

WATER BOARD MEETING AGENDA

Tuesday, May 13, 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/webinar/register/WN_c2KfHXmxREWjlyTAhPv2VA

A. MINUTES OF APRIL 15, 2025, MEETING

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- PFAS
- Drought Status Update
- Presentation – Distribution Capital Improvements, Rich Holly

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 April 2025
 - FY25 Consumption through April 2025
 - Water Fund Balance as of 6-30-2024

D. ACTION ITEMS

- None

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE and ITEMS OF INTEREST

- None

F. NEW BUSINESS

- None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/AGENDA

- June 10th, 2025: TBA/TBD

MEETING MINUTES

April 15, 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 via Zoom were:

Cambridge Water Board (CWB): Ann Roosevelt, Benjamis Lendorff, James Burruss, and Tahir Kapoor.

Cambridge Water Department (CWD): Mark Gallagher, Julie Greenwood-Torelli, Fred Centanni, Rich Lagerholm, and Katherine Orciuch.

A. MINUTES OF MARCH 11, 2025, MEETING

Mr. Burruss moved, and Ms. Lendorff seconded the motion to approve March 11, 2025, minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PFAS Update: Q2 April PFAS sampling was done on 4-14-25 with all new media. Anticipating the results will be a non-detect.

Questions/Comments: Do you have results? No, the samples were sent out 4-14-25, so it'll be a couple of weeks. CWD does not do in house for the compliance sampling.

Questions/Comments: Request for a table of sampling, frequency, sampling, test methods, acceptance criteria, upper and lower control limits, and averages over year or so.

Drought Status Update: Mr. Gallagher gave a presentation about amendment to City Council Ordinance 13.08 – WMA State Declared Drought Water Bans. Link to presentation:

Questions/Comments: Are irrigation of public parks, athletic fields, and golf courses exempt? The ban restricts all non-essential outdoor water use based on the drought level: public parks and athletic fields are exempt, and golf courses have a separate modified exemption.

- a) **Level 1 (Mild Drought).** All nonessential outdoor water uses restricted to no more than one day per week, before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m., except that watering of ornamentals and flower gardens with drip irrigation, hand-held hose or watering cans may be permitted.
- b) **Level 2 (Significant Drought).** All nonessential outdoor water uses banned, except that watering of ornamentals and flower gardens with drip irrigation, hand-held hose or watering cans may be permitted.
- c) **Level 3 (Critical Drought) or Level 4 (Drought Emergency).** All nonessential outdoor water uses are banned.
- Once implemented, as required by 310 CMR 36.07(2)(c), restrictions at least as restrictive as those above shall remain in place for the declared drought level until the drought level is changed by the Secretary.

Questions/Comments: What level are we are now? We are currently at level 2 significant.

Questions/Comments: The projected water supply capacity on June 1st is projected to be 75%, will we be, OK? As long as we have average or above average precipitation for the summer, we should be able to make it through the warm weather months.

C. OPERATIONS

Transmission and Distribution:

Questions/Comments: Do we replace any lead services in-house? Yes. If a customer calls about lead service, CWD will replace the street side of the service and provide a list of contractors to replace the remaining service from the property line into the meter. CWD is also replacing lead services under DPW chapter 90 and Sewer separation projects.

Watershed:

Questions/Comments: Has there been a cyanobacteria problem? Most source water does contain cyanobacteria, but we do not have a problem. The study will provide information should there be a problem in the future.

Questions/Comments: What is the status of the demolition of the abandoned structure? After the emergency vote by the board, CWD was able to use an existing City contractor as well as get approval from DEP and the Historical Commission. The structure was demolished in one day and the debris was removed.

Water Operations:

Questions/Comments: None

Engineering:

Questions/Comments: Will the Fire Department be conducting fire hydrant flushing and testing? The Fire Department will be inspecting the mechanics of the hydrants but will not be flowing water due to the City's drought level.

Business:

Questions/Comments: None

D. ACTION ITEMS

None

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST

None

F. NEW BUSINESS

None

G. NEXT MEETING DATES/AGENDA – Meetings via Zoom

- May 13, 2025: Approved/TBD

Ms. Roosevelt moved, and Mr. Kapoor seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:49 pm. All were in favor of the motion. The tour of the treatment plant followed this portion of the meeting.

