



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District

Water Department

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

07/30/2025

The Board of Water Commissioners held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, July 30, 2025, at 5:45 p.m. via Zoom. Present at the meeting were Chairman Mark Robinson, Commissioner Scott Horsley, Commissioner David Churbuck, Superintendent Chris Wiseman and Office Manager, Jen Nash.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. and opened to public comment. DJ McKinnon provided an overview of the denitrification system installed at his property located at 910 Main Street. He described the installation process and explained how the system functions using a combination of limestone, woodchips, and aeration to convert nitrogen from its liquid form into a gaseous form, which is then safely dispersed into the atmosphere.

The system is tested quarterly, and results from 2024 have shown a significant reduction in nitrogen levels. Mr. McKinnon noted that the system's fan uses approximately the same amount of energy as a 100-watt light bulb, and the total installation cost was around \$15,000. He has emailed Superintendent Wiseman with additional information and diagrams and offered to make himself available for questions, site visits, or further discussion.

The board invited Mr. McKinnon to participate in the upcoming Wastewater Workshop hosted by the Cotuit-Santuit Civic Association on August 19th to share his experience; however, he is unavailable to attend. He gave permission for the board to use a video clip of his overview at the meeting.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Nichols attended the meeting to request relief from their recent water bill due to a leak. Mrs. Nash presented the details of the request, noting that it follows a previous request addressed at the June meeting. The leak began in late December and continued until the issue was identified through meter readings and billing in January. Relief had already been granted for the December portion of the overage, and this request pertained to the January usage.

Commissioner Horsley recused himself from the discussion due to a direct relationship with the plumbing company involved in the matter. Commissioners Robinson and Churbuck reviewed the request and voted unanimously to approve the additional relief.

Seeing no other public comment requests, Superintendent Wiseman reviewed the water quality results for the prior month. There were no total coliform detections. Several additional tests, including inorganic

compounds and synthetics were submitted, and results are pending. Commissioner Horsley asked for a year over year comparison of manganese results to review at the next meeting.

The superintendent gave his report:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2025</u>	<u>+/-</u>
June	22,817,000	23,029,000	+212,000

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

Drought Level - Currently the cape is at Level I. Mandatory restrictions for water usage begin when the monitoring well (near Barnstable High School) reaches a level of 25.91 feet (measured from the top of the well to the water line) and remain there for 60 days. Currently the level is 25.54 feet. The superintendent will implement a Voluntary Conservation when the monitoring well reaches 25.91 feet - ahead of any restrictions mandated by the state and in accordance with our water withdrawal permit.

Association Updates - The Barnstable County Water Utilities Association (BCWUA) is holding their annual trade show in September. The New England Water Works Association (NEWWA) are offering upcoming training classes. The Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA) is holding their expo in August at Wachusett, and the Massachusetts Rural Water Association (MRWA) is holding their event which includes classes, a water tasting competition and barbeque.

Revised W2's for 2024 have been received. The board asked if there was any progress in finding a new payroll company. There is no progress to our knowledge at this time. It was announced at the PruComm meeting on Monday that the district has hired a new Assistant Treasurer. No contact information has been shared at this time. His official start date is August 4th. Ms. Haven will be retiring in the second week of August.

Superintendent Wiseman circulated a report from Tom Cambareri reviewing the PFOS/PFOA test results from the new sampling wells located on Mariner Circle and Santuit-Newtown Road. The results were favorable, showing a decline in contamination levels, with most samples indicating non-detectable levels of PFOS/PFOA. Based on these results, the board agreed that annual sampling at these locations is now appropriate.

Mr. Cambareri has been invited to attend the next board meeting to discuss a proposed mapping project for groundwater flow to Station #5, similar to the work previously completed for the main well field. There is ongoing concern about potential influence from the treatment plants at Stratford Ponds and Cotuit Meadows, and how those systems may affect the wellfield.

The board also directed Superintendent Wiseman to meet with the owners of King's Landscape to inform them that the district is monitoring the wells and appreciates the cleanup efforts made to date. He was asked to share the groundwater flow map included in the packet, which illustrates that flow from their property passes directly through the test well area.

This concludes the Superintendent's report.

Source Water Protection Plan (SWPP) & CSCA Public Meeting on Wastewater Management - The commissioners discussed the upcoming meeting and noted that 5 participants have been confirmed. In addition to Commissioner Horsley, the presenters will include Zee Crocker, Rob Stein, Anastasia Radenko and Sarah Wiggington. Chairman Robinson will do an introduction, Commissioner Churbuck will moderate the discussion, and all the commissioners will have an opportunity to address the public. Each presenter will be limited to 5 minutes with 2 to 3 slides. Commissioner Churbuck will collect and compile the PowerPoint presentation. Amy Fish, facilities manager for the church, has been hired to assist with A/V and recording.

Commissioner Horsley emphasized the importance of including in the 2025 Consumer Confidence Report both the results of the district's proactive PFOS/PFOA testing and the observed impact of private irrigation wells on the public water supply.

Cotuit Elementary Conservation Restriction - No new updates. Commissioner Robinson has emailed Tom LaRusso regarding this but has not yet received a response.

Enabling Legislation - Commissioner Churbuck noted HB2258 is slowly proceeding. It was referred to the house steering committee on 7/10 and was moved to the next sitting on 7/23. There it received its third reading (to make sure that the language is clean and constitutional) and from there it goes to vote. The house is typically in recess during the month of August, and the bill has until the 3rd Wednesday in November to be voted on as the session expires. We likely won't see any more progress until September.

New Business/Matters Not Anticipated - As the leak adjustment was address during public comment, there is nothing new at this time. There was no additional public comment.

The minutes for the June 18th regular meeting were reviewed and approved.

Commissioner Robinson commented on the format of the most recent water bills and like the comparison to the daily usage recommendations set by the American Water Works Association.

Commissioner Churbuck commented on the Cape Cod Commission Water Rate report that was circulated earlier this month and felt the results were complimentary for the Cotuit Water Department. The board will discuss

further how they would like to use and promote the information contained in the report.

The date for the next meeting has been set for Wednesday, September 24th, 5:45pm at Freedom Hall. The meeting was then adjourned at 6:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Mark Robinson, Chairman
Board of Water Commissioners