

WATER BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, January 20, 2026

5:00 – 6:30 pm

This meeting will be hybrid both in person at the Cambridge Water Department located at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway and available virtually on Teams:

<https://events.gcc.teams.microsoft.com/event/67988e92-b18c-407e-92ea-af3d2dead539@c06a8be7-8479-4d73-b351-93bc9ba8295c>

A. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 9, 2025, MEETING

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- PFAS
- Drought Status Update

C. OPERATIONS

- Transmission and Distribution
- Fresh Pond Reservation; Cambridge Watershed; Site Plan Review
- Water Operations
 - WTP Operational Status
 - Water Quality
- Engineering & Program Development
 - GIS
- Business
 - FY26 Cross Connection Program Results through December 2025
 - FY26 Consumption through December 2025
 - Water Fund Balance as of 6-30-2025

D. ACTION ITEMS

- None

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE and ITEMS OF INTEREST

- None

F. NEW BUSINESS

- None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/AGENDA

- February 10th, 2026: TBA/TBD

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

December 12th, 2025

This meeting is available virtually on Zoom and in person. This meeting is being recorded.

This meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. Those in attendance were:

Cambridge Water Board (CWB): Tahir Kapoor, Kathleen Kelly, Jim Burruss

Cambridge Water Department (CWD): Mark Gallagher, Fred Centanni, Dave Kaplan, and Rich Holly.

A: MINUTES OF NOVEMBER MEETING

Ms. Kelly and Mr. Kapoor will be waiting until the January meeting for those who attended the November meeting to approve.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PFAS Update: The standard is 20 parts per trillion per state. If you're between 10-20 parts per trillion, then you must take monthly samples. If you are below 10 parts per trillion, then you take quarterly samples.

Our fourth quarter sample was 4.42 part per trillion. The next annual GAC media change out will begin on January 16

Drought status: The state is still at a level 1 mild drought.

Ken Wagner's Presentation on Little Fresh Pond:

- The smell is common in fertile ponds with excessive productivity.
- No major toxic threat.
- The main issue is low oxygen in much of the pond, especially deeper than 3ft.
- Recommends aluminum sulfate for long term water quality.

Questions:

- Q. Before we start the solution, do we need to consult with the department of environmental protection?
- A. We will need to apply for a permit from the local conservation commission. We then get a license to apply chemicals through the DEP.
- Q. If we do nothing, will this be the blacks nook problem all over again?
- A. Pretty much, it will keep it just as dense.

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Q. Is there a particular time of year to treat?

A. Yes, you want to do it when the plants are not growing. Typically, April and early May.

Q. Would we be putting up a sign stating that we are treating?

A. Ken would suggest putting up signage, but the DEP does not require it.

Voting for scoping and implanting an aluminum treatment for the spring: Kathleen Kelly, Tahir Kapoor and James Burruss all vote yes.

C. ACTION ITEMS:

- None

D. NEW BUSINESS:

- None

E. NEXT MEETING: DATES/AGENDA:

January 13th, 2026.

Mr. Burruss moved and Mr. Kapoor Seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:12 pm. All were in favor of the motion.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- PFAS
- Drought Status

