

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

May 11, 2021

As a result of the Walter J. Sullivan Water Purification Facility being closed to the public due to COVID-19, this meeting is available virtually on Zoom. This meeting is being recorded.

This meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway, in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Those in attendance via *Zoom* were:

Cambridge Water Board (CWB): Ann Roosevelt, Jim Burruss, Mike McNeley and Jason Marshall

Cambridge Water Department (CWD): Sam Corda, Dave Kaplan, Jamie O'Connell, Anna Van Dreser, Fred Centanni and Mark Gallagher

A. MINUTES OF APRIL 6, 2021 MEETING

Mr. Burruss moved, and Mr. McNeley seconded the motion to approve the April 6, 2021 minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Transmission and Distribution System Update – As presented by Mark Gallagher.

Please use the link below to access the presentation.

https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/waterdepartment/waterboardminutes/distribution_presentation_31121.pdf

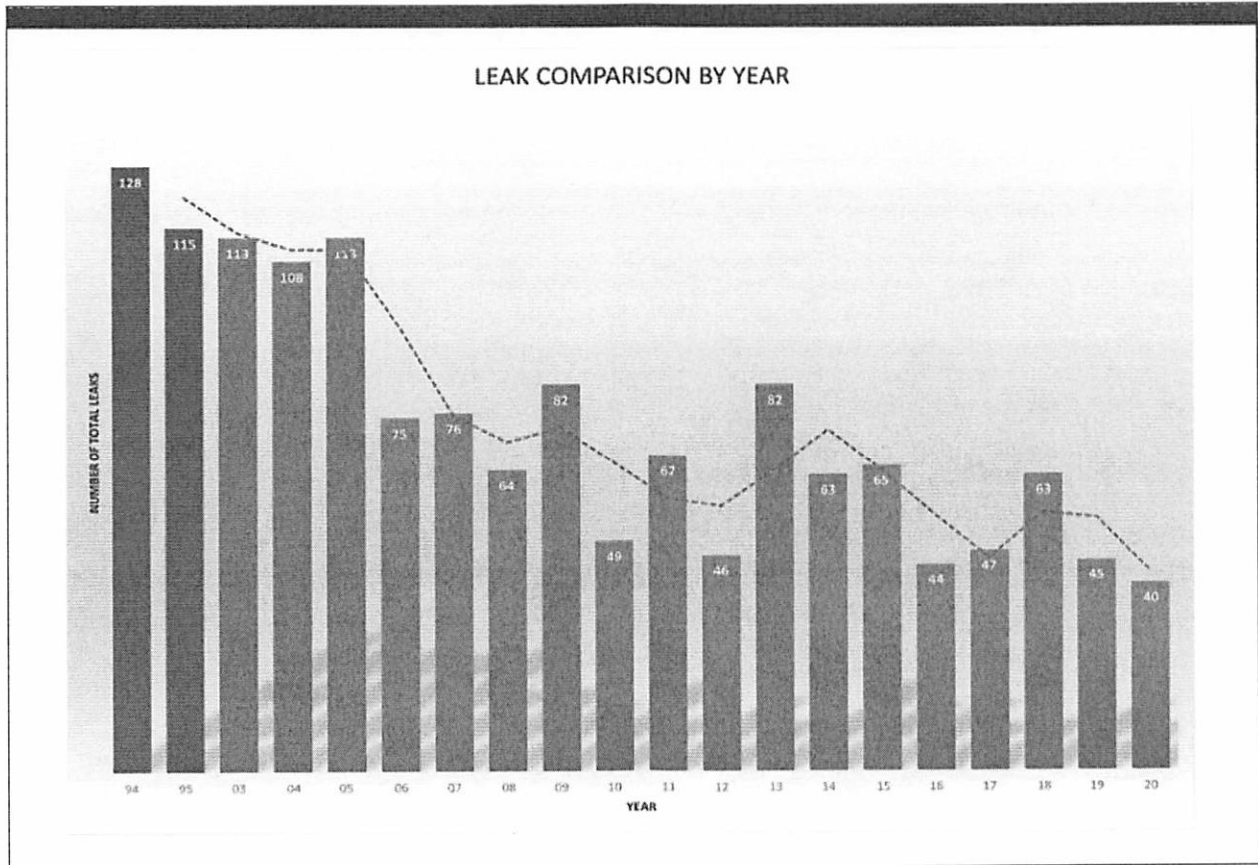
The CWD distribution system consists of approximately 210 miles of pipe ranging in sizes from 4" to 63"; with active install dates which range from 1864 to present. The distribution division is responsible for water main repair, replacement, and preventative maintenance 365 days a year: often in extreme weather and hazardous conditions. Mains and pipes can be affected by weather (warm and cold temperature cycling), various surface loads and stray currents. Water main leak/break repairs are often time consuming and require specialized equipment.

