

WATER BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, September 16, 2025

5:00 – 6:30 pm

This meeting will be hybrid both in person at the Cambridge Water Department located at 250 Fresh Pond Parkway and available virtually on Zoom:

<https://cambridgema.zoom.us/j/89856226543>

A. MINUTES OF JUNE 10, 2025, MEETING

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- PFAS
- Drought Status Update
- Fresh Pond User Group/Shared Use Concerns
- City's transition from Zoom to MS Teams Remote Meeting format

C. OPERATIONS

- Transmission and Distribution
- Fresh Pond Reservation; Cambridge Watershed; Site Plan Review
- Water Operations
 - WTP Operational Status
 - Water Quality
- Engineering & Program Development
 - GIS
- Business
 - FY25 Cross Connection Program Results through June 2025
 - FY26 Cross Connection Program Results through August 2025
 - FY25 Consumption through June 2025
 - FY26 Consumption through August 2025
 - Water Fund Balance as of 6-30-2024

D. ACTION ITEMS

- None

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE and ITEMS OF INTEREST

- Letter (emailed) to Lealdon Langley, Director Mass DEP Bureau of Water Resources, Re: Determination to Issue an Antidegradation Authorization to Discharge to an Outstanding Resource Water- 125 Spring Street, Lexington, MA, dated July 9, 2025, from Jamie O'Connell

F. NEW BUSINESS

- None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/AGENDA

- October 14th, 2025: TBA/TBD

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

June 10th, 2025

This meeting is available virtually on Zoom and in person. This meeting is being recorded.
This meeting was called to order at 5:01 p.m. Those in attendance were:

Cambridge Water Board (CWB): Ann Roosevelt, James Burruss, Tahir Kapoor, Kathleen Kelly.

Cambridge Water Department (CWD): Fred Centanni, Julie Greenwood-Torelli, Rich Lagerholm, Katherine Orciuch, Dave Kaplan, Jamie O'Connell, and Rich Holly.

A. MINUTES OF MAY 13, 2025, MEETING

Ms. Roosevelt requested clarification on the status of the annual GAC filter media replacement for during sampling for Quarter I and II be added to the Minutes.

Ms. Roosevelt moved, and Kathleen Kelly seconded the motion to approve May 13, 2025, minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PFAS Update: The Quarter III samples will be collected in the first week in July.

Questions/Comments: Based on an article in the Boston Globe, can we expect a change in the PFAS regulations on the Federal level. Massachusetts DEP has not indicated that there will be any changes in regulations. CWD currently meets all PFAS regulations.

If the Federal Government requires the removal of fluoride from drinking water, what would the effect be on CWD? CWD will stop adding fluoride to the water and delete that step from the treatment process. This will not have any effect on the quality of the drinking water as fluoride is added per the state Health Departments recommendations to promote dental health.

Drought Status Update: The drought status for Cambridge and the Northeast Region remains at level 0, Normal Conditions.

FY26 Water Budget Overview: Freddy Centanni (attached)

Questions/Comments: \$30,000 was added for leasing electric vehicles. Does it make financial sense as compared to purchasing vehicles? It does when compared to standard purchase, maintenance, repair and replacement costs.

What is the timeline for the lead service line removal project? The contract will be bid early FY26.

C. OPERATIONS

Transmission and Distribution:

Questions/Comments: None

Watershed:

Questions/Comments: Please describe Huron Pine Grove Pilot Project? The goal of this project is to test different explanatory variables for the lack of healthy understory development.

Questions/Comments: Please describe the Little Fresh Pond Study? The goal of this project is to address issues with aquatic weeds and algae, and the potential need for dredging.

Questions/Comments: Could you please provide an update on 104 Boston Post Road (Weston)? The Western Zoning Board of Appeals denied the comprehensive permit. The legal process is ongoing and there has been no development at the site.

Water Operations:

Questions/Comments: None

Engineering:

Questions/Comments: None

Business:

Questions/Comments: None

D. ACTION ITEMS

None

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

Questions/Comments: Reminder to the board members about Fresh Pond Day and encourage attendance.

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/AGENDA – Meetings via Zoom

- September 9, 2025: Approved/TBD

Ms. Roosevelt moved, and Ms. Kelly, Seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 pm. All were in favor of the motion.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- PFAS
- Drought Status
- Fresh Pond User Group/Shared Use Concerns
- City's transition from Zoom to MS Teams Remote Meeting format

