



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District Water Department

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

04/22/2026

The Board of Water Commissioners held their monthly meeting on Wednesday, April 22, 2026, at 5:45 p.m. at Freedom Hall and via Zoom. Present at the meeting were Chairman Mark Robinson; Commissioner David Churbuck; Commissioner Scott Horsley; Superintendent Chris Wiseman; Office Manager Jen Nash.

Chairman Robinson called the meeting to order at 5:45 p.m.

Public Comment - Joe Sullivan, Project Manager for Left Field, the contractor overseeing the school demolition project, addressed the Board regarding plans for water use during the demolition and "return to nature" phases. Cotuit Water will install a hydrant meter at the hydrant located at 140 Old Oyster Road. This will be used for dust control during demolition and to fill water bags for newly planted trees. The Fire Department has been notified that the hydrant will be temporarily out of service during this period. Water Department staff will train designated project personnel on the proper use of the hydrant and meter. The Superintendent reviewed the requirement to cut and cap the water service to the school prior to demolition, and Mr. Sullivan confirmed that this will be completed. Commissioner Horsley also requested that certification and soil test results be submitted following the removal of the exterior oil tank.

Carol Zais let the board know that she will be the Civic Association representative at our meeting for the next quarter.

Superintendent Wiseman reported that there were no total coliform detections. PFOS results from the February tests were reviewed noting that they were higher than previous results. Commissioner Horsley asked for some revisions to the report format. Commissioner Churbuck has charted previous results and will update his charts for the next meeting. The DEP required tests will be taken tomorrow, April 23rd.

The superintendent gave his report:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>+/-</u>
March	6,954,000	6,229,000	-725,000

Service activity was reviewed: 0 new service, 0 replacement, 0 leaks.

Association Updates: Superintendent Wiseman attended the annual conference in Worcester and met with several of our vendors. Today, he also met with Erica Burns, the new training director with MRWA to review our activities and see if there were any projects that MRWA could help us with. Our new Field Operator, Jeff Marks, has enrolled in the Intro to Water course for new operators so that he can begin to prepare for his exams.

Groundwater Contour Mapping, Station #5: Superintendent Wiseman provided some additional information materials to Tom Cambareri who continues to work on this

project. Commissioner Horsley requested that we ensure that the new map shows the accurate location of the wastewater discharge area for Stratford Ponds.

FPOS Settlement - Two new payments have been received: TYCO \$29,058.62 and BASF \$12,095.61. Superintendent Wiseman has confirmed with the treasurer that the special revenue fund has been set up. The total funds received to date are \$234,421.25.

Water Penalty - Mr. Caulder, who was assessed a \$1,000 penalty for removing his meter and installing a spacer, contacted Mr. Wiseman to discuss the matter. He proposed a compromise in which both parties would each contribute \$500 to a charity of their choosing in lieu of paying the penalty or pursuing legal action. Mr. Caulder did not provide the information previously requested by the Board, and Massachusetts General Law supports the imposition of the penalty. If the fine remains unpaid, his account will be placed on the lien list beginning in May. The Board expressed consensus in upholding the penalty as issued.

This concludes the Superintendent's report.

Cotuit Elementary Conservation Restriction - Town Councilor Burdick worked with the Town Attorney's office to help advance this matter, and we are grateful for his assistance. Town Attorney Tom LaRosa reviewed and marked up the draft document before forwarding it to the district's attorney for further review. One of the proposed revisions involved the designation of the grantee. This was changed from the Board of Water Commissioners (BOWC) to the Prudential Committee (PruComm), consistent with the district's prior vote when the property was transferred. Chairman Robinson advocated for including the BOWC as a named party, given that the property lies within Zone II of Well #3. However, the Town Attorney advised that the document should reflect PruComm as the sole grantee, noting that any change would require a new vote at an Annual District Meeting. Commissioner Robinson expressed that it would be prudent to accept the document as drafted and move the restriction forward, as pursuing a new vote could delay the process by up to two years, with no assurance that the Prudential Committee would support reopening the matter for a district-wide vote.

Source Water Protection: The CWMP Ad Hoc Committee met with the Board of Health. The meeting was well attended. The BOH is still considering the matter and Commissioner Horsley will provide updates as more information becomes available.

Budget, Sick Time Memo and PFOS Settlement Funds - Commissioner Robinson met with the Prudential Committee in March to present the proposed FY27 budget. He also discussed the PFOS special reserve account and the treasurer is going to move forward with setting this up. They also reviewed the sick time memo from Atty. Michael Pierce and the establishment of a reserve account for the unfunded liability. The resolution to this matter remains unclear. Superintendent Wiseman will follow up with the Treasurer on these items later this week.

Also, regarding the budget, Superintendent Wiseman noted that he had received a revised proposal for the Water Main Replacement project on Roosevelt & Truman and it came in higher than expected. He asked if the board would authorize a request for an additional \$100k for the project. It was so moved, seconded and approved unanimously. Mr. Wiseman will contact the treasurer to discuss this on Thursday so that the PruComm can publish it in the ADM warrant on Monday.

The Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the March 18, 2026, meeting.

Dates and time for upcoming district meetings were discussed.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, June 24, 2026, at 5:45pm in person at Freedom Hall.

Carol Zais reminded the board that we can submit more recent information for the Cotuit Currents since it is delivered electronically now. Mr. Horsley asked that we add it as a standing item to our agenda so that we can discuss what to submit.

There was no additional public comment. The meeting was adjourned at 6: 36 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mark Robinson", is written over the printed name.

Mark Robinson, Chairman
Board of Water Commissioners