

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

June 7, 2022

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

This meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m. at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Those in attendance via *Zoom* were:

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

Cambridge Water Department (CWD): Sam Corda, Dave Kaplan, Krystyna McNally, Fred Centanni, Julie Greenwood-Torelli, Jamie O'Connell, Stacey Cooper, Mark Gallagher.

A. MINUTES OF MAY 10, 2022, MEETING

Mr. McNeley moved, and Ms. Lendorff seconded the motion to approve the May 10, 2022, minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Drought /Water Conservation Update: The current drought rules were passed by the state a few years ago. They are extremely sensitive to slight reductions in precipitation. The task force met a few days ago; the secretary of EEA is planning to put on a level 2 Drought. This hasn't come out officially and once it is we will update our web page. We are close to last year's reservoir levels (90%). The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) predicts above average precipitation July through September 2022. US Seasonal Drought Outlook is predicting "Drought Removal Likely" which is in a positive direction. We are continuing with our water conservation efforts via daily social media water conservation tips, and shortly we will add water conservation brochures in with the water bills.

Covid-19 Update: The infection numbers are dropping back down. Otherwise, status quo.

PFAS6 and Filter Media Update: We continue to remain in full compliance with the Mass DEP PFAS Regulations. The EPA should be coming out with a Health Advisory (HA) for Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid (PFOS) and Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA). The EPA plans to reduce PFOA and PFOS HA numbers significantly. Once the HA levels are out, DEP will review and see if they need to make adjustments to the PFAS6 levels, which are or close to the strictest PFAS regulations in the country. Once the Granular Activated Carbon (GAC) is replaced, we will have very low PFAS levels in our water. A contract is in place with Calgon Carbon to replace the GAC filter media. Filter media replacement start time is anticipated to be 4 – 8 weeks.

Questions/Comments: Why has EPA lowered the PFAS limit?

Several years ago, EPA set the level to 70 ppt as the action level. Massachusetts has very low levels at 20 parts per trillion (ppt) for the combination for the 6 PFAS compounds. Mr. Corda said the EPA decided to lower the levels based on re-evaluations after further research. It was noted by Ms. Roosevelt that there are many other PFAS compounds that aren't regulated from an environmental point. Mr. Corda said the good news is the GAC pilot study (testing several PFAS compounds) indicates the carbon is effective at removing all of those compounds.

FY23 Budget Update: Mr. Centanni discussed the FY23 Water Department Operating and Capital Budgets. To view the budget, visit the City Web Page with the link below:

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/Departments/Budget/fy23adoptedbudget>

The Water Department financially is an Enterprise Fund which means that all operating and capital expenditures are funded through our water rates. Water Pumped information allows us to see the trend of what to expect for future billings. Since Covid19, water usage has been difficult to predict. Future projections are based on past projections. We have taken a conservative water usage estimate prediction for future water usage. As of October 2021, pumped water has been increasing slightly. We expect increased FY23 consumption compared to the last year. We have a water fund balance and it allowed us to absorb revenue losses due to Covid19. This year's budget is unique for the water department, and it is the first year where we funded operation costs. Some of the water fund will be used to fund the planned SCADA System (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) upgrade for the treatment plant.

Questions/Comments: What is a water service charge? Our main water revenue source is billed water. Additional funds include cross connection and fire service fees for commercial locations.

Fred will send the waterboard members the water rate letter with historical background that was given to the city council. Feel free to email Fred with any questions or, request a Zoom meeting for detailed questions.

Ms. Roosevelt asked if the budget info could come to the board each April when it's sent to the council. Mr. Corda said it's all public information and this is possible.

GAC filter media replacement funds were appropriated in a prior fiscal year. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds 2.2 million. The priority is the SCADA system upgrade, and this will be put out to bid in July. We are experiencing supply chain issues on ductile iron pipe and a lot of other products.

Our plan is to apply for state funds from the Infrastructure Investment Jobs Act next fiscal year for items such as: planning for/and lead service line replacement.

C. OPERATIONS

Transmission and Distribution: Huron Avenue phase one is completed. Phase two (from Aberdeen to Fresh Pond Parkway) is on hold due to pipe supply issues. Temporarily our pipe installation has come to a halt.

Watershed:

Questions/Comments: Do we have an eta on the MassDOT Hobbs Brook Deicing Study Draft report?

Mr. Kaplan said it was under internal review. Department of Transportation (DOT) is hoping to have something at the end of June/end of July.

Questions/Comments: What is the Mobile Data Management and Reporting tool?

Key Topics: FY23 Budget

Ms. O'Connor said the watershed division is working to develop a tool to manage site monitoring data in a more comprehensive way. This will allow for better managing, tracking and reporting; all in one place. Our prototype was developed in house. Our consultant is making a tool that integrates types of data in a comprehensive way.

Questions/Comments: Will we go ahead with Little Fresh Pond Shoreline Reconstruction? Have we seen the final specs? Funding is in place and currently we are working through additional permitting. Mr. Kaplan said the board saw the final rendering but not the final specifications that were written in the final contract. The concept remains the same, said Mr. Kaplan.

Questions/Comments: Who is doing the Green Street, Waltham design? Ms. O'Connell said VHB is doing it for the company that owns 1265 Main Street in Waltham, which is required to do it as offsite mitigation work for a big phase 2 redevelopment of the parcel, and it's anticipated to create traffic. New infiltration bases will be installed.

Questions/Comments: Proposal to develop a solar field on a steep slope abutting Cambridge land near Hobbs Brook Reservoir will soon begin to apply for permits in Lexington. The proponent acquired a property/access rights from a residential neighborhood in Waltham to access the site. The City of Waltham said zoning rules didn't allow it. A Supreme Judicial Court ruling has determined that access to the site from a Waltham neighborhood is permissible. The city manager and city law department are aware that, due to the project's proximity to our watershed, it is not the ideal land use for that location.

95 & 99 Hayden Avenue and 238 Spring Street in Lexington –Located in northern area of Hobbs Brook watershed. Sizable development proposed with requirement to do some infiltration. No storm water treatment currently. Will be brought up to our current storm water management standards.

Watershed Summary Data: The BETA version report won't be ready for the next water board meeting. Feedback on the format, once available, will be welcome.

Water Operations:

Questions/Comments: Ms. Roosevelt noted the lower monthly average gallons pumped per day (13.04 MGD) especially with the development at North Point and other areas.

Ms. Roosevelt is happy the treatment plant tours are back.

Engineering:

Questions/Comments: None

Business/Billing:

Questions/Comments: FY22 water totals up a bit since FY21

D. ACTION ITEMS

None

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

None

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/AGENDA – Meetings via Zoom

- September 13, 2022: Approved/Distribution System Update
- October 11, 2022: Approved/TBD
- November 8, 2022: TBA/TBD
- December 13, 2022: TBA/TBD

Ms. Roosevelt moved, and Mr. McNeley seconded the motion to adjourn the Zoom meeting at 6: 39 pm. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.