

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

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

**MEETING MINUTES**

January 10, 2023

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

This meeting was called to order at 5:03 p.m., those in attendance via Zoom were:

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

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

**A. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 13, 2022, MEETING**

Ms. Lendorff moved, and Ms. Kelly seconded the motion to approve the December 13, 2022, minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Drought /Water Conservation Update: On December 12<sup>th</sup>, Mass DEP upgraded the drought to a level 2. December precipitation was 6.57" - measuring 2.81" above the average. The 2022 calendar year ended with about 3.6" below average rainfall. January 2023 rainfall, so far, measures at 1.34". The drought committee met again on Monday, and we anticipate another announcement later this week, possibly bringing the drought level down to level 1 or level zero.

Questions/Comments: The good news is that rain is in the immediate forecast; not snow.

PFAS6 and Filter Media Update: The official December PFAS results came in as "not detected". The last two carbon filters have been removed and the structural inspections are scheduled for 1/11/23. The only issue is that filter 4 has the highest potential for seepage through the wall. Depending on the outcome of the structural inspection, it might be another month before the GAC media is installed. The good news is that we are running 4 filters and can easily run 12 million gallons per day (MGD) of water, if not more.

Julie Greenwood-Torelli said we received City Council approval for the purchase of the PFAS testing equipment. Based on research done by our lab they are recommending a specific piece of instrumentation. The specification to purchase the equipment has been finalized and sent to the purchasing department.

Questions/Comments: What is the timeline to procure the PFAS testing equipment? It's anticipated it will take a month to do the bid process, 2 to 3 months to receive the equipment, 2 to 4 weeks to install to an operational standpoint, 6 months to get it functioning well to where we can test it and another 6 months to get certification through MassDEP. For Reservoir and other "unofficial" PFAS testing the equipment can be used fairly early after installation and training.

Questions/Comments What is the current PFAS ppt level? The current PFAS6 level is noted as trace at 1.77ppt. (This number reflects the lowest level the laboratory could detect to/test to. Our

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results could theoretically be lower.) The PFAS level is considered “not-detected” by MassDEP Regulation.

Ms. Roosevelt suggests that Mr. Corda and the board write a letter to the council describing the PFAS removal success. The board agrees. Ms. Roosevelt suggests it be done within the next week or two.

*Questions/Comments:* What can be done if a filter is leaking/seeping?

This depends on the severity of the leak and there are a variety of solution options. Most likely a sealant would be used on the inside - crack injection technology takes a day or two to dry with a skim coat of mortar over the crack injection location.

### Proposal for 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 Not Already Accepted by the City:

#### Program Basics:

- 1.) Make residents aware of existing parking programs (ride share, rentals, etc.)
- 2.) Acknowledge that this program is unique in that we are registering/allowing a resident, not a vehicle, to park at Fresh Pond Reservation (FPR)
- 3.) This permit would allow 7 days of parking (1 week)

Permit must be renewed weekly (during business hours) to allow for weekend parking.

Sharing the permit outside of your household will disqualify you from the program.

Proof of residency must be provided and confirmed every two months when renewing a weekly permit.

If approved by the Board this pilot parking program would be in effect until December 31, 2023, and be evaluated for future continuation. The intent is to track this program and give updates at the Water Board meetings.

*Questions/Comments:* A weekly permit instead of a daily permit was deemed the most simplified approach from operational and user perspectives.

*Questions/Comments:* Have the FPR parking lots ever filled up? Mr. Kaplan said they have filled up over the weekends during warmer weather typically in the Spring and Fall.

## C. OPERATIONS

### **Transmission and Distribution:**

*Questions/Comments:* No Comments

### **Watershed:**

*Questions/Comments:* Re: Pine Forest Phase 1. Ms. Roosevelt asked if the board has looked at the draft plan. Mr. Kaplan said this is simply an assessment of existing conditions today; serving as the canvas to work from and offered to share the draft with the board. Ms. Roosevelt said that was not necessary.

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*Questions/Comments:* What is ESRI Dashboard?

This is a mapping software application. It helps to make our data more functional. The water department has been using the software for almost 20 years.

*Questions/Comments:* Re: Proposed Third Ave extension in Waltham. Mr. Kaplan and Ms. O'Connell attended the January 5<sup>th</sup> Waltham Conservation Commission hearing. The project is not in an ideal location. We are pushing the applicant to make improvements. The applicant has proposed sewer lines going through Zone "A". We have a long-standing relationship with the developer. We are working with the law department and Deputy City Manager.

*Questions/Comments:* Re: Dam Inspection Results: Phase 1 reports.

Our consultant recently sent us the draft inspection report which we have not yet reviewed. They would have immediately notified us of anything of significance or immediate concern. We don't anticipate anything out of the ordinary, but it helps us document things that we know about or if known issues are growing and helps to scope any future repairs that may be needed. CWD is working on identifying funding sources to supplement our existing funds.

### **Water Operations:**

*Questions/Comments:* Re: Proposal to develop a solar array display abutting Cambridge land near Hobbs Brook Reservoir.

There is strong opposition from many Lexington, Waltham and Cambridge residents, and councilors. The water department is looking to use the existing regulations to maximize setbacks and buffers. We are working with the city manager's office to oppose this project.

*Questions/Comments:* It was noted that the drought recovery has happened in various iterations. When asked if reduced snowpack would impact water levels Mr. Kaplan said for us its more the timing of precipitation because we can't hold that much water if snowpack melt comes early. The larger reservoir has the smallest watershed, and the smallest reservoir has the largest watershed. Ideally, we want to top off Hobbs Brook to give a reasonable cushion to deal with droughts.

*Questions/Comments:* Re: The ISO requested an emergency plant shutdown on Christmas eve - we have a contract to do so. If we meet all of the requirements, we can get paid up to \$35,000 a year.

### **Engineering:**

*Questions/Comments:* What is the Harvard Square Kiosk Project? Mr. Gallagher said this is a DPW project. The city owns the Kiosk and its under renovation/restoring the structure to its original configuration including revamping of the plaza. The kiosk did not have water since the red line extension was put in many years ago. We are adding a new water line for a sink and outside irrigation needs. The city is planning on proposing that the property be put out to lease.

**Business/Billing:** Ms. Roosevelt noted that the Water fund balance is \$8.69 million.

Mr. Corda said, after FY23 appropriations for items such as the SCADA upgrade, the fund balance will drop this fiscal year to about \$3.5-\$4 million balance.

*Questions/Comments:* Water consumption has been going up. There has been an 11.47% increase in consumption compared to last year at this time. The annual average is running at ~12.4 million gallons per day (GPD). We can run the plant up to about 24 MGD.

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**D. ACTION ITEMS**

Ms. Roosevelt moved, and Ms. Lendorff seconded the motion to enact the parking pilot program. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

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

None

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

None

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

- February 21, 2023: Approved/PFAS/Future Carbon Changeout Planning
- March 14, 2023: Approved/TBD
- April 11, 2023: TBA/TBD

Ms. Kelly moved, and Mr. McNeley seconded the motion to adjourn the Zoom meeting at 6:11 pm. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.