C. OPERATIONS – Transmission and Distribution June through August

- Continue working with and supporting DPW regarding sewer separation, Chapter 90 Street and Sidewalk Reconstruction, and Common Manhole Removal Contracts.
- Scheduling lead water service replacements within DPW Chapter 90 Contract 25.
- Work with DPW and contractors on several water main projects that include:
- **River Street Sewer Separation Project** - We are working with the DPW Project Contractor on the replacement of 8,000 feet of old 6-12" Cast Iron Pipe with new 8-12" ductile iron, including all service valves and hydrants.
- **DPW Chap 90 Contract 25** - Working with DPW Project Engineers and Contractor on water distribution infrastructure upgrades:
 - **Dana St** – Continued replacement of 2200 ft 10" unlined Cast Iron with 8" cement-lined Ductile Iron to include all valves, hydrants, and service connections, and remove all lead service lines.
 - **Sciarappa St (Fall 2025)** - Replace 1780 ft 6" unlined Cast Iron with 8" cement-lined Ductile Iron to include all valves, hydrants, and service connections, and replace all lead service lines with copper.
 - **Haskell St (COMPLETED)** Replaced ~700 feet of 6" unlined cast iron with 8" cement-lined ductile iron, replaced 120' of 12" relined cast iron with ductile iron, including all valves, hydrants, service connections, and lead service line removal (7 lead services)
 - **Kirkland Rd** – In-house contractor to replace ~300 feet of 6" cast iron pipe with 8" ductile iron pipe to include all new valves, blow-off, and replace all lead line services with copper.
- **Hillside Ave** – CWD crews replacing ~400' of old 6" cast iron water main with 8" ductile iron pipe. Install new valves and hydrants and replace all lead service lines with copper in their entirety.
- **DPW Sewer Separation Port Project** - Working with DPW Project Engineers and Contractor on water distribution infrastructure upgrades, replacing 12,509 feet of water main in the Port area to include all valves, hydrants, service connections, and removal of all lead service lines.
- **DPW Mass Ave 4 Phase 1** - Working with DPW Project Engineers and Contractor on water distribution infrastructure upgrades within the Mass Ave bike lane project from the Cambridge Common to Alewife Brook Parkway. This includes water main sections, valves, hydrants, and service connections, as well as the removal of all lead service lines.
- **MassDOT (Boulevard Project #607981)** – We continue to engage in ongoing meetings and discussions with MassDOT regarding the McGrath O'Brien Highway reconstruction project, spanning from Third Street to Rufo Road. The project is tentatively scheduled to begin construction in April 2027.
- **Distribution Staff** - Continue to field lead line calls from residents who have received notices. (~5/day) Calls include notifying residents of the options to renew lead service lines. Continuing to replace and repair fire hydrants that are flowed/tested by the Fire Department each year as part of the City's water main flushing program.
- **CWD's Annual Leak Detection**
 - Completed with a total of 19 leaks reported. To date, 13 of them have been repaired.

C. OPERATIONS – Transmission and Distribution June through August Continued

June-August 2025 Distribution Work

• Work Orders Completed	78
• Leaks Repaired	10
• Lead Services Renewed	17
• Hydrants Repaired/Replaced	26
• Valves Repaired/Replaced	3
• Gate boxes Reset/Replaced	5
• Valves Exercised	1269
• Inspections Performed	761
• Dig Safe Utility Mark outs	1697

C. OPERATIONS – Watershed, June through August

- I. *Fresh Pond Reservation:*
 1. *Huron Pine Grove Pilot Project* – 5 Test plots were planted with white pines in July. Likely need to replace 4-5 declining pines in September.
 2. *Little Fresh Pond Study* – Ken Wagner (WRS) completed his field assessment in August. A report and recommendations to improve in-pond water quality is forthcoming.
 3. *Ranger* – Ranger Timothy Puopolo left the City in July. The position is currently open and interviews are scheduled for September.
- II. *Cambridge Watershed:*
 1. *Winter Street Gatehouse Repairs:* Substantially completed.
 2. *Stony Brook Gatehouse Low Sluice Gate Repairs:* Issue with stem fabrication. Targeting a September repair.
 3. *Cycle to the Source:* The annual watershed bike tour is scheduled for 9/20.
 4. *USGS:* Plan to renew our Joint Funding Agreement for another year to maintain our critical watershed near real time water quality and quantity network (October 2025 – September 2026)
 5. *Watershed Technical Supervisor:* Lindsay VanFossen started in July.
 6. *Watershed Management Assistant:* The top candidate is being recommended for the position. Targeting an end of September, early October start date.
- III. *Reporting and Website:*
 1. *Site Monitoring Program Tool:* Ongoing.
- IV. *Projects Overview:*
 1. Construction projects in Waltham at 305 Second Ave and 40 Sylvan Road are ongoing.
 2. 1265 Main Street Phase II redevelopment received a permit from the Waltham Conservation Commission. The permit requires the developer to work with CWD to perform a hydrologic study of a downstream malfunctioning stormwater treatment basin (WA-17) and implement recommendations for water quality improvement. CWD is working with the developer to identify opportunities for construction. No updates.
 3. Plans for redeveloping 1342, 1345, 1362, and 1486 Main Street, Waltham are in development.
 4. Bridge replacement and roadway construction at Rt 2A over I-95 in Lexington is ongoing.
 5. MassDOT D4 Highway Depot redevelopment in Lexington has largely completed construction. Site stabilization ongoing.
 6. Multiple subdivision or multi-unit housing projects in Lexington and Weston are in the pipeline (Weston: 0 Wellesley St; Lexington: 15-17 Fairland St). Construction is currently ongoing in Weston for a small subdivision at 576 North Ave, a 40B housing project at 269 North Ave, and an apartment complex at 751-761 Boston Post Road.
 7. 104 Boston Post Road (Weston) Housing Appeals Committee (HAC) hearings concluded in April 2021. The HAC issued a decision June 22, 2023 to overturn the Weston Zoning Board of Appeals denial of a comprehensive permit. Litigation ongoing.
 8. 149-151 Spring Street – After satisfying peer review comments, the Conservation Commission issued a Negative Determination of Applicability (work is outside the areas subject to protection under the Wetlands Protection Act). The project will abandon its septic system and tie into Town sewer and install an updated stormwater management system compliant with the Town's stormwater bylaws. The proponent agreed to use non-chloride based deicers.
 9. 125 Spring Street, Lexington – a proposed redevelopment with solar parking canopies and geothermal heating/cooling for the building. The project requires a groundwater discharge permit (see below).
 10. Enbridge (Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC) Route 2 Metering and Regulation Station – Restoration planting and fence installation completed