C. OPERATIONS – Transmission and Distribution, December 2025

- Continue working with and supporting DPW regarding sewer separation, Chapter 90 Street and Sidewalk Reconstruction, and Common Manhole Removal Contracts.
- Scheduling lead water service replacements within DPW Chapter 90 Contract 25.
- Work with DPW and contractors on several water main projects that include:
- **DPW Chap 90 Contract 25** - Working with DPW Project Engineers and Contractor on water distribution infrastructure upgrades:
 - **Dana St** – Continued replacement of 2200 ft 10” unlined Cast Iron with 8” cement-lined Ductile Iron to include all valves, hydrants, and service connections, and remove all lead service lines. Currently scheduled to start new 8” water main between Harvard St – Mass Ave. Project is 85% complete.
 - **Sciarappa St (Fall 2025)** - Replace 1780 ft 6” unlined Cast Iron with 8” cement-lined Ductile Iron to include all valves, hydrants, and service connections, and replace all lead service lines with copper. To begin Spring 2026
- **DPW Chap 90 Contract 26**
 - **Carlisle St** - In-house contractor to replace ~400 feet of 6” cast iron pipe with 8” ductile iron pipe to include all new valves and replace all lead line services with copper(4).
- **DPW Sewer Separation Port Project** - Working with DPW Project Engineers and Contractor on water distribution infrastructure upgrades, replacing 12,509 feet of water main in the Port area to include all valves, hydrants, service connections, and removal of all lead service lines. The current project is out to bid with an opening date of January 29, 2026.
- **DPW Mass Ave 4 Phase 1** - Working with DPW Project Engineers and Contractor on water distribution infrastructure upgrades within the Mass Ave bike lane project from the Cambridge Common to Alewife Brook Parkway. This includes water main sections, valves, hydrants, and service connections, as well as the removal of all lead service lines.
 - **Mass @ Linnaean** – Complete as of 11/26/25
 - **Mass @ Jarvis St** – Remove and replace existing hydrant connections and install new fire hydrants fed from the existing 20” water main. Work is scheduled for the week of November 10th. New tees and connections installed.
 - **Mass @ Wendell & Shepard** – New installation of water main and crossings to begin mid-November. Permitted to begin on 11/19/25
- **MassDOT (Boulevard Project #607981)** – We continue to engage in ongoing meetings and discussions with MassDOT regarding the McGrath O’Brien Highway reconstruction project, spanning from Third Street to Rufo Road. The project is tentatively scheduled to begin construction in April 2027. Community meetings have started, and the final meeting with DOT is pending.
- **5 Craigie Circle Construction** – Review design and comment on the new three-story building. New 6” private water main to come from the existing 20” cast iron main on Craigie St. CWD recommending redundancy at the main(Installation of 2 new 20” butterfly valves)
- **Distribution Staff**
 - Continue to field lead line calls from residents who have received notices that were recently mailed out(December 22nd). Calls include notifying residents of the options to renew lead service lines.
 - Continuing to replace, repair, and thaw out fire hydrants that are damaged or frozen.
 - Continually working on in house database(Megalodon) to eliminate/update “unknown” services
 - Cross-checking all lead line records for accuracy with the new map created by our IT staff

C. OPERATIONS – Transmission and Distribution, December 2025

December 2025 Distribution Crew Work

• Work Orders Completed	12
• Leaks Repaired	7
• Hydrants Repaired/Replaced	2
• Valves Repaired/Replaced	1
• Gate boxes Reset/Replaced	1
• Water main repair/replace	5
• Valves Exercised	302
• Inspections Performed	172
• Dig Safe utility mark-outs	378

C. OPERATIONS – Watershed, December, 2025

- I. *Fresh Pond Reservation:*
 1. *Landscape Maintenance* – Winter deicing operations in effect.
 2. *Little Fresh Pond* – Ken Wagner presented his in-pond study findings and recommendations to the Water Board 12/9. The Water and Fresh Pond Master Plan Advisory Boards both supported annual alum treatments for water column nutrient inactivation as an initial intervention aimed at reducing aquatic weeds and potential cyanobacteria blooms
- II. *Cambridge Watershed:*
 1. *Stony Brook Gatehouse Low Sluice Gate Repairs:* 11/10 work identified an unanticipated needed part. Work is postponed until the new part is fabricated and delivered
 2. *Drought Status:* Level 1 (Mild Drought) continues. Still partially reliant on Hobbs Brook Reservoir through the middle of December.
- III. *Reporting and Website:*
 1. *Site Monitoring Program Tool:* New inspections forms completed. Consultants working to tie those into the map browser for field access.
- IV. *Projects Overview:*
 1. Construction projects in Waltham at 305 Second Ave and 40 Sylvan Road are ongoing.
 2. Plans for redeveloping 1342, 1345, 1362, and 1486 Main Street, Waltham are in development.
 3. Bridge replacement and roadway construction at Rt 2A over I-95 in Lexington is ongoing.
 4. Multiple subdivision or multi-unit housing projects in Lexington and Weston are in the pipeline (Weston: 0 Wellesley St; Lexington: 15-17 Fairland St). Construction is currently ongoing in Weston for a small subdivision at 576 North Ave, a 40B housing project at 269 North Ave, and an apartment complex at 751-761 Boston Post Road.
 5. 104 Boston Post Road (Weston) Housing Appeals Committee (HAC) hearings concluded in April 2021. The HAC issued a decision June 22, 2023 to overturn the Weston Zoning Board of Appeals denial of a comprehensive permit. Litigation ongoing.
 6. 125 Spring Street, Lexington – a proposed redevelopment with solar parking canopies and geothermal heating/cooling for the building. The project requires a groundwater discharge permit. No updates.
- V. *Comment Letters/Hearings:* None
- VI. *Communications:* Discussed projects with Town Officials and project proponents regarding 27 Canaan Dr, Lincoln. CWD is investigating the possibility of expanding Zone A designations into that area.
- VII. *Site Visits:* Reservoir caretaker and ranger routine land inspections only.
- VIII. *Hazmat:* No incidents



