

CAMBRIDGE WATER BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

May 14, 2024

*This meeting is available virtually on Zoom. This meeting is being recorded.*

This meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m. Those in attendance via *Zoom* were:

**Cambridge Water Board (CWB):** Benjamas Lendorff, James Burruss and Tahir Kapoor.

**Cambridge Water Department (CWD):** Mark Gallagher, Fred Centanni, Dave Kaplan, Anna Van Dreser, Jamie O'Connell, Emily Maynard, Rich Lagerholm and Linda Vierboom.

**A. MINUTES OF APRIL 9, 2024, MEETING**

Ms. Lendorff moved, and Mr. Kapoor seconded the motion to approve the April 9, 2024, minutes as written. The vote was unanimous in favor of the motion.

**B. MANAGING DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

PFAS Update: The carbon change out was completed last month. All six filters have either new or re-activated carbon. Our last load of virgin GAC has been installed and our own re-activated carbon was placed in four of the filter beds. As we've been told by the vendor, some water departments have reported that re-activated carbon performs better at PFAS removal and removes PFAS longer because of the increased surface area on the carbon. After it's been backwashed, and the carbon re-activated it gets rid of a lot of fines that can plug the pores and stick to the surface area. Our second compliance samples in April were non-detects for the PFAS6.

New Federal PFAS Standard – On April 10<sup>th</sup> the EPA released their new Federal PFAS Standard, which has lower numbers than the Mass DEP PFAS 20ppt standard. The EPA standard numbers are lower for PFOS and PFOA. These numbers can't go above 4ppt on a running "annual" average. Because it's an "annual" average, if Mass DEP sticks with the EPA regulation, we feel we will stay in compliance longer and get more life out of our carbon beds before change outs are needed. If DEP makes the standard stricter, such as results based on actual "quarterly" results, we may have to change out the carbon sooner - 10 months vs the 14 months we do now. We feel we will stay in compliance under the new EPA regulation as water providers have until 2027 to start a PFAS monitoring program, and then until 2029 to develop treatment and come into compliance with those numbers. Fortunately, because MASS DEP has been so strict and they started before the EPA did, we would already be in 100% compliance if it took place today. We will need to wait and see what Mass DEP decides to do with the new EPA standard.

Enbridge (Algonquin Gas Transmission, LLC) Gas Easement: The Algonquin Natural Gas Meter Station abuts our property on Route 2. The Tennessee Gas Company has an easement that runs right through our property and along our property by Hobbs Brook. Last summer they contacted us to survey our property. We agreed to this survey. In November they proposed that Algonquin needed to use our property and requested to cut 55 trees on CWD property in Zone "A" for construction staging for a meter station improvement project. We asked for due diligence, and supporting documentation as to why this was the only way they could accomplish the work they

needed to do. In early April their response to our request for a work proposal and timeline was what they deemed a “Final” offer packet, offering \$10,000 to use the land (timber value of the trees) and stated that if we didn’t agree they would file an injunction against us in federal court under the Natural Gas Act. We met with the law department, and we asked for an extension. This was declined by the utility. We declined to accept their final offer and they immediately filed an injunction against us in court. (Temporary land taking for an easement for construction purposes.) Our council went to federal court today. The judge said the utility had to work with Cambridge and said CWD requests are reasonable and commonsensical. The judge said the utility should work with the City and come up with an approach that is amenable and reasonable to protect the interests of the citizens of Cambridge. Suddenly they found all the information we were looking for and are starting to provide this. We want to minimize the impact of their project and come up with a compromise. Mitigation and remediation is the most important concern for us. The water board will be kept up to date. There should be more of a final picture at next month’s meeting.

*Hobbs Brook Dam Repairs and Gatehouse* – Scope of work presentation by Dave Kaplan, via slide format. Link to this presentation- <https://www.cambridgema.gov/-/media/Files/waterdepartment/waterboardminutes/hobbsbrookdamrepairspresentation.pdf>

Dave applied for and received a state funded one-million-dollar grant. The downstream outlet may need some repair and supports. The upstream gatehouse has seepage that will need to be addressed (re-pointed). Work will start in November when the reservoir is at its lowest.

*Questions/Comments:* Re: Algonquin Gas. Can they remove the gas line from our property? Mr. Gallagher said the physical features are on their property. Their property is a little rectangle in the middle of our property. They want to use our property during the construction.

*Questions/Comments:* Re: Algonquin Gas tree cutting. Do we have a cost estimate to repair the tree cutting damage?

Mr. Gallagher said we have an outline of what we would charge. We have a breakdown, but they wouldn’t give us the back-up of what they were going to do (no assessment was provided), and that’s another reason we didn’t accept their offer. According to the Natural Gas Act, they could file to take this land permanently. Right now, they are filing for temporary land taking for work easement.

## **C. OPERATIONS**

### **Transmission and Distribution:**

*Questions/Comments:* None

### **Watershed:**

*Questions/Comments:* Tracer Lane: We’ve been working on the Tracer Lane (solar field) issue for 2 ½ years. We filed an appeal in Superior Court. We have been asked to work with them to come to an agreement prior to getting into Superior Court. This topic is on hold and will be discussed at a later point.

*Questions/Comments:* Graystone Lane borders Stoney Brook. During a perimeter walk of CWD property near Graystone Lane, Weston, a fallen fence onto CWD property was identified.

Grove Dedication: An event is planned for May 16th at 5:30 pm to honor Pat Pratt, a lifetime volunteer steward and Master Plan Committee member, and Chip Norton, former CWD Watershed Manager, dedicating the oak and evergreen groves respectively at Kingsley Park in their names. Both have groves named after them but never with a formal dedication ceremony. There will be light refreshments in the treatment plan after the ceremony. Board members are encouraged to attend.

**Water Operations:**

*Questions/Comments*: No Comments

**Engineering:**

*Questions/Comments*: No Comments

**Business:**

*Questions/Comments*: No Comments

**D. ACTION ITEMS**

None

**E. MISCELLANEOUS CORRESPONDENCE AND ITEMS OF INTEREST**

Re: MassDEP-BWR Wetlands Program, Wetlands-401 Resilience Comments:

Ms. Lendorff thanked Ms. O'Connell for her very detailed response comments.

Ms. O'Connell said any member or public person can submit comments. Usually watershed associations, and Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) submit comments. It depends on who's impacted by them and who is interested and engaged.

**F. NEW BUSINESS**

None

**G. NEXT MEETING DATES/AGENDA – Meetings via Zoom**

- June 11, 2024: TBA/TBD In-person meeting. We can also do a hybrid. For planning purposes, members are asked to speak with Ann. Mr. Tahir will not be able to attend the June 11 meeting.

Ms. Lendorff moved, and Mr. Tahir seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:50 pm. All were in favor of the motion.