C. OPERATIONS – Watershed, June through August Continued

- V. *Comment Letters/Hearings:* CWD submitted formal verbal and/or written comments regarding:
1. *125 Spring Street, Lexington* – CWD submitted a comment letter to MassDEP regarding their “Draft Final Determination to Issue Antidegradation Authorization to Discharge to an Outstanding Resource Water”. The proponent’s plan to install a geothermal well network at the site requires groundwater dewatering during construction of the geothermal wells. This water may ultimately discharge to the Hobbs Brook Reservoir. The proponent will treat for PFAS and the discharge water may not exceed surface water quality standards for chloride.
 2. *36 Robin Road, Weston* – Submitted emailed comments to the Weston Conservation Commission for a proposed single family home redevelopment. CWD noted previously unpermitted tree cutting in the wetland buffer zone and requested mitigation be included in the project to compensate for the tree loss. CWD also recommended doing a test pit to ensure conditions are acceptable for a proposed infiltration system.
- VI. *Communications:*
1. *Fitchburg Line Commuter Rail Right of Way Spraying* – CWD attended a meeting with Lincoln Conservation Commission staff and Keolis about ensuring that no spray zones and limited spray zones are properly marked. Lincoln also emphasized the need for more extensive documentation from Keolis on any mechanical vegetation management proposed along the right of way.
- VII. *Site Visits:*
1. *Regular watershed patrols by caretakers ongoing*
 2. *Wagon Wheel Nursery, Lexington* – Inspected 7/17/2025 to check on going encroachment and property damage issues on CWD land from the nursery. An unpermitted catch basin had been removed from CWD property. Observation included the installation of an unpermitted irrigation system, materials storage, chickens, mowing, and use of an unpermitted roadway.
- VIII. *Hazmat:*
1. *Car Fire:* On 7/14/2025, CWD received a call at 09:11 from Lexington Fire Department regarding a car fire on Route 128 SB near exit 45A. Foam was used to extinguish the fire. Ed Carney responded and assessed the situation. The area near the fire drains to LE-10 gravel wetland. CWD staff determined that the foam was a de minimis threat and that no follow-up action was required.



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
MASSACHUSETTS
Water Department
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September 2, 2025

AUGUST 2025 WATER SUPPLY SUMMARY REPORT

Highlights

- The August percent water supply system capacity of 52% (based on 2.9BG usable capacity) is:
 - 14 percentage points lower than July 2025 (66%);
 - 9 percentage points lower than August 2024 (61%); and
 - 26 percentage points higher than August 2016 (26%, the third month of the 2016-2017 drought)
- Precipitation at the Lincoln Field Office in August 2025 totaled 1.07 inches, 2.4 inches below the National Climate Data Center (NCDC)'s monthly normal at Bedford Hanscom Field (3.47 inches).
- The current drought status set by the MA EEA Secretary is at Level 0 – Normal (no drought).