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
MASSACHUSETTS
Water Department
250 Fresh Pond Parkway
Cambridge, MA 02138
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January 5, 2025

DECEMBER 2025 WATER SUPPLY SUMMARY REPORT

Highlights

- The December percent water supply system capacity of 40% (based on 2.9BG usable capacity) is:
 - 2 percentage points higher than November 2025 (38%);
 - 4 percentage points higher than December 2024 (36%); and
 - 19 percentage points higher than December 2016 (21%, the seventh month of the 2016-2017 drought)
- Precipitation at the Lincoln Field Office in December 2025 totaled 2.87 inches, 0.89 inches below the National Climate Data Center (NCDC)'s monthly normal at Bedford Hanscom Field (4.24 inches).
- The current drought status set by the MA EEA Secretary is at Level 1 – Mild Drought.

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Storage

Figure 1: Hobbs Brook Reservoir Storage, December 2025

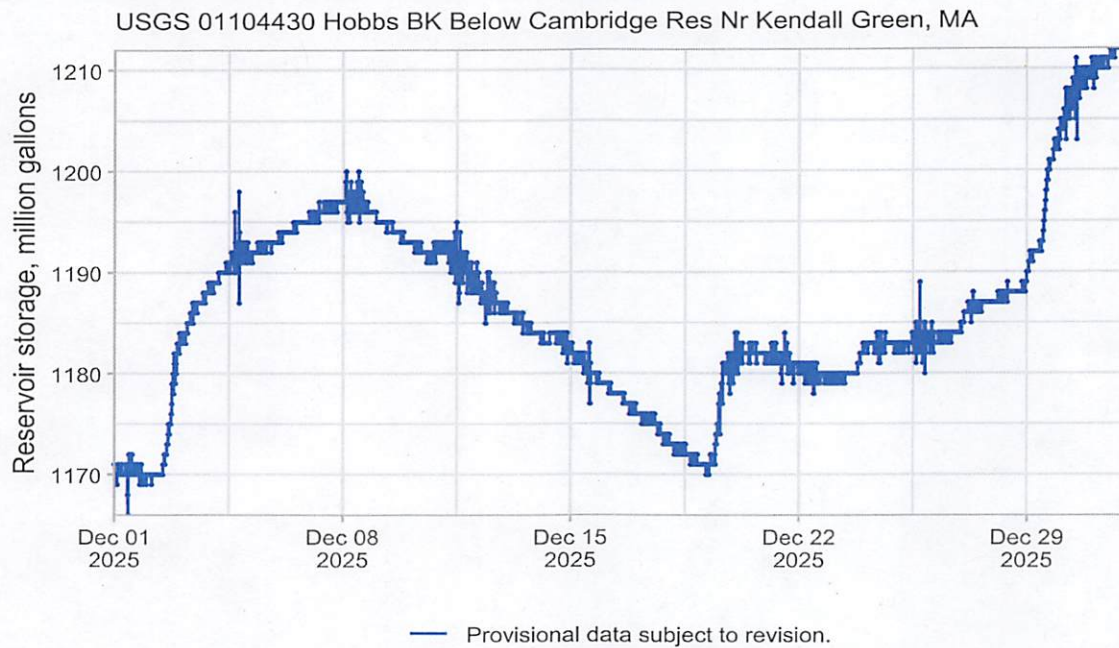


Figure 2: Stony Brook Reservoir Storage, December 2025

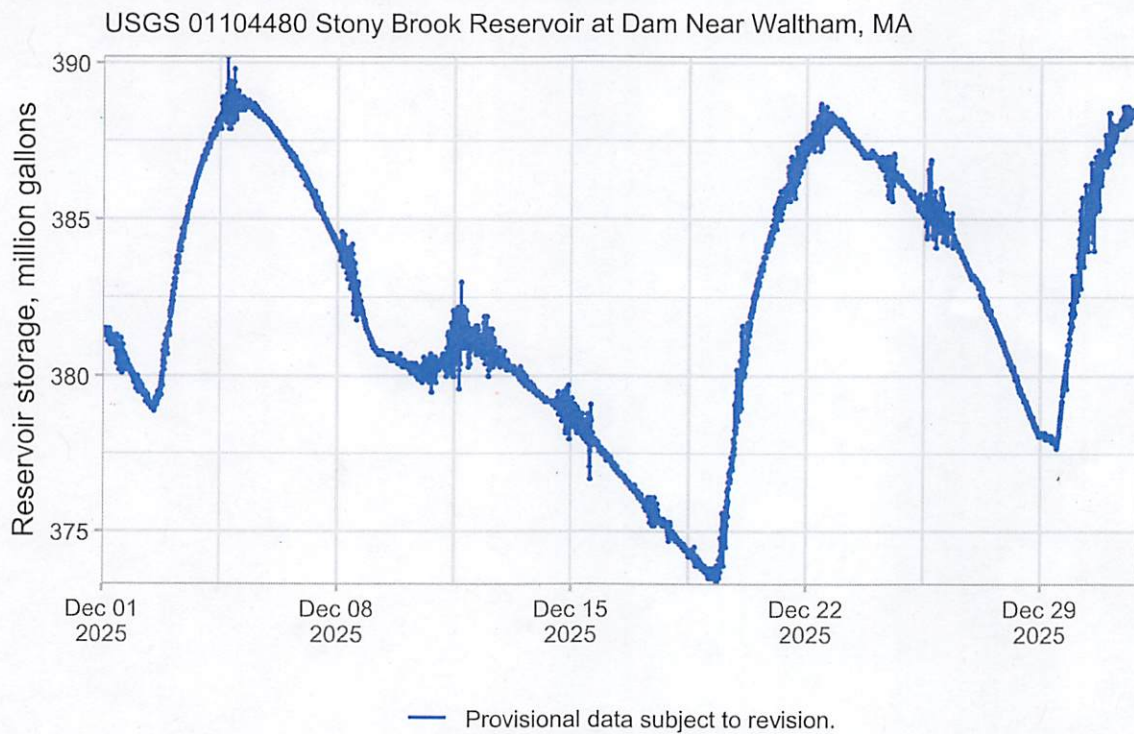


Figure 3: Fresh Pond Reservoir Storage, December 2025

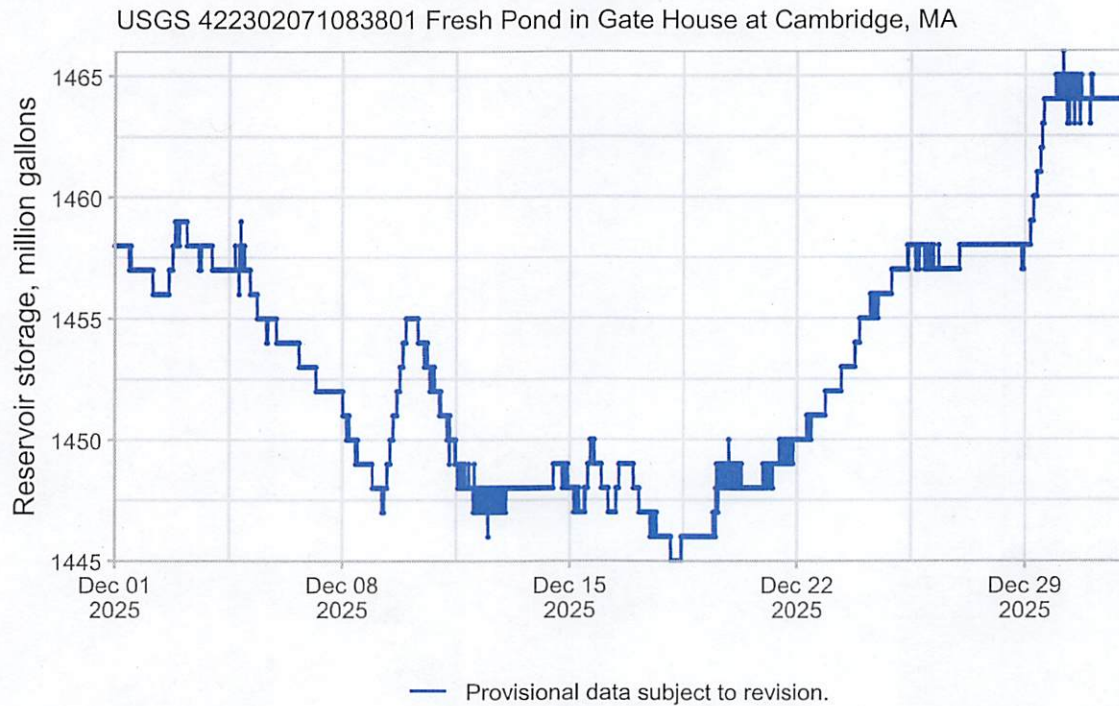
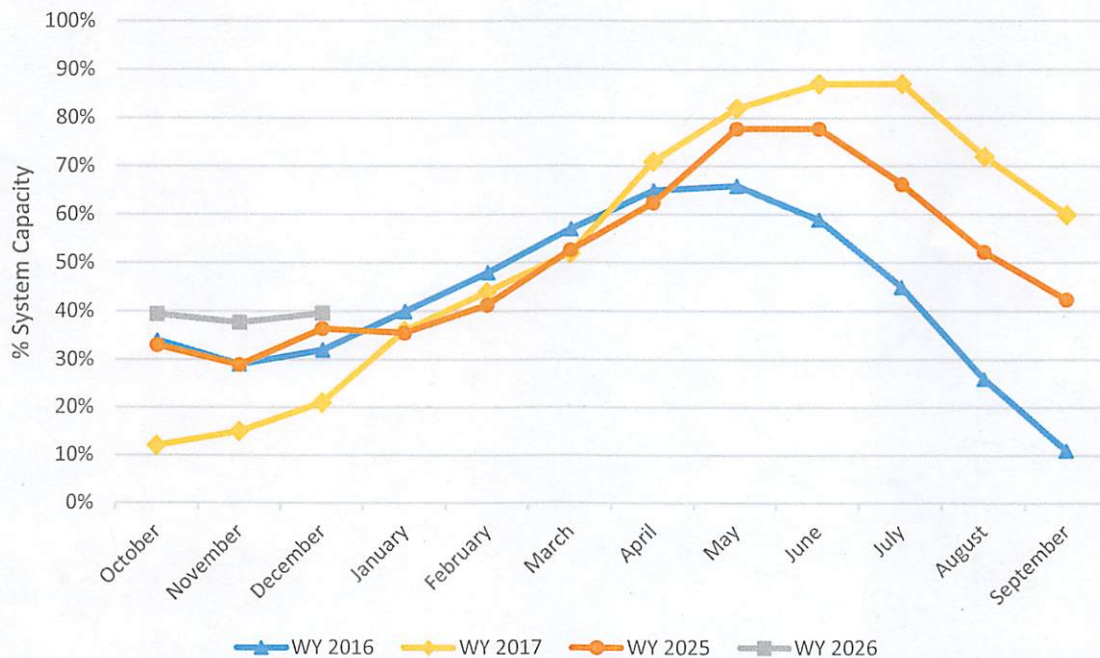
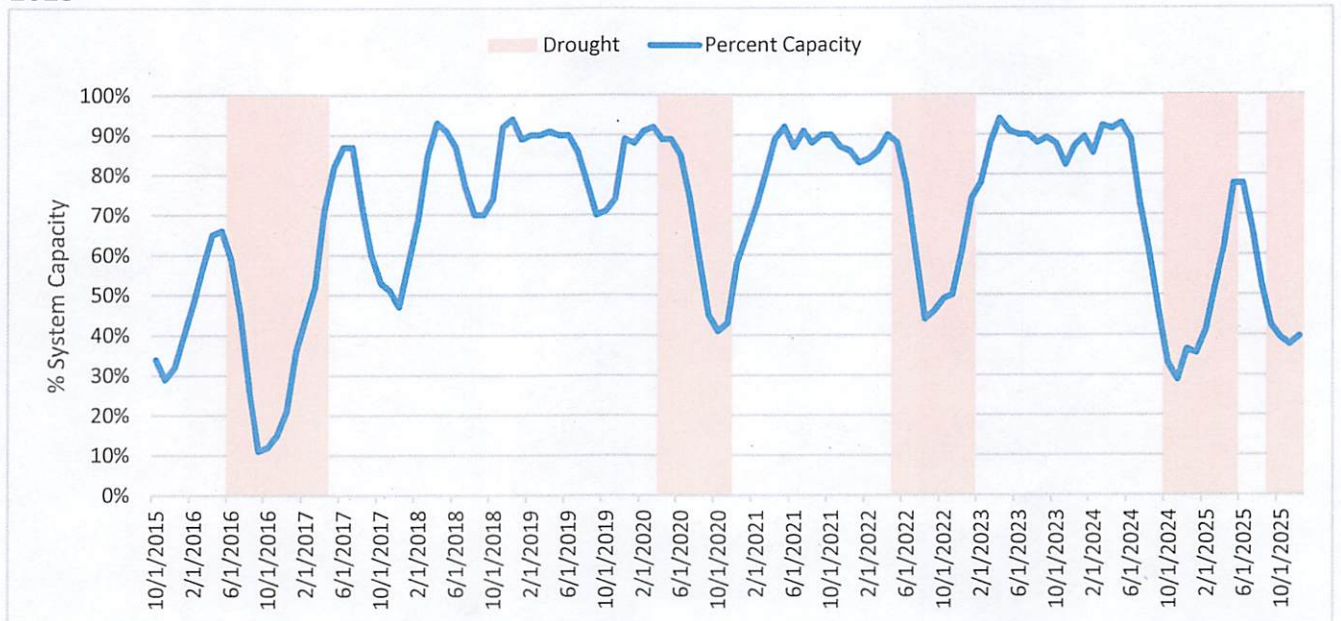


