

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

December 13, 2022

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

This meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m., those in attendance via *Zoom* were:

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

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

A. MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 15, 2022, MEETING

Mr. Burruss moved, and Ms. Lendorff seconded the motion to approve the November 15, 2022, minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Drought /Water Conservation Update: We continue at level one drought status. Since September we've had increased rainfall but continue to be ~6.5" short of the average annual precipitation for 2022. We are slightly gaining capacity at each rainfall event on Hobbs Brook Reservoir, particularly since the flow has been shut off for the winter.

Questions/Comments: Regarding water level and precipitation - Does it make a big difference if precipitation is in form of rainfall or snow? Mr. Kaplan said it's a timing issue and a lot of snowpack won't be usable until the spring thaw.

PFAS6 and Filter Media Update: Owen O'Riordan has been appointed as the deputy city manager for the City of Cambridge. CWD, as well as several other city departments, will be reporting directly to Mr. O'Riordan. We went online/ran our own water starting on November 19th and things have gone well. The CWD PFAS6 result prior to going online tested at 2.92 ppt's for 2 filters with the media changed out and the remaining filters having the old filter media. The two filters with new carbon media results were "not-detected" (ND) for PFAS. CWD is going for a city appropriation of approximately \$4.7 million to pay for the MWRA water that was used for 82 days along with a second appropriation of about \$700,000 to purchase new PFAS testing equipment for the Department.

Julie Greenwood-Torelli said filters #1 and #2 are now complete and we are in the sampling phase. These filters are pending test results before we return them into service. Early January 2023 has been set for the last two filter media replacements to occur.

Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has been working with us during the filter media changeout process and while offline and had quick responses to our requests and the staff had phenomenal responses to get us back on CWD water as soon as allowed by DEP and the City Manager's Office.

Key Topics: Drought/Water Conservation, PFAS6 & Filter Media Updates

Questions/Comments: The filter media is “back washed” as it is used, and we will see what the PFAS removals will be going forward. The amount of Granulated Active Carbon (GAC) media in one filter bed fills five tractor trailer loads.

Questions/Comments: We have made progress with PFAS and also improved information dissemination on hardness and chlorides to minimize resident’s situations where they have to replace the hot water heaters or components.

Ms. Roosevelt suggested a nice, simple letter from Mr. Corda and Ms. Greenwood-Torelli to the city manager and city council after all the filters are on and data is available, defining what has happened.

We are in regular communication with the city manager’s office. We’ve worked with the health department and had a meeting with the city council recently. We are working to upgrade our webpage to make it more straight forward for plumbers to understand our water chemistry so that they can design systems specifically for our water hardness and chloride levels. We have also worked with the Inspectional Services Department (ISD). They have a link to our webpage so plumbers and contractors can look at the water quality report and highlight all areas to better design their systems for Cambridge water chemistry. We are looking to enhance our chloride information online.

Lexington Solar Array: A solar farm is being proposed on 5.5 acres of privately owned land directly abutting Hobbs Brook Reservoir located in Lexington. CWD has objected to the project. If the project is approved, 800 trees will be cut down. Some of the proposed real estate is located in our Zone A and as a minimum we should be able to reduce the amount of acreage that they can use for the solar array. We are working with the city manager and law department to determine if there are other options available to object to this solar proposal. There are a significant amount of Waltham and Lexington residents who are opposing the entire project. There are limited actions the planning board can take. The applicant must figure out how to meet the Lexington Storm Water Bylaw which is where this Zone A piece comes into place. We are hoping they will bring back the development proposal from the Zone “A” because they can’t install storm water drainage within the Zone A. There are also concerns of electrical or brush fires that could occur from the solar array at the site and the potential risk from run off onto our land from the various firefighting methodologies that may be used.

C. OPERATIONS

Transmission and Distribution:

Questions/Comments: None

Watershed:

Questions/Comments: Ms. Roosevelt is amazed on the number of projects going on near our watershed.

Questions/Comments: Costco gas station - Project has been re-started after Waltham originally denied special permit. Proponent will propose the project with a few modifications. Applicant

Key Topics: Drought/Water Conservation, PFAS6 & Filter Media Updates

has not reached out to CWD at this current time and the project has not been placed on any agendas at this time.

Questions/Comments: RE: Encroachments onto Cambridge Watershed Protection Land next to Wagon Wheel nursery. A boundary line survey was done, and we saw a few new things/encroachments since our last visit. A new outfall was observed and possible further encroachment onto our property. Encroachment dates back to the early 1990's, stemmed originally from a misunderstanding of the property line. A surveyor was hired by CWD to resurvey some old boundaries including this boundary. CWD inspected the site after the survey was completed and reached out to property owner to encourage retreat onto their own property and to work on a restoration plan. This is in process. The law department may need to get involved. Mr. Kaplan gave a quick plug to our caretakers patrolling our watershed areas who are our "eyes and ears".

Water Operations:

Questions/Comments: Our average daily water usage amount is currently about 11 million gallons (MGD).

Engineering:

Questions/Comments: What is Viewpoint Cloud?

Viewpoint Cloud is a Citywide program used to electronically keep track of the permitting process. This helps with oversight, and communication of all Eversource gas main installs within the City.

Business/Billing:

Questions/Comments: The water fund balance is at \$8.69 million.

D. ACTION ITEMS

Election of the President:

Ms. Roosevelt was nominated to be the President of the Cambridge Water Board for 2023.

Ms. Lendorff moved, and Mr. Burruss seconded the motion to elect Ms. Roosevelt as President of the Water Board for CY2023. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

Pilot Parking Program to Allow Fresh Pond Reservation Parking Pass for Cambridge Residents Who Don't Own a Vehicle and Use Short Term Rental Cars: The subcommittee meeting didn't happen as originally planned. Mr. Corda proposes a pilot study to begin mid-January 2023. Using two forms of Cambridge residency (valid driver's license being one of these id's) the person would come to the front desk and fill out a day use permit. A paper day permit would be provided, to be filled out and placed on their dash. This is the same process that is currently in place for day users coming to the treatment plant. Data would be entered into a database to track all of these special requests. Data/stats could be provided at every waterboard meeting. Ms. Roosevelt suggested that the board wait and vote on this at the next waterboard meeting.

Ms. Roosevelt announced Mike McNeley is resigning from the Board and will stay on the board until another member has been approved. Ms. Roosevelt said he has been a wonderful influence and is sad to see him go. Although leaving the board, Mr. McNeley graciously said he is available to the board as a resource if needed.

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

None

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/AGENDA – Meetings via Zoom

- January 10, 2023: Approved/TBD
- February 21, 2023: Approved/TBD
- March 14, 2023: TBA/TBD
- April 11, 2023: TBA/TBD

Happy Healthy New Year Everyone!