Storage

Figure 1: Hobbs Brook Reservoir Storage, August 2025

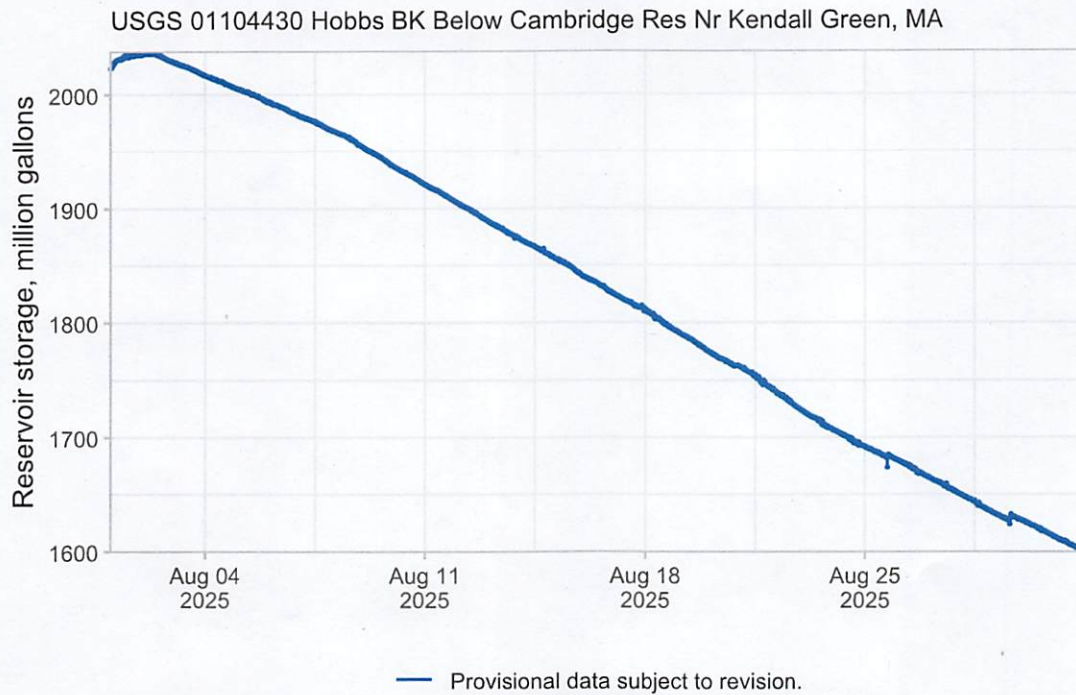


Figure 2: Stony Brook Reservoir Storage, August 2025

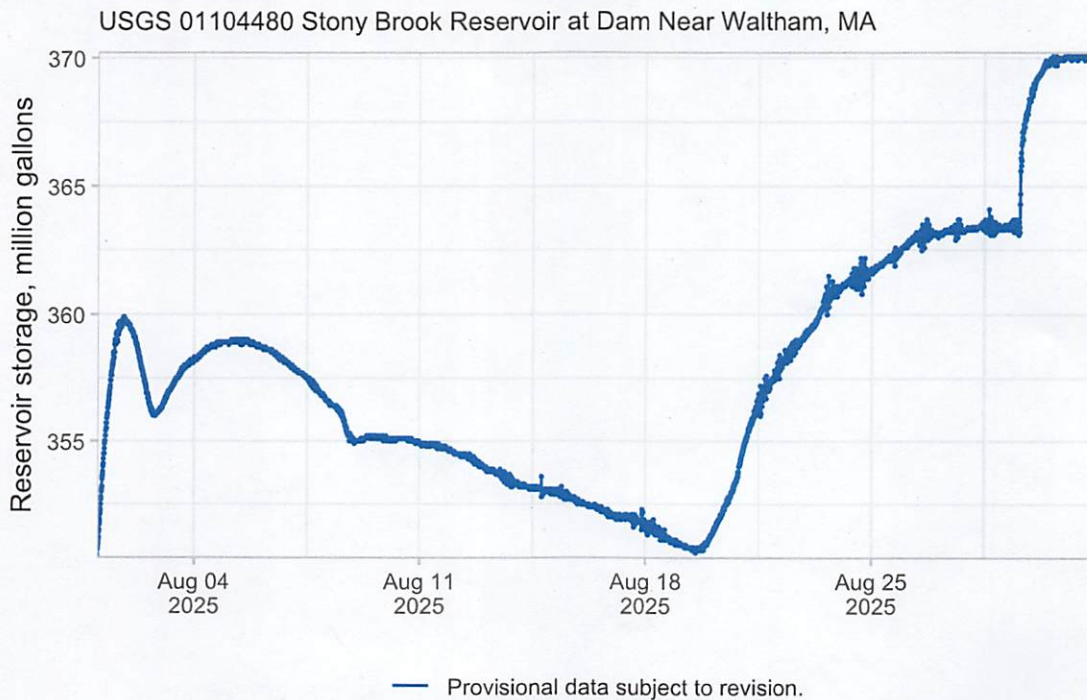