Figure 4: CWD % System Capacity, Water Years 2016 and 2017 (drought), 2025, and 2026



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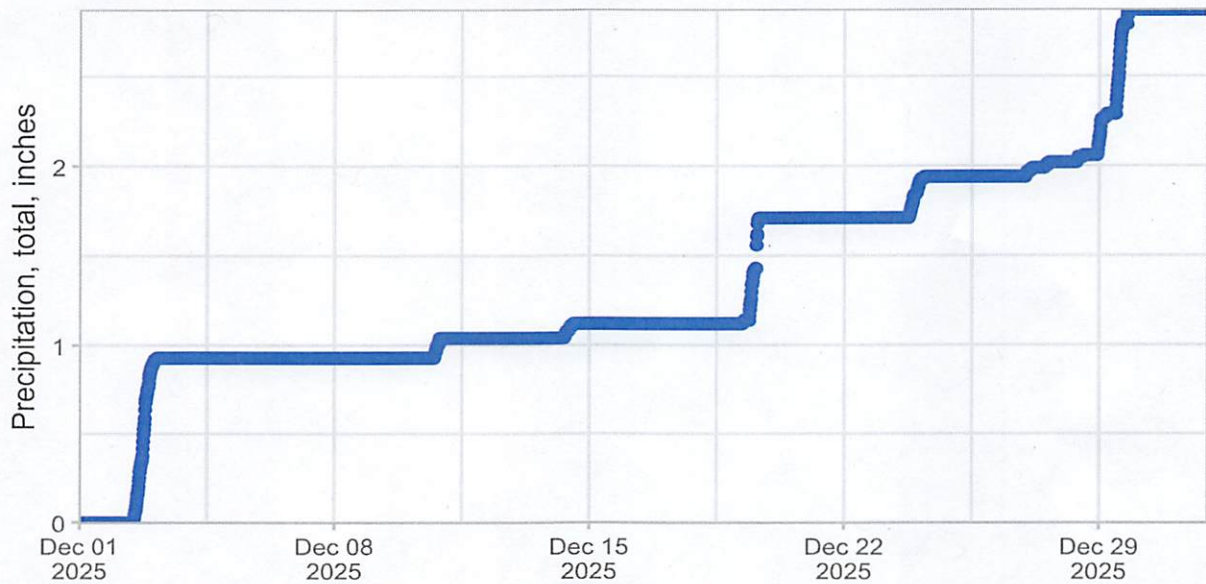
Figure 5. Percent Monthly Supply Capacity from December 2015 through December 2025



