

Key Topics: PFAS Update, CWD Laboratory State Certification Process Presentation

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

## MEETING MINUTES

May 9, 2023

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

This meeting was called to order at 5:04 p.m., those in attendance via *Zoom* were:

**Cambridge Water Board (CWB):** Ann Roosevelt, Benjamas Lendorff and Mike McNeley.  
**Cambridge Water Department (CWD):** Mark Gallagher, Fred Centanni, Julie Greenwood-Torelli, Rich Lagerholm, Katie Orciuch, Dave Kaplan and Jamie O'Connell.

### A. MINUTES OF APRIL 11, 2023, MEETING

Mr. McNeley moved, and Ms. Lendorff seconded the motion to approve the April 11, 2023, minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

### B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PFAS Update: March PFAS results were 2.8ppt. April test results were 2.44ppt. Because we came in consistently under the 10ppt threshold each month, we were granted a waiver by the state to allow for quarterly PFAS monitoring. However, due to our new carbon filters, we will continue to sample from the combined filter effluent on a monthly basis. We have a tap which collects water from the six filters, which is essentially a finished water sample but not coming from the tap, so it will not be sent to Mass DEP. We are closely monitoring the treatment process to find ways to maximize our pre-treatment and with warmer weather coming we will have to change some parameters. The PFAS testing equipment has been delivered. Currently we are waiting on the extractor and lab bench. Once we are ready to go, the company "Waters" will install the testing machine.

When the PFAS monitoring equipment is in place we can begin monitoring PFAS ourselves. Up until now, our concerns have been sampling pricing and turnaround time for results. When our own equipment is up and running, we can get those results faster. We can take samples throughout the process including out in the watershed. We have to get certified, and it does take time (could be 12 months) but that doesn't mean we can't utilize the equipment.

CWD Laboratory State Certification Process: Presented in slide format by Julie Greenwood-Torelli. A link to this presentation may be found at: <https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/waterdepartment/waterboardminutes/labcertificationppforwaterboard.pdf>

Questions/Comments: It was asked if there was enough room in the lab for the new testing equipment. Ms. Greenwood-Torelli said there's been some small modifications made for venting. There is room and we are prepared.

Questions/Comments: Ms. Roosevelt asked if, once the PFAS machines come online, we intend on taking samples from the watershed to try to find where the PFAS origins are. Ms. Greenwood-Torelli replied "Yes." "We want to collect more location samples."

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*Questions/Comments:* Approximately 50,000 samples are processed annually by our lab. Not all samples cost the same amount of money. PFAS samples cost between \$300-\$500 per test and require two samples per site.

*Questions/Comments:* Could another city or town ask for our sampling assistance? Ms. Greenwood-Torelli said the City made the decision not to allow this. We provide free lead and copper testing to our residents. To provide services to other towns, we would need more space, equipment, and more staff to do so. Ms. Roosevelt feels that could be a burden to our already busy lab.

### **C. OPERATIONS**

#### **Transmission and Distribution:**

*Questions/Comments:* Harvard Square Kiosk Project is 99 % complete. Due to issues in the MBTA tunnel (falling ceiling panels) the DPW has halted all construction activity at this site. The city owns the property and will lease out the space once the project is completed.

#### **Watershed:**

*Questions/Comments:* Mass DEP resubmitted the 2022 ESPR to MEPA. MASS DEP wanted MASS DOT to add an appendix. In April CWD re-submitted nearly identical comments and a few additions based on a salt study review.

Solar Field Proposal: CWD submitted comments on 4/6 and 4/29 after the applicant issued a response. Ms. Roosevelt acknowledged this is a complicated issue.

CWD observed a multi-story landscape material dump site/encroachment on the northwest side of the northern basin of Stony Brook Reservoir. This has been out there for decades, if not longer. We don't typically have the opportunity to go into the upper basin very much because we don't have a boat launch there. The water level was low because we had drawn down the levels at Stony Brook Reservoir to allow Mass DOT dive teams to inspect the Stony Brook Reservoir culverts that connect the upper and lower basin under Route 95. We may scope a long-term capital slope improvement project to identify opportunities to remove materials, improve ecological value, and improve stability of the slope to reduce erosion into the reservoir. We have no trespassing signs posted. CWD feels that motion sensor cameras are not reliable in providing helpful information and have no plans at this time of installing these.

#### **Water Operations:**

*Questions/Comments:* The daily April average was 14.6 MG. April storage capacity looks great.

Chosen by the state to receive an award as one of the distinguished operators for the Northeast Region, Julie Greenwood-Torelli was acknowledged and congratulated by the board.

#### **Engineering:**

*Questions/Comments:* The Engineering department must review all engineered stamped drawings. As water we are involved in some way with every project out there.

#### **Business/Billing:**

*Questions/Comments:* No Comments

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**D. ACTION ITEMS**

None

**E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST**

*Lexington Solar Farm:* The proponent moved the development out of the Zone “A”. They don’t have a clear sense of just where the Zone “A” is. We gave their wetlands scientists permission to access our property to delineate the wetland resources. We have asked them to clearly delineate the limit of work so there is no opportunity to make a mistake during the construction.

*MassDOT 2022 Snow and Ice Control Program:* Jamie O’Connell sent a letter (dated April 20, 2023) to Secretary Tepper’s office at the EEA. CWD would like more clarification about how their salt application policies are arrived at. Their response is pending. Ms. Roosevelt thanked Ms. O’Connell and said the letter lays out the issue for us very well.

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**G. NEXT MEETING DATES/AGENDA – Meetings via Zoom**

- June 13, 2023: Approved/TBD
- September 12, 2023: TBA/TBD

Ms. Roosevelt moved, and Ms. Lendorff seconded the motion to adjourn the Zoom meeting at 6:24 pm. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.