A-2

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- PFAS
- Drought Status
- Presentation - Distribution Capital Improvements, Rich Holly

C. OPERATIONS – Transmission and Distribution, April 2025

- 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** – Replace 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** - 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**: Replacing ~700 feet of 6" unlined cast iron with 8" cement-lined ductile iron, including all valves, hydrants, service connections, and lead service line removal(7 lead services)
- **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, and 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.

April 2025 Distribution Work

• Work Orders Completed	22
• Leaks Repaired	1
• Lead Services Renewed	2
• Hydrants Repaired/Replaced	3
• Valves Repaired/Replaced	1
• Gateboxes Reset/Replaced	2
• Valves Exercised	276
• Inspections Performed	236
• Dig Safe Utility Markouts	726

C. OPERATIONS – Watershed, April 2025

I. *Fresh Pond Reservation:*

1. Historic intake structure demolished 4/12/2025.
2. *Open Working Supervisor/Parks Maintenance Craftsperson Position:* Offer accepted and new hire starting 5/12/25.
3. *FOCA Run:* Friends of Cambridge Athletics 5K run successfully executed 4/6/25. No issues.
4. *Cyanobacteria Monitoring Study* – Contract has been awarded and sampling began in April.

II. *Cambridge Watershed:*

1. *Winter Street Gatehouse Repairs:* Exterior underwater mortar installation completed. Interior wet-well mortaring ongoing.
2. *Stony Brook Gatehouse Masonry Repairs:* Completed.
3. *Stony Brook Gatehouse Low Sluice Gate Repairs:* Issue with stem fabrication. Re-ordering.
4. *Open Watershed Technical Supervisor Position:* Advertised in April. Currently reviewing applications.

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, and 269 North Ave; Lexington: 15-17 Fairland St). Construction is currently ongoing for a small subdivision at 576 North Ave in Weston. Construction of an apartment complex at 751-761 Boston Post Road has started.
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. CWD is supporting the Law Department as the case moves through litigation. No updates.
8. 149-151 Spring Street, Lexington parking lot expansion proposal is in permitting. The applicant will be required to submit a full Notice of Intent application after receiving a positive determination of applicability for Lexington's local wetlands bylaw. No updates.
9. Enbridge (Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC) Route 2 Metering and Regulation Station replacement project is mechanically completed. Test pits for soil conditions conducted. Fence installation and planting anticipated mid-May.

V. *Comment Letters/Hearings:* CWD submitted formal verbal and/or written comments regarding:

1. *17 Stonehedge Road, Lincoln* – Submitted emailed comments to the Lincoln Conservation Commission regarding adequate containment for residential aboveground storage tanks proposed in the Zone A.
2. *64 Trapelo Road, Lincoln* – Submitted emailed comments regarding single family home addition and septic system. No issues noted.

C. OPERATIONS – Watershed, April 2025 (cont)

3. *473 Concord Road, Weston* – Submitted emailed comments to the Weston Conservation Commission regarding a proposed single-family home renovation and new septic system. No issues noted.

VI. *Communications:*

1. *125 Spring Street, Lexington* – Met with applicants to discuss managing dewatering discharge during a geothermal well construction project.

VII. *Site Visits:*

1. *Regular watershed patrols by caretakers ongoing*
2. *710 Marret Road, MassDOT Highway Depot, Lexington* – Inspected newly installed bioretention basins during storm event. Noted some riling and uprooted vegetation. Spoke to site supervisor who said he's working with the contractor to get the site stabilized.
3. *Lexington Brook, Lexington* – Inspected stream during storm event. Did not observe signs of turbidity.
4. *Enbridge (Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC) Route 2 Metering and Regulation Station, Lincoln* – CWD staff attended a pre-restoration site visit. Minor erosion control issues noted.
5. *751-761 Boston Post Road, Weston* – Inspected construction site after rain event. No issues noted.

VIII. *Hazmat:*

1. *No events*



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May 1, 2025

APRIL 2025 WATER SUPPLY SUMMARY REPORT

Highlights

- The April percent water supply system capacity of 63% (based on 2.9BG usable capacity) is:
 - 10 percentage points higher than March 2025 (53%);
 - 29 percentage points lower than April 2024 (92%); and
 - 8 percentage point lower than April 2017 (71%, last month of 2016-2017 drought)
- The water supply system recharged at an average rate of 0.330 percentage points/day (%/day) in April. If the April rate of recharge is maintained, the percent water supply capacity will only reach 73% by June 1, 2025.
 - To achieve 90% capacity by June 1st, the average daily recharge rate needs to be at least 2.81 %/day.
- Precipitation at the Lincoln Field Office in April 2025 totaled 3.63 inches, 0.21 inches below the National Climate Data Center (NCDC)'s monthly normal at Bedford Hanscom Field (3.84 inches).
- The drought status set by the MA EEA Secretary is currently a Level 2 – Significant Drought.