Precipitation

Figure 6: Precipitation measured at Lincoln Field Office, December 2025

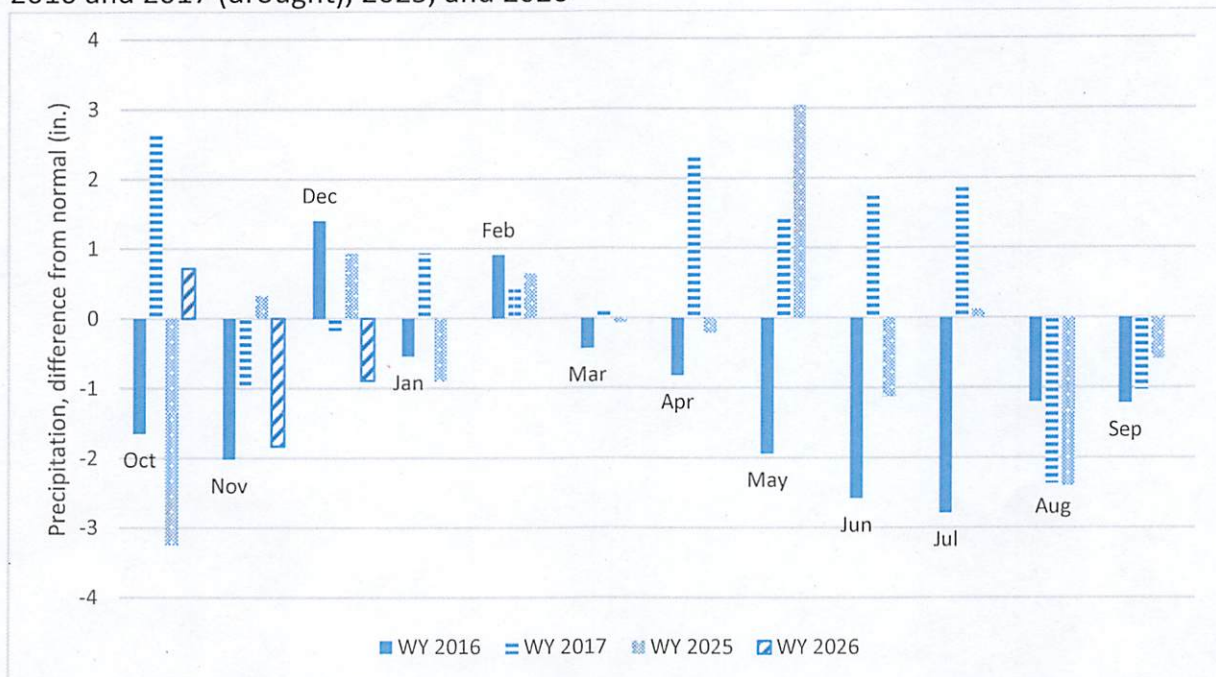
USGS 422518071162501 Cambridge Res., Met. Station, Near Lexington, MA



● Provisional data subject to revision.

