known people and ask them to remove them (which they have). We've also posted notices and confiscated equipment (leaving Mr. Kaplan's card for retrieval purposes).

Water Operations:

Questions/Comments: Ms. Roosevelt commented positively on the water usage figures/graphs. We are at full capacity going into the spring.

Questions/Comments: Has the demand study been put off?
The demand study is underway (80% complete). CDM is collecting data.

Engineering:

Questions/Comments: Ms. Roosevelt asked: What is a water main service leak layer? Mr. Gallagher said we have been able to pinpoint leaks on our GIS leak layer since 2013. Sometimes it gives us an indication of an area of where a pipe is starting to fail, which could be added to our critical priority list.

Co-ops: We hire two co-ops (Engineering students) every 6 months.

River Street Streetscape Project: The street level will be brought up, helping for more storm water movement so that area is less prone to standing water.

Business:

Questions/Comments: The water fund balance is at 5.08 million dollars.

D. ACTION ITEMS

None

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

None

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

Key Topics: PFAS, Fresh Pond Watershed Hydrology Presentation

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/AGENDA – Meetings via Zoom

- April 9, 2024: Approved/TBD
- May 14, 2024: TBA/TBD
- June 11, 2024: TBA/TBD

Mr. Kelly moved, and Ms. Roosevelt seconded to adjourn the meeting at 6: 18pm. All were in favor of the motion.