Figure 3: Fresh Pond Reservoir Storage, August 2025

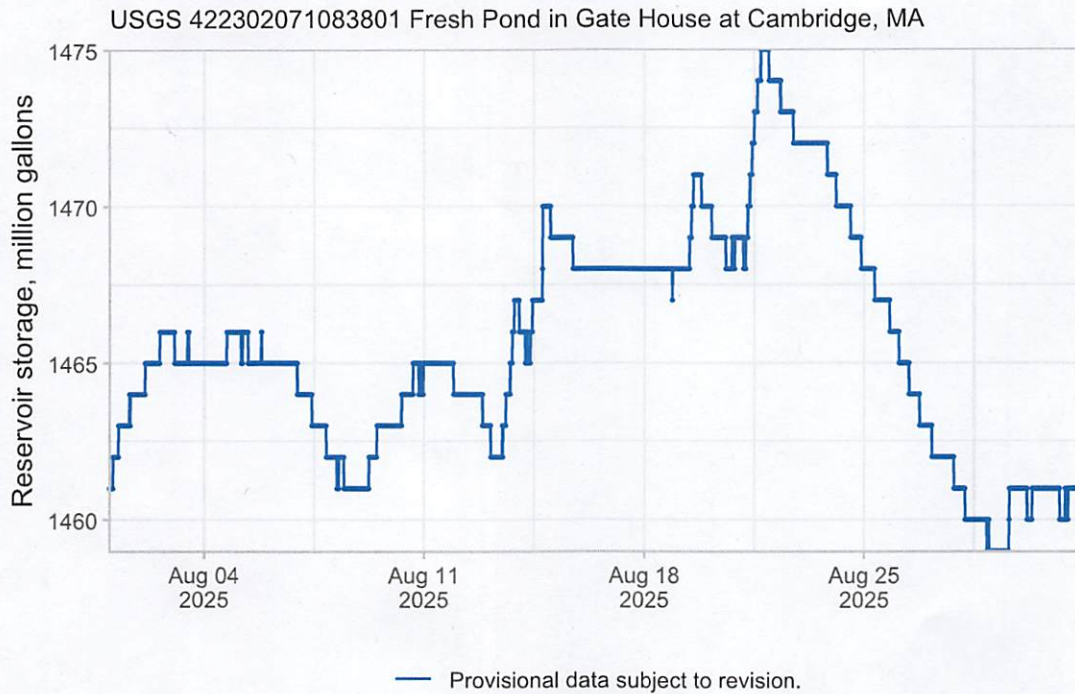
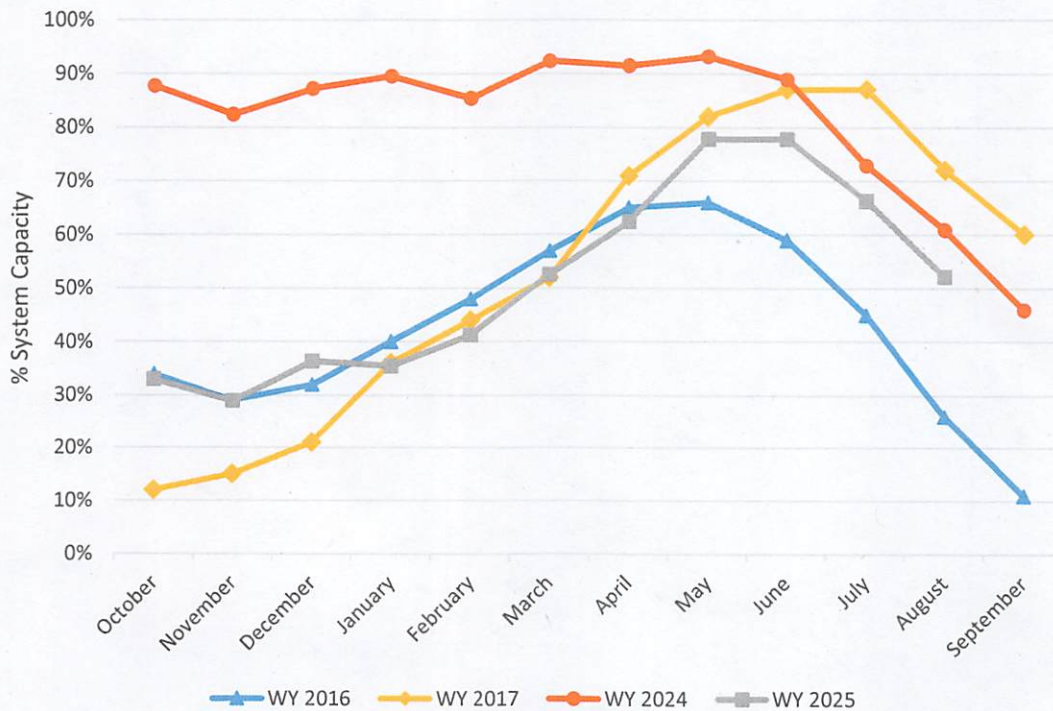
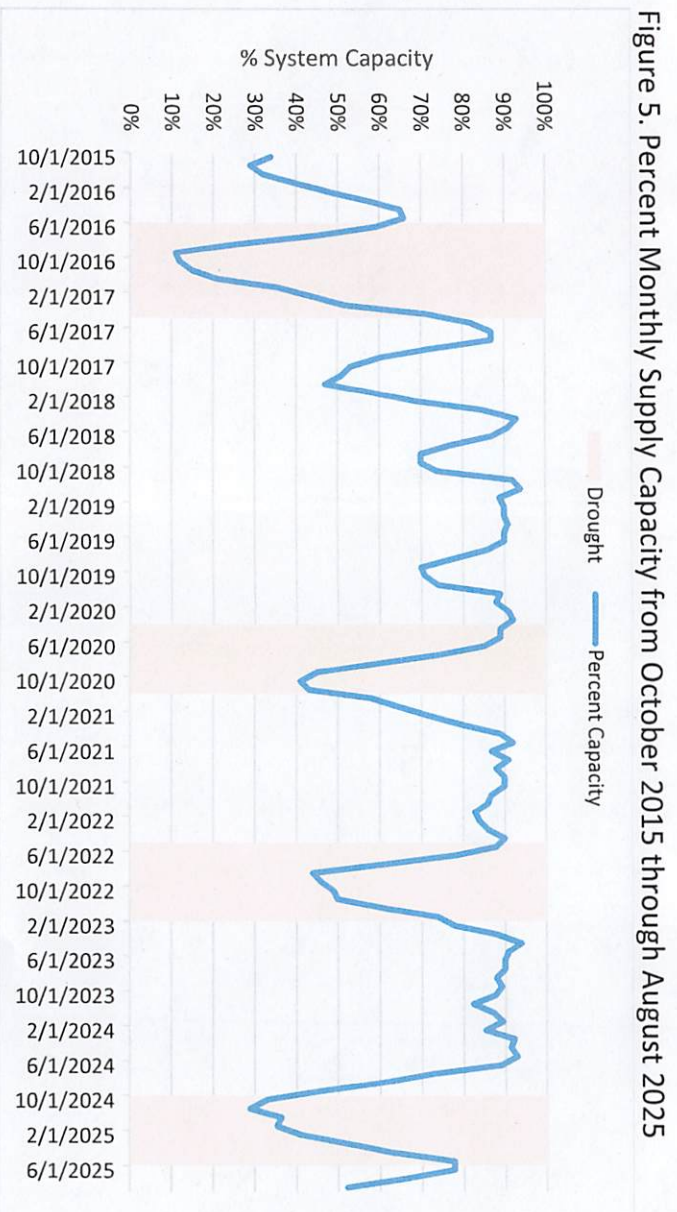