Storage

Figure 1: Hobbs Brook Reservoir Storage, April 2025

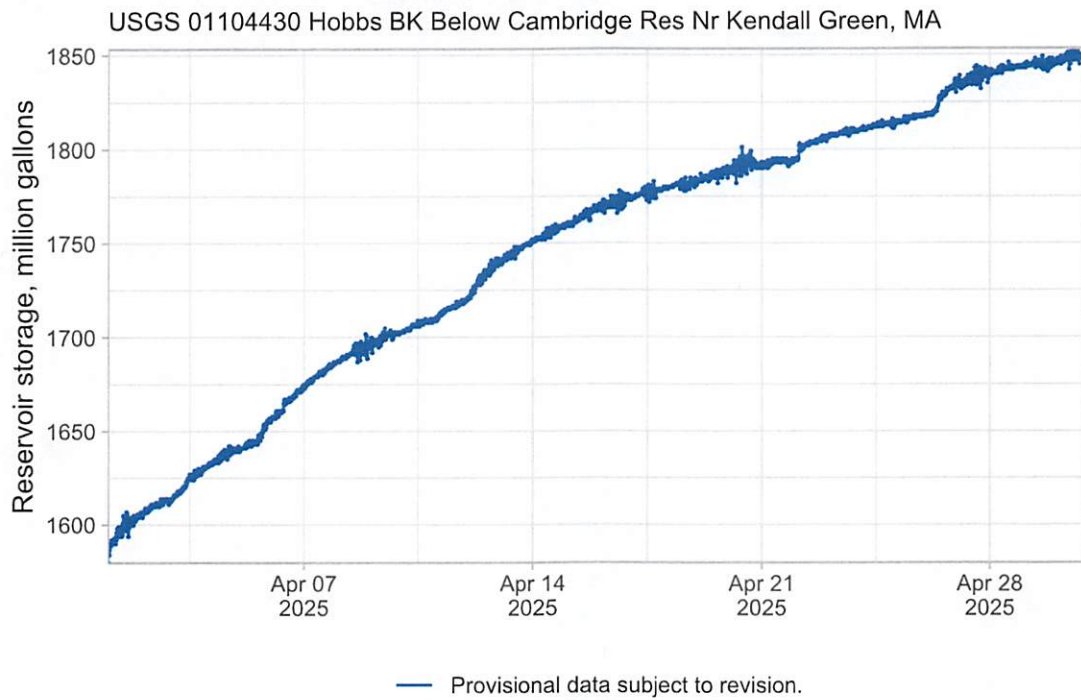


Figure 2: Stony Brook Reservoir Storage, April 2025

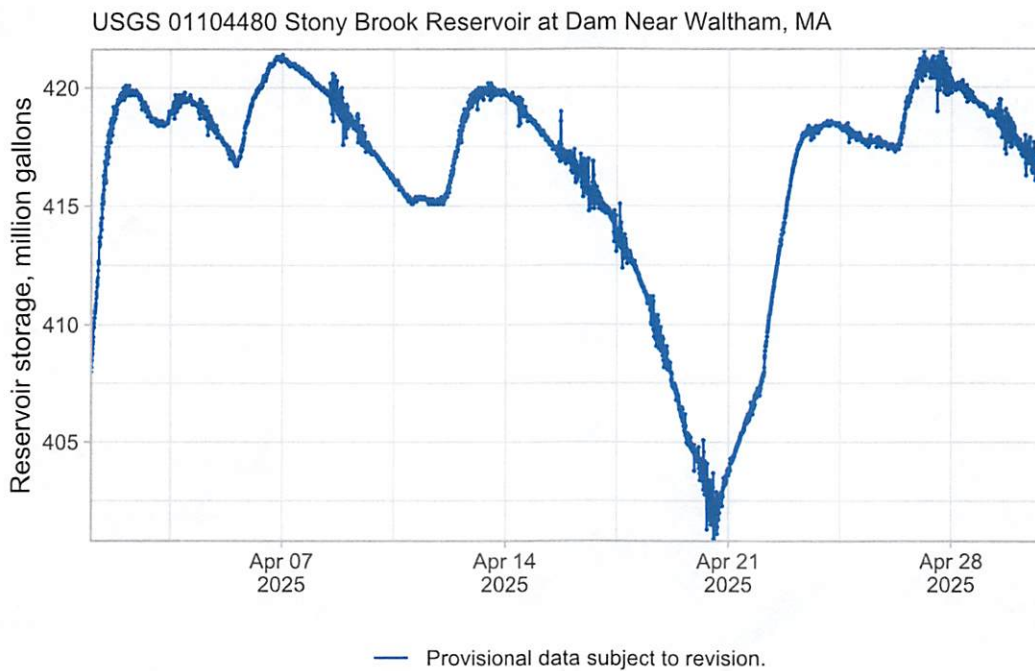