Since the Water System Distribution Study, which was completed in 1992, we have replaced over 50% of the priority mains which were typically 6" cast iron unlined pipes. Please see the table below (next page).

Key Topics: Distribution System, Land Acquisition, Drought/Water Conservation Update, PFAS Update, and COVID-19 Update

SMALL DIAMETER WATER MAIN PRIORITY REPLACEMENT STATUS FROM 1992 DISTRIBUTION STUDY			
	ORIGINAL LENGTH (Miles)	LENGTH REPLACED (Miles)	PERCENT COMPLETE
PRIORITY 1	8.27	5.37	65
PRIORITY 2	6.85	3.59	52.4
PRIORITY 3	11.34	4.89	43.2
TOTAL	26.46	11.86	52.4

The replacement of the priority water mains has resulted in the least amount of water main breaks since 1994. The chart below depicts this steady decrease in water main leaks. As a result of our replacement and maintenance efforts the water distribution system is more robust and reliable today than it has been in several decades.



Key Topics: Distribution System, Land Acquisition, Drought/Water Conservation Update, PFAS Update, and COVID-19 Update

Questions/Comments: Ms. Roosevelt offered her thanks for the proactive efforts in maintaining the distribution system and extended her deepest thanks to Mr. Gallagher and his team for their sustained hard work in challenging conditions. Ms. Roosevelt suggests a proactive blurb with mailers/stuffers.

Land Acquisition Proposal. Mr. Kaplan shared a potential opportunity which presented itself through the Lincoln Rural Land Foundation, to purchase ~8 acres of undeveloped land next to the Harrington Property (which we already own) located off route 117 in the Town of Lincoln near the border of Weston. This tract of land is valuable for water supply protection as over 60% of it is in the Zone A. The property abuts conservation land already owned by Lincoln. A Drinking Water Supply Protection Grant Application with the State has been submitted. A vote by the board would allow this high priority purchase to move forward.

Mr. Marshall moved, and Mr. McNeley seconded the motion to make a recommendation to the City manager to acquire the real estate for watershed protection purposes. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

PFAS6 Update: PFAS testing continues. CWD has been awarded a \$115,000 grant by DEP for the PFAS pilot testing. The existing carbon being used is continuing to work well. All results are expected by end of May. The PFAS6 test results for our finished water to date: January 12.2 ppt, February 11.3 ppt, March 15.8 ppt and April 17.1 ppt. Higher levels are typically seen in summer as opposed to winter. Rain levels/ground water may also affect the PFAS6 levels.

Drought/Water Conservation Update: On May 10th the EEA Secretary declared the Northeast region has gone from Level 1- Mild Drought to Level 0 - Normal Conditions. Hobbs Brook Reservoir is full. We are continuing with our water conservation efforts via daily water conservation Tweets, updating our webpage with conservation tips on a regular basis, cable tv blurbs, and indoor/outdoor water conservation stuffers. We've initiated communications with large universities and colleges in the City, large users and DPW, to understand and help promote water conservation throughout the City.

COVID-19 Update: On April 26th the City-wide work schedule returned to normal hours. We meet the requirements to be fully staffed based on the size of the building and the fact that distribution and watershed employees don't come into the building. The City offers free vaccinations to City workers who choose to receive it.

Questions/Comments: Reservoir Usage: *Mr. Marshall commented that outdoor mask mandates have changed, and he has noticed signage for masks has been updated at the reservoir. Will directional usage signs be changed also?*

Mr. Corda has been working to initiate a conversation with the health department and ultimately with the City manager to see what changes can be made/ and when we can make them. The one-way direction is something we are looking at.

C. OPERATIONS

Transmission and Distribution:

Questions/Comments: None

Watershed:

Questions/Comments: None

Water Operations:

Questions/Comments: Reservoir system is fully recharged. April is the first time that water consumption has gone up since the start of the pandemic. Currently pumping at about 12 million gallons per day.

Ozone Generators- As part of the SCADA Upgrade, we are replacing the ozone system.

Engineering:

Comments: Ms. Roosevelt asked how many Lead Services remain in the City. Mr. Gallagher said about 1,500 out of the original 11,000 plus, remain.

Business/Billing: Ms. Roosevelt commented that the Water Fund balance is at a robust \$12.2 million dollars.

D. ACTION ITEMS

None

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

None

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/AGENDA – Meetings via Zoom

- June 8, 2021: Approved/Capital and Operating Budget
- September 14, 2021: Approved/TBD
- October 12, 2021: TBA/TBD
- November 16, 2021: TBA/TBD
- December 14, 2021: TBA/TBD

Mr. Marshall moved, and Mr. Burruss seconded the motion to adjourn the Zoom meeting at 6:30 pm. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.