Figure 4: CWD % System Capacity, Water Years 2016 and 2017 (drought), 2024, and 2025





Precipitation

Figure 6: Precipitation measured at Lincoln Field Office, August 2025

USGS 422518071162501 Cambridge Res., Met. Station, Near Lexington, MA

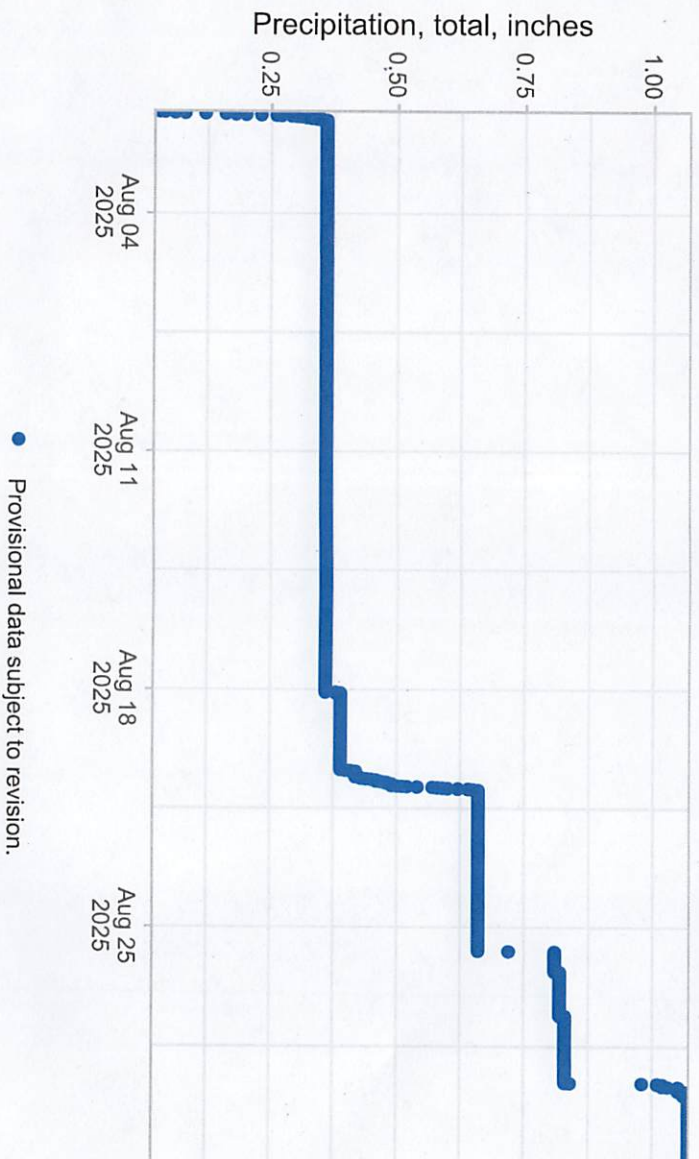
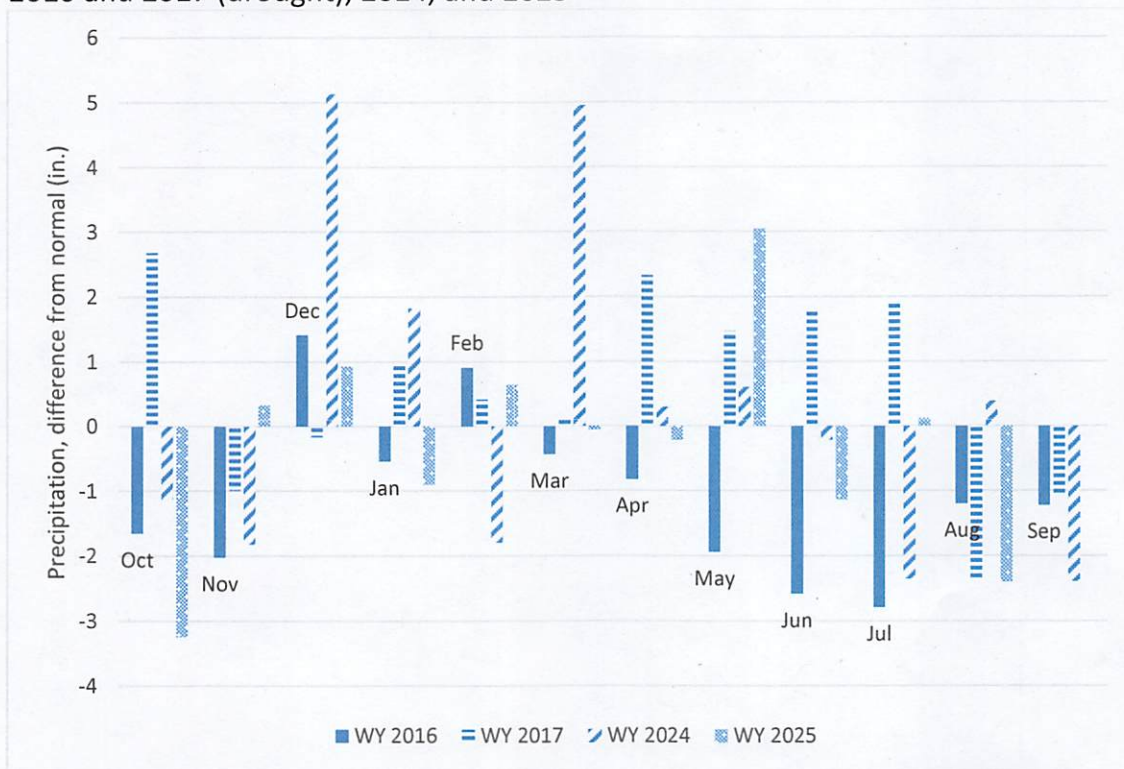