Figure 3: Fresh Pond Reservoir Storage, April 2025

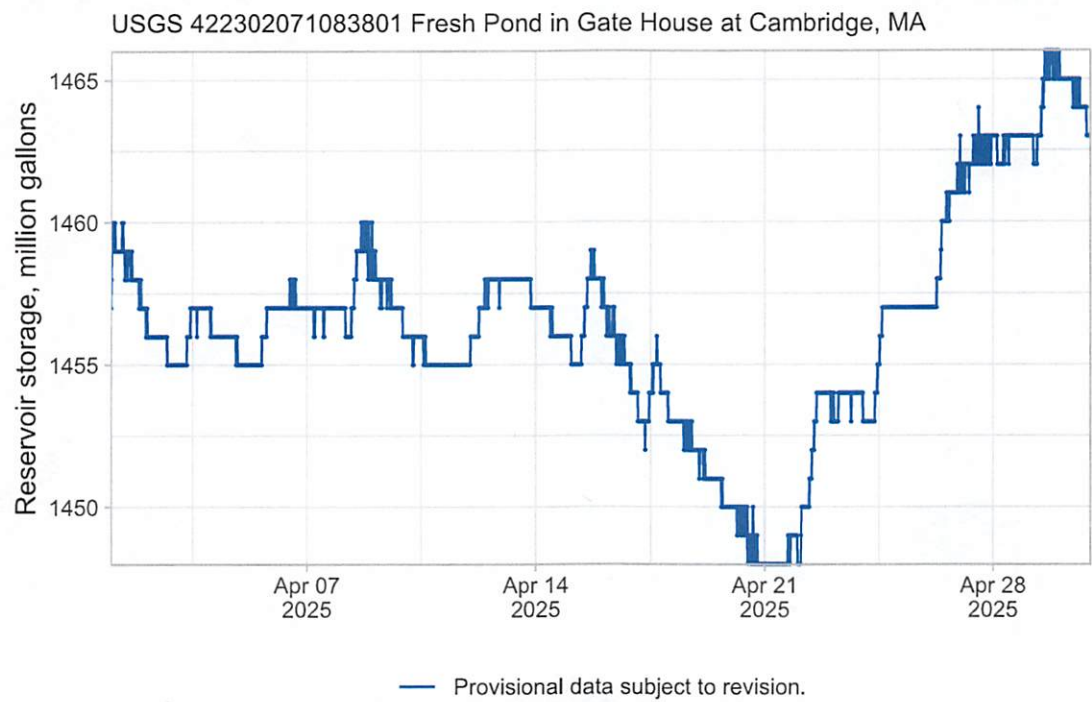


Figure 4: CWD % System Capacity, Water Years 2016 and 2017 (drought), 2024, and 2025

