

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

January 11, 2022

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

This meeting was called to order at 5:03 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, Kathleen Kelly and Jason Marshall

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

Community Development Department (CDD): John Bolduc

A. MINUTES OF DECEMBER 14, 2021, MEETING

Mr. Marshall moved, and Mr. McNeley seconded the motion to approve the December 14, 2021, minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Drought /Water Conservation Update: We are not currently in a drought and there is no prediction of a drought in 2022. Even with November and December being under the average, 2021 ended up at 14.5 inches above the average annual precipitation.

Covid-19 Update: Due to the Omicron Variant, there has been a significant increase of Covid19 cases in the city. We have gone back to reduced in-building staffing levels at 50% to help minimize the spread of COVID. We are operating effectively and still moving forward with minimal impact on our operations.

PFAS6 Update: PFAS6 tested at 14.8 ppt for December 21 and we continue to be in full compliance with DEP Regulations. We have contracted with a new lab with a shorter turnaround time for PFAS testing. The bid specifications for the GAC Filter Media Replacement Project are being completed and are just about ready to go out for bid.

Climate Change Presentation: Community Development Department Environmental Planner, John Bolduc, presented "Resilient Cambridge - Preparing for Climate Change" in slide format. A Link to this presentation can be found here.

<https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/waterdepartment/waterboardminutes/rcppresentationwaterboard011122.pdf>

The Cambridge Climate Protection Action Committee (CPAC) recommended in 2010 that we start preparing for climate change. In 2012 the vulnerability assessment was kicked off. The Cambridge Resiliency Plan was issued June 2021. Vulnerability assessment is not a "one time thing." Will have to be revisited and re-looked at.

Key Topics: Climate Change Presentation; Drought, Water Conservation, PFAS6 and COVID -19 Updates

Questions/Comments: Mr. Corda thanked Mr. Bolduc for the excellent presentation.

Mr. McNely said it was well summarized and asked Mr. Bolduc if he could give a sense of what the consequences of Fresh Pond Reservation flooding could be? Mr. Bolduc said there could be CSO discharges going into the flood water and potential hazardous materials. There could be episodic flooding which would subside in a day or so.

A berm barrier at Fresh Pond is in place and would be used in trying to block flooding from going into reservoir. Cambridge is fortunate to have a redundant system.

Mr. Marshall thanked Mr. Bolduc for being proactive and for all the work that he does. Mr. Bolduc said that the key to all of this is that it is an interdepartmental effort.

Ms. Roosevelt asked if we had recommendations to make to other cities and towns. Mr. Bolduc said that Cambridge has been out on the forefront on a lot of this work and participates in three regional collaboratives. More cities are starting to do heat study modeling.

Ms. Kelly said that Cambridge is trying to increase tree canopies and asked what other kind of initiatives were in place to encourage people when they are paving to add pervious surfaces. She also asked about surfaces that reflect instead of absorb sun. Mr. Bolduc said there is work to be done on changing the culture to encourage people to put down permeable surfaces. A “Green Roof” is required on major new construction (25,000 square feet or larger). The action committee is looking at regulatory reforms for white roofs. The Urban Forest Master Plan has an aggressive tree protection ordinance.

It was asked if incentives were in place for consumers to add solar roofing panels. Costs have dropped so there almost doesn't need to be an incentive. Larger developments have other incentives. Cambridge has a Solar Map Tool which, when an address is entered, shows how much solar energy could be produced on the rooftop, how the investment would pay off, and how much pollution would be reduced.

Ms. Roosevelt thanked Mr. Bolduc for his efforts and the great presentation.

C. OPERATIONS

Transmission and Distribution:

No Comments

Watershed:

Questions/Comments: Eversource rights of way/vegetation management. When Eversource gas proposes to replace or relocate lines, they submit plans to DPW and CWD to make sure there are no utility conflicts. We try to work together to mitigate conflicts. The Vegetation component is managed by DPW, and they are on top of making sure that all contractors are following all policies and regulations such as no spray zones in water supply areas.

Glacken Field: Ms. Kelly commented on the permitting of dogs at Glacken Field. This is typically under the management of DPW. She wouldn't like to let dogs up there due to relieving

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themselves on the blocks. She also feels that mixing dogs and children up there is not a good idea. Mr. Kaplan will pass her concerns on to DPW.

The Town of Lincoln is reviewing their open space plan. (i.e., a few of our parcels that we own and manage.) They want to engage the water department in figuring out appropriate areas for on and off leash areas. Mr. Kaplan would recommend supporting a proposal to limit off leash dogs within our upcountry properties and Ms. Roosevelt agreed with that recommendation.

Water Operations:

No Comments

Engineering:

No Comments

Business/Billing:

No Comments

D. ACTION ITEM

None

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

None

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/AGENDA – Meetings via Zoom

- February 8, 2022: Approved/Watershed Update
- March 8, 2022: Approved/TBD
- April 12, 2022: TBA/TBD
- May 10, 2022: TBA/TBD
- June 14, 2022: TBA/TBD

Mr. McNeley moved, and Ms. Roosevelt seconded the motion to adjourn the Zoom meeting at 6:34pm. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.