

Key Topics: Drought/Water Conservation, PFAS6, Filter Media & Pilot Parking Plan Proposal

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

February 21, 2023

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

This meeting was called to order at 5:00 p.m., those in attendance via *Zoom* were:

Cambridge Water Board (CWB): James Burruss, Benjamas Lendorff and Mike McNeley.

Cambridge Water Department (CWD): Sam Corda, Fred Centanni, Krystina McInally, Julie Greenwood-Torelli, Jamie O'Connell and Mark Gallagher

A. MINUTES OF JANUARY 10, 2022, MEETING

Mr. Burruss moved, and Mr. McNeley seconded the motion to approve the January 10, 2022, minutes. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Drought /Water Conservation Update: As of February 13th, 2023, the EEA secretary has said that we are at normal conditions. Hobbs Brook is getting close to being full.

PFAS6 and Filter Media Update: As presented by Julie Greenwood-Torelli in slideshow format. What are PFAS? (Per-and Poly Fluoro Alkyl Substances): A group of persistent synthetic compounds used to make fluoropolymer coatings and products that resists heat, grease, oil, stains and water.

PFAS is measured in parts per trillion (ppt). 1 ppt is equivalent to a single drop of water in 20 Olympic sized swimming pools.

Ms. Greenwood-Torelli's presentation included the following topics:

PFAS Background and Regulations
Cambridge PFAS Results
CWD PFAS Treatment Option
GAC Filter Media Changeouts
Timeline & Future Goals

A link to this presentation can be found at:

[Microsoft PowerPoint - Feb2023 WB PFAS JGREEN-T.pptx - Read-Only \(cambridgema.gov\)](#)

Questions/Comments: Mr. McNeley and Ms. Lendorff appreciate the new public outreach tools. Mr. McNeley thinks that being pro-active is great and said the more transparency we have and the more we can educate the population, the better.

Questions/Comments: Are there regulations in place that would allow us to push back on any potential PFAS polluters of the watershed?

Mr. Corda said, through the state regulatory process, we have a right to make polluters clean up. Firefighting foams containing PFAS were banned in 2008. Many non-stick cookware contains PFAS. There are now substitutes available for PFOS and PFOA free cookware.

C. OPERATIONS

Transmission and Distribution:

Questions/Comments: None

Watershed:

Questions/Comments: It was noted there were a few Hazmat spills in our watershed of late. Ms. O'Connell said it was a coincidence and a bit unusual. None were large and we were quick to respond and contain the spills and there was no impact to the water supply.

Water Operations:

Questions/Comments: There was a sampling error, either in sampling or transportation, by our two new co-ops in January which resulted in 2 false positives for total coliform. It was not in our system. When we re-sampled, performing extra testing, we did not find anything. We are using this as a "teaching" moment for the co-ops and provided the co-ops with re-training.

Engineering:

Questions/Comments: None

Business/Billing:

Questions/Comments: From a water billing perspective we are up a little over 8% from July to January. For the first time in 3 years, we are getting closer to pre-Covid levels of water consumption. More recently we are close to 13 MGD. We have been on the positive side for most of the past year. Unofficially the water fund balance is at 3.5 to 4 million dollars.

Other:

Questions/Comments: Due to the recent toxic chemical spill in Ohio, it was asked what we would do in such an event if it happened in our region/watershed.

We have a Massachusetts Contingency Plan which is overseen by MassDEP. We have protocols in place. We have a very flexible system and elaborate documentation of our drainage system, trained first responders/firefighters, regional hazmat team and containment materials. We have the option of shutting down our reservoir and, if needed, we can switch to our back up supply, MWRA, while events are situated. A response would be very quick due to our on-site caretakers. An emergency operation center would be set up. Communication would go through the city manager's office and the public information office. We had a flood in 2001 in the plant and that was the process that we established.

We have had training exercises in the past which included first responders from several towns. The Cambridge Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) meets quarterly. Mr. Kaplan typically attends these meetings.

D. ACTION ITEMS

None

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E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

None

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/AGENDA – Meetings via Zoom

- March 14, 2023: Approved/Transmission and Distribution System Update
- April 11, 2023: Approved/TBD
- May 9, 2023: TBA/TBD
- June 13, 2023: TBA/TBD

Note: Mr. Corda is retiring, and this may be his last waterboard meeting. Since overseeing the waterboard, Mr. Corda said it's been interesting, challenging, rewarding and he appreciates everyone's participation. It is anticipated that the president of the waterboard will be involved in the interview process for the selection of the next managing director.

The board thanked Mr. Corda for a superb job.

Mr. Burruss moved, and Ms. Lendorff seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:19 pm.