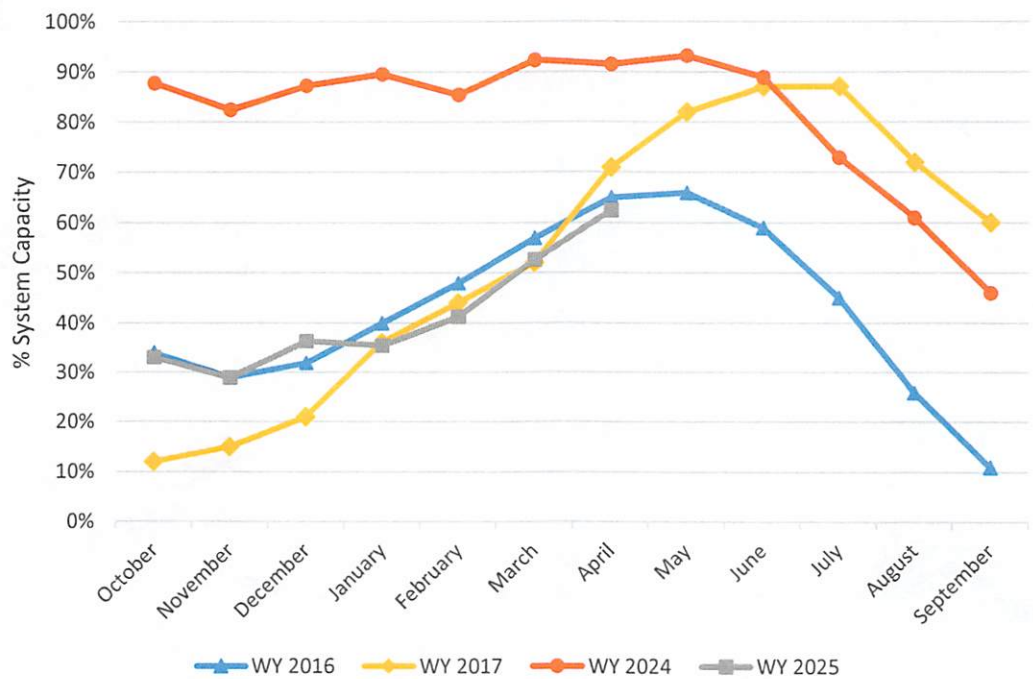
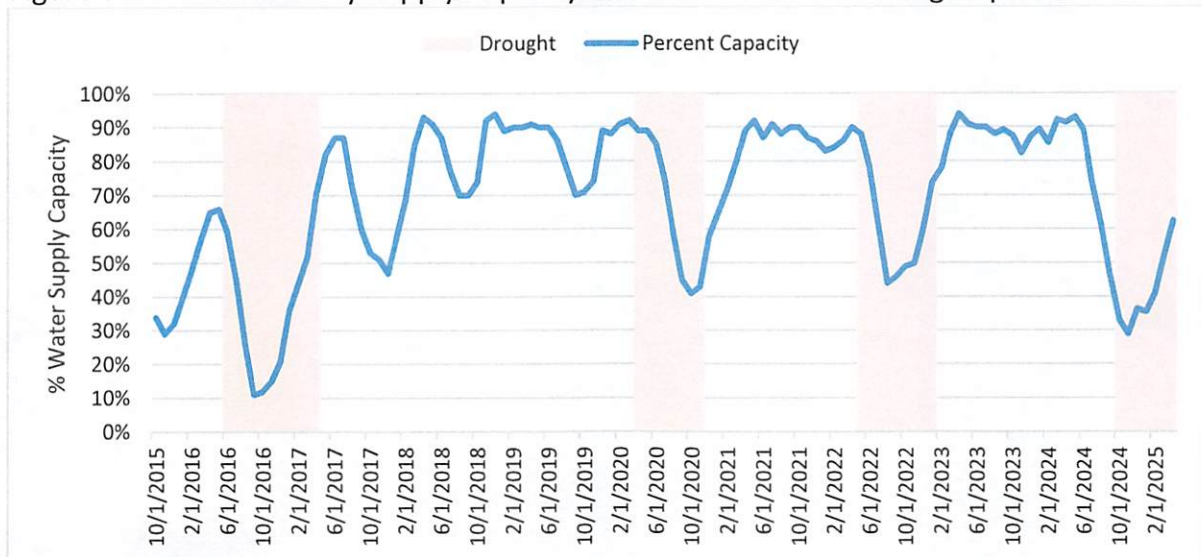


Table 1. Monthly Recharge Rates (% Water Supply Capacity/Day), Water Year 2025

Date	% water supply capacity	Monthly Recharge Rate (%/day)*	Days until June 1, 2025	Projected % Water Supply Capacity on June 1, 2025	Recharge Rate (%/day) Needed for 90% Capacity by June 1, 2025
10/31/2024	33.0	--	--	--	--
11/30/2024	28.9	-0.137	183	4	0.492
12/31/2024	36.4	0.242	152	73	0.592
1/31/2025	35.5	-0.029	121	32	0.744
2/28/2025	41.3	0.207	93	61	0.986
3/31/2025	52.6	0.365	62	75	1.45
4/30/2025	62.5	0.330	32	73	2.81

