

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

January 14, 2020

This meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Those in attendance were:

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

Cambridge Water Department (CWD): Sam Corda, Fred Centanni, Dave Kaplan, Jamie O'Connell, Ed Dowling, Mark Gallagher and Linda Vierboom

A. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 11, 2019 MEETING

Ms. Kelly moved, and Ms. Roosevelt seconded the motion to approve the December 11, 2019 minutes as amended.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PFAS Update: Mr. Corda will include a Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) update at the start of each water board meeting for the foreseeable future. The CWD web page will be updated every quarter, at a minimum, to include the latest round of PFAS testing. Keeping with our history of transparent communications with the community and proactiveness, we have voluntarily chosen to follow MassDEP's proposed guidance for the 6 PFAS compounds in water systems that fall within the 20-70 ppt range. Our current running average for the total of the six compounds is 18.4 ppt. CWD will monitor the 6 PFAS compounds on a quarterly basis in our finished water, as well as in our raw water at Fresh Pond, Stony Brook and Hobbs Brook reservoirs. The early December 2019 PFAS compound test results are in and the total is 15.5 ppt.

Our pilot testing/bench scale testing application is being developed and once completed it will be submitted to MADEP. Various Granular Activated Carbons (GAC) for adsorption will be looked at to reduce the PFAS compounds. We are anticipating a reduction of at least 50% based on existing GAC data. Our goal is to have the 6 PFAS compounds below 10 ppt. Our plan is to have the bench scale testing completed by June and the bidding and installation of the new GAC filter media by the end of 2020. The GAC bench scale testing program and the specific carbon selection needs to be approved by the MADEP.

Questions/Comments: "No" was the response to the question whether PFAS compounds could be prevented from getting into our raw water. Mr. Dowling said it is a "forever" chemical and difficult to degrade and is in many of the products we touch every day. These items include clothing, upholstery, carpeting, dental floss and firefighting foams. "If you choose to use a filter at home to remove PFAS compounds, make sure it has been certified to remove the compounds," said Mr. Corda.

Fresh Pond Reservation Rules and Regulations Discussion: Rules and regulations for Fresh Pond Reservation have been in effect since June 1991; with subsequent revisions as voted by the water board. The watershed team has made additional recommendations to consolidate and clarify the wording to the rules and regulations. The watershed team appreciates any input from the Waterboard. Mr. Kaplan suggests comments be emailed to him and suggests that a vote to approve changes be made over the next few meetings. The law department will review our proposed changes and the final version will be submitted to the City Manager's office for final approval.

Glacken Field Renovation Project – We are working with the design team to incorporate the Master Plan goals. Board members are strongly encouraged to attend the Fresh Pond Advisory Board design meeting on January 23, 2020. Field lighting is a separate issue.

DPW City engineers will present the Glacken Field Renovation plans at the February water board meeting. The bid should go out by the end of February at the latest.

C. OPERATIONS

Transmission and Distribution:

No Comments

Watershed:

It was noted by Ms. Roosevelt that there is a lot of redevelopment in the Winter Street, Waltham area.

Business:

The water fund balance looks good.

Water Operations:

Working through the process of the VFD upgrades with the vendor.

Engineering:

It was asked what a "duct bank" was. Mr. Gallagher replied it is a bank of conduits, up to a dozen, that are buried in the ground and encapsulated in concrete to protect the specific utility lines from being damaged accidentally.

D. ACTION ITEMS

None

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

No Comments

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/TOPICS

- February 11, 2020: Approved/Glacken Field Presentation, PFAS Update, Rules and Regulations continued review
- March 10, 2020: TBA/PFAS Update
- April 14, 2020: TBA/TBD
- May 12, 2020: TBA/TBD
- June 9, 2020: TBA/TBD

Ms. Kelly moved, and Mr. Marshall seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:31 p.m. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.