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Figure 7: Monthly Precipitation (Lincoln Field Office) Relative to Normal, Water Years 2016 and 2017 (drought), 2025, and 2026



Lindsay VanFossen
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Real-time data available on the web at
[Cambridge Water Supply Monitoring Locations - USGS Water Data for the Nation](#)

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C. OPERATIONS – Engineering and Program Development, December 2025

COMPLETED ITEMS

- Hired two Engineering Interns from Northeastern University.
- Completed all edits to the distribution system and printed out a draft copy for Distribution Staff to review.
- Completed entering all parks and garden information into the in-house database to help track water usage at all City parks & gardens

C. OPERATIONS – Engineering and Program Development, December 2025

CONSTRUCTION / WATER USE PERMITS

- 14 construction permits issued in December 2025

PROJECTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Utility Design Reviews:**

Provided engineering feedback on utility design plans for the following addresses:

73 Kirkland St., 47 – 49 Magoun St., 10 Fawcett St., 16 Worcester St., 44 – 46 Callender St., 7 Blanchard Rd., 4 – 6 – 8 Holyworthy Terrace, 204 Garden St., 68 Francis Ave., 345 Washington St., 110 Reed St., 17 Hollis St., 165 Brattle St., 719 Memorial Dr., 68 Mt. Auburn St., 665 Green St., 111 Grozier Rd., 29 Sargent St., 30 Dudley St., 17 Berkeley St., 28 – 30 Magazine St., Magazine Beach, 109 Lakeview Ave., 325 Binney St., 290 Binney St., 76 Brattle St., 82 Avan Hill, 25 Homer Ave., 18 Clinton St., 303 Harvard St., 74 Kirkland St., 11 – 15 Hubbard Park Rd., 29 Follen St., 27 Alewife Brook Parkway, 79 Sherman St., 19 Kelly Rd., 27 Jay St., 103 Raymond St., 250 Water St., 15 Fairmont St., 33 Kirkland St., 269 Harvard St., 12 Maple Ave., 42 Dana St., 383 – 385 Windsor St., 11 – 13 Dover St., 32 Magoun St., 21 – 23 Hunting St., 1 Merrill St., 39 Sixth St., 585 Third St. (aka 585 Kendall), 316 Pearl St., 624 Green St. & 121 – 123 Broadway.

- **Private Development & Coordination with DPW:**

- Harvard Square Kiosk
- Jefferson Park Federal Parcel
- Chapter 90 Contract 26
- Inman St (Hampshire to Broadway)
- Walden Square Apartments
- Broadway Safety Project – Under Review by CWD

- **City Projects – Water Main (WM):**

- Coordination with Eversource Gas for citywide utility replacement
- Active WM projects:
 - Dana Street
 - Massachusetts Avenue @ Wendell St
 - Chetwynd Road (in-house)
 - Hillside Avenue (in-house)
 - Carlisle Street

GIS & DATABASE UPDATES

- Ongoing GIS edits to distribution maps and valve/hydrant systems.
- Continuing to update the Fire Hydrant Database and system valve IDs as part of the valve exercising program.
- Continued tracking of lead service lines using the in-house system “Megalodon”.
- Updating the “Service Cards” spreadsheet – linking card locations with sketches for field identification.
- Development of a “List of All Lead Services” report for inclusion in the Monthly Lead Report.
- Compilation of monthly summary reports on lead service line elimination.
- Edits for citywide GIS water maps, adding service information and performing quality control.
- Updated the WM/Service Leak Layer with Distribution Division work orders (2013–2025).
- Continued use of Viewpoint Cloud to process demolition and building permits.
- Completed interviews & hired two new Engineering interns for the period of January through the end of June for 2026

C. OPERATIONS – Engineering and Program Development, December 2025

COMPLETED ITEMS

- **Hired two Engineering Interns from Northeastern University.**
- **Completed all edits to the distribution system and printed out a draft copy for Distribution Staff to review.**
- **Completed entering all parks and garden information into the in-house database to help track water usage at all City parks & gardens**

C. OPERATIONS - Business, December 2025

FY26 Billings			
Month	Billed Water Consumption	Month	Billed Water Consumption
July	381,061	January	0
August	838,272	February	0
September	307,560	March	0
October	919,450	April	0
November	327,009	May	0
December	250,021	June	0
		FY26 TOTAL	3,023,373
		FY25 TOTAL	2,813,862
			7.45%

Cross Connection Program Results		
	November	
Total Tests		Fails
335		11

Water Fund Balance: \$4.4 M (6-30-2025)

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D. ACTION ITEMS

- None

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE and ITEMS OF NTEREST

- None

F. NEW BUSINESS

- None

G. NEXT MEETING DATE/AGENDA

- February 10th, 2026: TBA/TBD