Figure 7: Monthly Precipitation (Lincoln Field Office) Relative to Normal, Water Years 2016 and 2017 (drought), 2024, and 2025



Jamie O'Connell
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Real-time data available on the web at
[Cambridge Water Supply Monitoring Locations - USGS Water Data for the Nation](#)

C. OPERATIONS – Water Operations June through August

Plant Operations

	June	July	August
Production (MG)	441.08	519.96	473.12
Monthly Average (MGD)	14.70	16.77	15.26
Daily Min (MGD)	11.473 (6/14/2025)	12.41 (7/14/2025)	8.84 (8/21/2025)
Daily Max (MGD)	19.18 (6/25/2025)	21.47 (7/16/2025)	18.24 (8/12/2025)

Water Quality/Laboratory

- There were **0** total coliform positives for June
June: 108 samples collected for compliance
- There were **0** total coliform positives for July
July: 108 samples collected for compliance
- There were **0** total coliform positives for August
August: 109 samples collected for compliance
- PFAS
 - July 2025 Quarter 3 compliance sample PFAS 6 Total was 2.97 ng/L (ppt)
 - Next compliance sample to be collected in Quarter 4 (October 2025)

C. OPERATIONS – Engineering and Program Development June through August

Monthly Report: June through August 2025

MEETINGS ATTENDED

- River Street Water Main Project
 - MassDOT Project Coordination
-

CONSTRUCTION / WATER USE PERMITS

- 25 construction permits issued in May 2025
 - 19 construction permits issued in June 2025
 - 25 construction permits issued in July 2025
 - 20 construction permits issued in August 2025
-

PROJECTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Utility Design Reviews:**
Provided engineering feedback on utility design plans for the following addresses:
200 Auburn St., 250 Lexington Ave., 45 – 47 Blanchard Rd., 11 Ivy St., 2 – 4 Soden St., 1 Jackson Pl., 14 White St. Pl., 25 Homer Ave., 343 Allston Ave., MXD Site WM Projects, 78 Ellery St., 21 Notre Dame Ave., 266 Rindge Ave., 17 Carlisle St., 16 Kassul Pk., 5 Chalk St., 289 Broadway, 14 Trowbridge St., 12 Trowbridge St., 53 Market St., 280 Rindge Ave., 73 Kirkland St., 1200 Massachusetts Ave., 1680 Massachusetts Ave., 33 Park Ave., 55 – 57 Museum St., 18 – 24 Thingvalla Ave., 191 Alewife Brook Pkwy., 24 Newell St., 76 Brattle St., 11A – 11B Mt. Auburn St., 348 Walden St., 93 Belmont St., 3 Clinton St., 227 Vassal Ln., 194 Lakeview Ave., 102 Sciarappa St., 54 Banks St., 38 Banks St., 48 Banks St., 45 Spinell St., 5 – 7 Rockwell St., 300 Franklin St., 48 Quincy St., 8 Winter St., 2 Holyoke St., 8 Mercer St., 46 – 48 Fayette St., 82 Avon Hill Rd., 13 Goodman Rd., 311 – 323 Massachusetts Ave., 37 – 41 Wendell St., & 20 Wendell St.
 - **Private Development & Coordination with DPW:**
 - Harvard Square Kiosk
 - River Street Streetscape Project
 - Jefferson Park Federal Parcel
 - **City Projects – Water Main (WM):**
 - Coordination with Eversource Gas for citywide utility replacement
 - Active WM projects:
 - River Street
 - Dana Street
 - Mass Ave
 - Haskell Street
 - Kirkland Road
 - Chetwynd Road (in-house)
 - Hillside Avenue (in-house)
-