* % water supply capacity gain or loss/day, calculated based on the difference in % water supply capacity at the start and end of each monthly interval

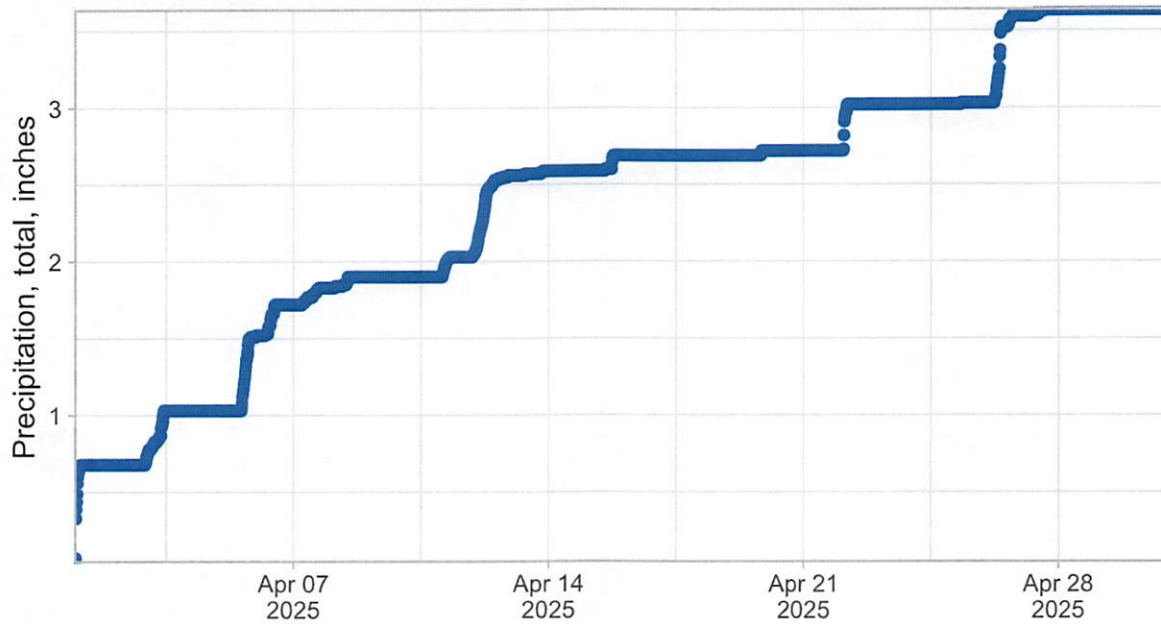
Figure 5. Percent Monthly Supply Capacity from October 2015 through April 2025



Precipitation

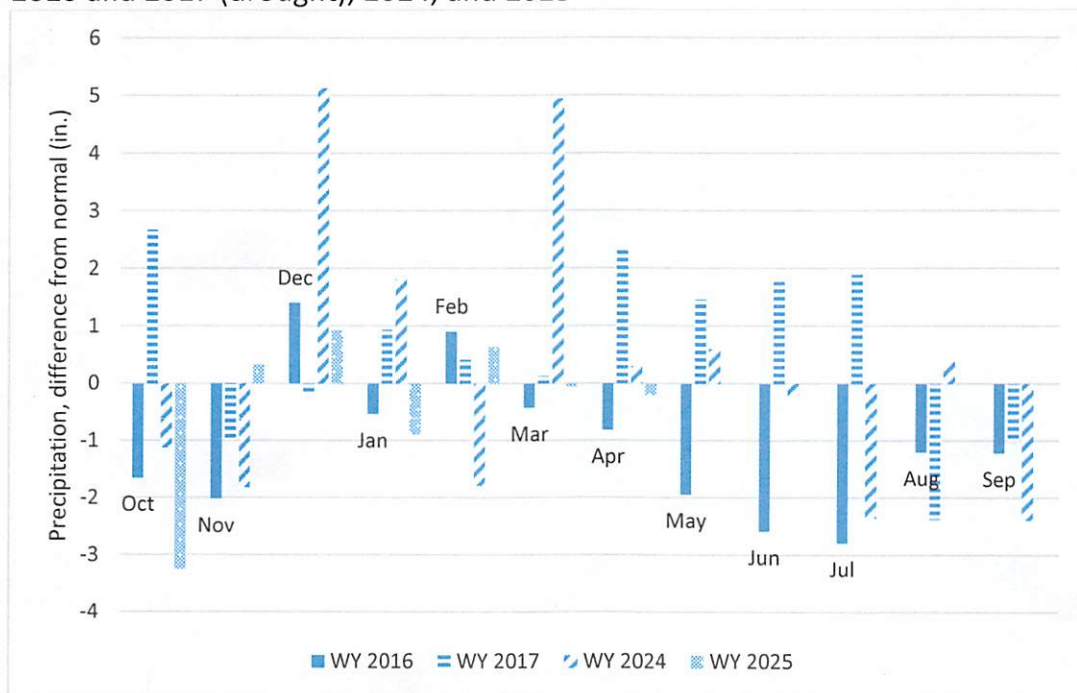
Figure 6: Precipitation measured at Lincoln Field Office, April 2025

