

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

September 16th, 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, and Rich Holly.

A. MINUTES OF OCTOBER MEETING

Ms. Roosevelt confirmed that the June minutes were correct.

Ms. Roosevelt moved and Kathleen Kelly seconded the motion to approve the September 16th, 2025, minutes as amended. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PFAS UPDATE: The quarter III samples were collected in July and came back at 2.97 parts per trillion. CWD will be meeting with Calgon Carbon to change out 6 filters. Which will start in January. 2 filters will be replaced per month. CWD currently meets all PFAS regulations.

EPA regulations took effect in 2027. CWD is in compliance with the revised regulations should they be adopted. The standard is that the PFOA AND PFAS must be 4 trillion or less and it is based off quarterly sampling. Fourth quarter testing will be conducted in first week of October. January starts a new quarter.

Drought Status Update: Increased drought status to level 2, significant drought. We are currently in a water ban. All non- essential water is banned except for watering with drip irrigation or buckets for gardens.

Fresh Pond Shared Use Concerns: A member of the group is concerned about bicycle use around the pond and she indicated that she felt endangered. E-bikes and power assisted vehicles are prohibited on the pond path. Dave Kaplan explained that there is signage up at every major entry point. CWD has revamped the signage. CWD Rangers enforce those rules and use their best judgement when they think someone is going at an unsafe speed. CWD will investigate bicycle regulations, data and new signage and will have it for review at the next meeting.

Zoom to Teams for meetings: City of Cambridge is switching to Teams for all public meetings.

Questions/Comments: Is there no choice in this? The city is now only using teams for everything. CWD will send out instructions and be able to answer any questions about teams.

Transmission and Distribution Questions/Comments:

- A. Kirkland Rd, What is an inhouse contractor? We hire outside contractors to assist with water main work.
- B. DPW Mass Ave 4: Phase 1, How are we doing the upgrades? Mass Ave was broken into phases. We are in phase 1 which is in the Linnean area and the floating bus stops. We are currently doing major valve work and upgrading the areas that are critical. It is taking a bit longer than anticipated because of how many utilities are on Mass Ave but phase 1 should be completed in about 3-4 weeks. We are looking to eliminate 6-inch mains. This is a DPW contract not water, Mark Gallagher worked with DPW to choose the more critical parts of the water mains to be reconstructed.
- C. How are leaks reported? Every year we hire a company to come in and conduct testing, this year we had 19 leaks reported.

Watershed: Questions/Comments:

- A. Huron Pine Grove Pilot Project: Why do the declining pines need to be replaced? We planted in midsummer and did our best with watering and keeping up but 4 of them did not make it.
- B. Stoneybrook gatehouse: What is the issue with stem fabrication? CWD hired an engineer for the replacement, and they were responsible of competing the stem refabricated. It is taking longer than anticipated, we are hoping to have a new stem at the end of September.
- C. USGS planned to renew our joint funding for another year: This is our online network for our real time monitoring.
- D. Geothermal cooling and heating: What is going on? Geothermal will be closed looped. They're asking for a permit for DEP to discharge. The discharged water will pass through granular activated carbon like we do here at CWD. Is there a way to find PFAS in Hobbs and Stonybrook? Not currently but we are working on that.

Car fire: The staff determined that the foam was a demonyms threat. The newer foams are PFAS free, per the fire department. Mass DOT has down work over the last 20 years to install basins to intercept direct discharges to our system.

Water supply summary report:

Questions/Comments: The report does not look good. 14% lower than July. We are in a drought which is affecting these numbers.

Water Operations: Questions/Comments: The production in July was higher, what was the reason? Summer usage. The daily maximums were higher, why? We shut down a couple of times in July due to our SCADA upgrades, which means we would have to use more the day before to prepare.

Business: Questions/Comments: Operations, fiscal year 25 total is less than fiscal year 24, why? We were in a critical drought and a water ban so water consumption was down which brings in a noticeable amount of revenue. CWD was having issues with our new billing network which caused bills to go out later than usual, which was making the revenue come in after the fiscal year.

ACTION ITEMS:

None.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

None.

F. NEXT MEETING: DATES/AGENDA:

Tuesday, October 14th.

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