



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District

Water Department

4300 FALMOUTH ROAD, P. O. BOX 451
COTUIT, MASS. 02635

09/19/2023

The monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held at Freedom Hall and via Zoom at 5:45 p.m. Chairman Scott Horsley, Commissioner David Churbuck, Commissioner Mark Robinson, Superintendent Chris Wiseman and Office Manager, Jen Nash were present.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. and was opened to Public Comment. There was none at this time.

Minutes of the August 14, 2023 meeting were reviewed and approved as written.

Superintendent Wiseman reviewed the recent water quality testing results for total coliform. There were no detections. Routine Byproduct sampling was done (THM & HAA5) and all results were well within the minimums. We are currently waiting on PFAS sampling results, and the superintendent will circulate the results when they are available. UCMR5 (including lithium) samples were taken 6 months ago, and the results were finally available. All were under readable limits. The commissioners reviewed the latest Sodium results. A discussion was had regarding road salt and the average particle travel time. Chairman Horsley noted that it was approximately one foot per day with ambient flow, and increases as it nears the well field and is affected by daily pumping.

The Superintendent's report was presented:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>+/-</u>
August	36,073,000 gal.	24,361,000 gal.	-11,712,000 gal.

Monthly pumpage continues to trend down, likely a result of the wet summer and district residents who continue to put in private onsite irrigation wells. Mr. Wiseman noted that the pumps were not as stressed this year. The commissioners asked that we track revenue year over year after the December meter readings have taken place. Commissioner Robinson feels that by raising rates on the higher usage tiers and implementing the irrigation regulations they are driving the desired decrease in pumpage. It could also be drought level related, and they will continue to monitor consumption.

New Service = 1, Replacement Services = 0, Leaks/Repairs = 0

Project Updates:

- West Street tank cleaning has been scheduled for September 21st. The tank will be drained on Wednesday, September 20th.

- Lewis Pond Road Water Main Upgrade - our contact at the engineering firm has left his position (today). Superintendent Wiseman will reach out to obtain a new contact for this project and get an update on the project status.
- PFAS litigation - W9 requested and returned for class action suit settlement.
- Association news - BCWUA held a cyber security training sessions in Brewster. 2 of our operators attended. NEWWA held a MassWarn conference; MWRA is hosting the Trifecta classes in Western Mass; MWMA newsletter will be circulated when received.
- Superintendent Wiseman will be on vacation during the week of 10/8. The commissioners can call the "on-call" phone and reach the operator on duty during the week or contact Mrs. Nash either at the office or by cell.

Old Business:

Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP): Chairman Horsley spoke with State Rep. Kip Diggs and the District's Atty. Mark Boudreau regarding a possibility that might exist to have a collection system route wastewater to the treatment system at the Stop & Shop Plaza, which was built with extra capacity. They met with Mark Ells and learned that the town has already investigated this, and it is not a viable solution. They will continue work on the Enabling Legislation change for source water protection, to facilitate improvements to the septic systems in the Little River Estate neighborhood that abuts the district's wellfields. Little River Estates is currently slated for Phase 3 of the Town's Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan, which could be 20-30 years in the future. Barnstable Clean Water Coalition has seen results indicating 90% nitrogen removal using I/A septic solutions with their project at Shuabel's Pond. Additionally, Tom Cambareri of Sole Source LLC. will be here on Thursday, 9/21/23 to do sounding on the wells and Superintendent Wiseman will ask him to take samples for monitoring purposes.

Affordable Access to Drinking Water (AADW): Commissioner Robinson highlighted the changes to the proposal. All households would receive a \$40/year savings. There would be an increase of 15% in the top two tiers (consumption over 100k gallons in a 6-month period) to offset the revenue. The commission is still encouraging users to move off the higher tiers by conserving water, limiting irrigation, or installing a private onsite irrigation well. If and when this happens, they can institute a future rate adjustment as necessary.

The commissioners discussed holding a public information session in conjunction with the Civic Association for both the AADW and SWPP Enabling Legislation Change to gain input from the district and educate them on the proposal. The commissioners will seek to put a question either on the ballot or via a proposed amendment on the annual district warrant so that Rep. Diggs will have the information necessary to propose the legislation amendment.

Leak Adjustment: The commissioners again reviewed the leak adjustment proposal that was put forward at the August meeting. The property owner, Mr. Kouri was present for the discussion. The commissioners understand the nature of

the leak but are concerned with the overall high usage at this property as it is a small business with a small area using irrigation. The property owner has repaired the leak and has taken steps to ensure heat and airflow to the area with the burst pipe. He also agreed to investigate installing a private onsite irrigation well and will report back to the board. The board agreed to waive penalties and hold the outstanding balance until Mr. Kouri has a chance to investigate the well installation. The item will be carried over to a future meeting for resolution.

New Business:

E-mail Addresses: Commissioner Churbuck asked the opinion of commissioners regarding the use of personal email addresses for district business. He has done some discovery on the implications should there be an open meeting law complaint, records retention guidelines and the cost of moving the commissioners to a cotuitwater.org email address (\$15/month per account). The recommended that Mrs. Nash reach out to the PruComm or Asst. Treasurer to inquire about the cotuitfire.org addresses that the other commissioners use, whether it is a full email account or a "ghost" address that forwards to a personal email address, if it is reliable and what the cost would be. This will remain on the agenda for the next meeting.

Employee Handbook Edits: Superintendent Wiseman reviewed the handbook edits with the commissioners. (Commissioner Robinson left the meeting during this discussion at 6:45 for another meeting commitment). The commissioners requested a legal review of the handbook. Attorney Boudreau referred us to Attorney Michal Pierce who specializes in employment law. Commissioner Churbuck will also reach out to surrounding districts to make sure our benefits are in line with theirs, as they are potential employment competitors in our market.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 25 at 5:45 pm at Freedom Hall.

The meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Horsley
Chairman, Board of Water Commissioners