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



● Provisional data subject to revision.

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



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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, April 2025

Plant Operations:

Production: 354.53 Million Gallons

Monthly Average: 11.82 Million Gallons Per Day

Daily Max: 9.23 Million Gallons Per Day on 4/8

Daily Min: 15.65 Million Gallons Per Day on 4/30

Water Quality/Laboratory

- There were **0** total coliform positives for April
April: 108 samples collected for compliance
- PFAS
 - Quarter 2 (April 2025) compliance sample result was ND (Not Detected)
 - Next compliance sample to be collected in Quarter 3 (July 2025)

C. OPERATIONS – Engineering and Program Development, April 2025

MEETINGS ATTENDED

- River Street Water Main Project
 - MassDOT Project Coordination
 - Cambridge Water Department ASR Meeting
-

CONSTRUCTION / WATER USE PERMITS

- 10 construction permits issued in April 2025
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PROJECTS & OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Utility Design Reviews:**
Provided engineering feedback on utility design plans for the following addresses:
585 Third St., 303 Harvard St., 4–6 Holworthy Terrace, 66–68 Kinnaird St., 23 Verdun St., 25 Williams St., 121–123 Broadway, 387 Norfolk St., 24 Newell St., 25–27 Chauncy St., 20 Banks St., 194 Lakeview Ave., 139 Massachusetts Ave., 127 Broadway, 21 Cottage Park Ave., 127 Massachusetts Ave., 744–750 Massachusetts Ave., 725 Concord Ave., 321 Mt. Auburn St., 27 Jay St., 35–37 Gore St., 3 Ames St., 25–523 Harvard Coop, 19–27 Holden Green, 130 Cushing St., 5–7 Rockwell St., 605 Concord Ave., 75 Broadway, 68 Oxford St., 1 Alewife Park, 8 Andrew St., 22–24 Farwell Place, 2 Holyoke St., 184–194 Green St., 75 First St., 13 Hubbard Ave., 460 Massachusetts Ave., 125 Jackson St., 1524 Massachusetts Ave., 1700 Massachusetts Ave., 252 Lexington Ave., 204 Fayerweather St., 610 Main St., 20 Cambridge Park, 16 Divinity Ave., 84–86 Aberdeen Ave., 20–22 Whitney Ave., 311–313 Broadway, 55 Stearns St., 5 Frost St., 22 Madison Ave., 2151 Massachusetts Ave., 407A Broadway, 1376 Massachusetts Ave. (aka 6 JFK St.), and 1 Gerry's Landing.
- **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
 - Chestnut Street
 - Haskell Street
 - Kirkland Road
 - Chetwynd Road (in-house)
 - Hillside Avenue (in-house)

C. OPERATIONS – Engineering and Program Development, April 2025 (cont)

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 second Engineering Intern (June–December 2025).**

C. OPERATIONS - Business, April 2025

FY25 Billings			
Month	Billed Water Consumption	Month	Billed Water Consumption
July	707,653	January	521,856
August	362,781	February	275,032
September	314,330	March	199,210
October	764,179	April	339,297
November	366,975	May	0
December	259,807	June	0
		FY25 TOTAL	4,111,120
		FY24 TOTAL	4,252,047
			-3.31%

Cross Connection Program Results		
	April	
Total Tests		Fails
655		19

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

D. ACTION ITEMS

- None

E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE and ITEMS OF NTEREST

- None

F. NEW BUSINESS

- None

G. NEXT MEETING DATE/AGENDA

- June 10th, 2025: TBA/TBD