



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District Water Department

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

01/15/2025

The Board of Water Commissioners held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 15, 2025, at 5:45 p.m. at Freedom Hall. Present at the meeting were Chairman David Churbuck, Commissioner Mark Robinson, Commissioner Scott Horsley, Superintendent Chris Wiseman and Office Manager, Jen Nash.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. and was opened to public comment. There were no comments at this time.

(Commissioner Mark Robinson recused himself from this portion of the meeting due to a conflict of interest). Kelly Grant from the Barnstable Land Trust came forward to request the Commissioner's signature on the Conservation Restriction (CR) that will be held jointly with the Town of Barnstable. The commissioners had the opportunity to review the CR prior to the meeting and voted unanimously to accept it as written. The document was signed and notarized.

Superintendent Wiseman reported the November water testing results. Total Coliform tests showed no detections. Sodium levels have risen significantly since May. Inorganics, Secondary and Synthetic Organic samples were taken, all results were below action levels. PFOS samples were taken by the contractor (Tom Cambareri, Sole Source Consulting) showing results higher than state allowable levels, but half of what they were during the last round of sampling. Superintendent Wiseman will continue to work with Sole Source Consulting to monitor and evaluate the trends. He will also follow up with Mark Nelson regarding the "fingerprinting" of the data in relation to the flow to the public wells.

The superintendent gave his report:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2024</u>	<u>+/-</u>
November	6,542,000	6,712,000	+170,000
December	6,419,000	7,393,000	+974,000

Annual usage is 15% higher than 2023. When taking out the anomaly year (2020/COVID), pumpage is down, on average, 25% since implementing stricter irrigation regulations and increasing rates on the higher usage tiers.

New Service = 1; Replacement Services = 0; Leaks = 0

Association Updates - BCWUA - not a lot of activity; NEWWA - working on legislation issues; MWWA & MWRA - hosting a lot of classes including an in-person intro to water works class in Mashpee.

Staffing Update - Superintendent Wiseman, who returned from medical leave, advised the board that he returned on Tuesday, January 14th and is on "desk duty" until further notice. During his absence, eleven resumes were submitted

for the open position. Of the eleven, about three are possible candidates for interview, with one of them being a possibility. He stated that he will keep the position open until a suitable candidate is found.

Water Management Permit - The withdrawal permit has finally been approved. The average allowable gallons per day was reduced from 640,000 gpd to 630,000 gpd. This should be sufficient based on the historical usage.

The new meter reading software has been implemented, and the field operators were able to read the entire district in one business day. The software also provides the ability to see data from the last 96 days of usage (for the newer 15 series readers) which will greatly improve the department's ability to identify leaks and high usage periods.

Commissioner Horsley, Chairman of the Comprehensive Wastewater Management Plan (CWMP) ad hoc committee gave an update from their most recent meetings. Zee Crocker of Barnstable Clean Water Coalition gave a presentation to the committee on I/A Septic Systems that was well received. The board of health is also meeting to discuss regulations for new systems, especially for waterfront properties. There is a meeting upcoming with the Town Planner and Andrew Gotlieb (Executive Director, Assoc. to Preserve Cape Cod) to talk about future needs. Discussions continue about using effluent water for drinking water, and other types of treatment (reverse osmosis and green sand). Also discussed was the idea of a small local treatment plant, run by the town, for a specific neighborhood. Currently, Cotuit is slated about 20 years out in the Phases and Stages of the CWMP. There was discussion about petitioning the town to move it up on the schedule which could be accomplished if the district could provide a financial subsidy for the cost of the expansion.

There is no update on the Conservation Restriction for the Cotuit Elementary School property. The BOWC wants to review this before it is filed. Chairman Churbuck will contact the town again.

Chairman Churbuck read an email from Rep. Digg's legislative assistant noting that the enabling legislation bill make it through the house, but did not make it to a vote in the senate before their session ended for the holiday season. It will be reintroduced in the house on January 17th, and she anticipates that it will quickly move through the house and over to Julian Cyr's office for introduction in the senate. Since it is a non-monetary bill, she feels it should easily pass the senate. Chairman Churbuck will draft a letter on behalf of the board and send to Sen. Cyr's office in support of the bill.

Sodium Workshop - Commissioner Robinson has a meeting pending with Tara Nye, Water Resource Analyst with the Cape Cod Commission to talk about this and see how they can address this on a regional level, and will have more to report at the next meeting.

Preliminary planning has begun for the FY26 budget. Discussions were held regarding possible capital expenditures including funding for an engineering report/analytical review of water quality to help shape the discussion for future treatment; vehicle replacement; HVAC at WD office; technology expenditures; water main replacement; well cleaning.

Commissioner Horsley needed to leave the meeting by 7pm. The commissioners set the date for the next regular meeting for Wednesday, February 19th, 2025 at 5:45pm.

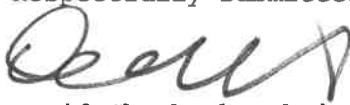
The commissioners began to discuss Superintendent Wiseman's performance review but decided to postpone the discussion to the next meeting so that all commissioners could participate.

Chairman Churbuck asked if there were any updates from the Bylaw & Policy Advisory Subcommittees. There were none.

The minutes for the November 20th regular meeting and the November 20th Executive Session Meeting were reviewed and approved.

The meeting was reopened to Public Comment. There was none. The meeting was then adjourned at 7:03 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Churbuck', written over a horizontal line.

David Churbuck, Chairman
Board of Water Commissioners