C. OPERATIONS – Engineering and Program Development June through August Continued

GIS & DATABASE UPDATES

- Ongoing GIS edits to distribution maps and valve/hydrant systems.
 - Continuing to update the Fire Hydrant Database and system valve IDs as part of the valve exercising program.
 - Continued tracking of lead service lines using in-house system “Megalodon”.
 - Updating the “Service Cards” spreadsheet – linking card locations with sketches for field identification.
 - Development of a “List of All Lead Services” report for inclusion in the Monthly Lead Report.
 - Compilation of monthly summary reports on lead service line elimination.
 - Edits for citywide GIS water maps, adding service information and performing quality control.
 - Updated the WM/Service Leak Layer with Distribution Division work orders (2013–2025).
 - Continued use of Viewpoint Cloud to process demolition and building permits.
-

COMPLETED ITEMS

- **MWRA Leak Detection Report completed.**
- **Annual Fire Hydrant Flushing & Testing completed with Cambridge Fire Department (CFD) – limited due to drought conditions.**
- **Hired a two Engineering Interns (June–December 2025).**

C. OPERATIONS - Business June through August

FY25 Billings			
Month	Billed Water Consumption	Month	Billed Water Consumption
July	707,653	January	521,856
August	373,787	February	275,032
September	339,937	March	199,210
October	765,703	April	462,230
November	366,975	May	295,839
December	259,807	June	225,066
FY25 TOTAL		4,793,095	
FY24 TOTAL		4,994,766	-4.04%

Cross Connection Program Results

Month	Total Tests	Fails
June	555	18
July	603	52
August	743	42

FY26 Billings			
Month	Billed Water Consumption	Month	Billed Water Consumption
July	381,061	January	0
August	838,272	February	0
September	0	March	0
October	0	April	0
November	0	May	0
December	0	June	0
FY26 TOTAL		1,219,333	
FY25 TOTAL		1,081,440	12.75%

Water Fund Balance: \$6.2 M (6-30-2024)

C-13

D. ACTION ITEMS

- None

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE and ITEMS OF NTEREST

- Letter (emailed) to Lealdon Langley, Director Mass DEP Bureau of Water Resources, Re: Determination to Issue an Antidegradation Authorization to Discharge to an Outstanding Resource Water- 125 Spring Street, Lexington, MA, dated July 9, 2025, -from Jamie O'Connell

F. NEW BUSINESS

- None

G. NEXT MEETING DATE/AGENDA

- October 14th, 2025: TBA/TBD



CITY OF CAMBRIDGE
MASSACHUSETTS
Water Department
250 Fresh Pond Parkway
Cambridge, MA 02138
617 349 4770
fax 617 349 6616



July 9, 2025

sent via email: jennifer.wood@mass.gov
Lealdon Langley; Director
Division of Watershed Management
Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection

Re: Determination to Issue an Antidegradation Authorization to Discharge to an Outstanding Resource Water- 125 Spring Street, Lexington, MA

Dear Mr. Langley,

The City of Cambridge Water Department (CWD) appreciates the opportunity to comment on MassDEP's Draft Final Determination to Issue Antidegradation Authorization to Discharge to an Outstanding Resource Water (Draft Final Determination) from the site at 125 Spring Street in Lexington. CWD has reviewed the Draft Final Determination that was attached to your letter dated June 27, 2025. In the letter, MassDEP requested a response as to whether CWD agrees with the Draft Final Determination.

CWD agrees with the Draft Final Determination, which was updated to include effluent limits on the discharge for chloride and TDS. These effluent limits are listed in Table 3 of the Draft Final Determination and are consistent with the MassDEP water quality standards in 314 CMR 4.00 for chlorides and the MassDEP Secondary Maximum Contaminant Level (SMCL) for TDS.

However, CWD requests clarification on how compliance with the Average Monthly chloride effluent limitation in Table 3 (230 mg/L) will be assessed given a measurement frequency of only 1 sample/month. For example, will the monthly chloride average be calculated each month based on the single chloride sample? Or, does "Average Monthly" refer to a mean chloride concentration across months?

Sincerely,

Jamie O'Connell, Watershed Protection Supervisor, CWD
joconnell@cambridgema.gov
617-349-4781

CC: Cambridge Water Board

David Kaplan, CWD, Watershed Manager
Mark Gallagher, CWD, Managing Director