

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District

Water Department

4300 FALMOUTH ROAD, P. O. BOX 451

COTUIT, MASS. 02635

06/30/2026

The Board of Water Commissioners held their monthly meeting on Tuesday, June 30, 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 - There was no public comment at this time. Mrs. Nash noted that the rate adjustment request by Mr. Sanchez was resolved by other means and that he would not be attending the meeting.

The Board nominated Commissioner David Churbuck to serve as Chair for Fiscal Year 2027, and it was voted unanimously. Commissioner Scott Horsley will serve on the Bylaw Committee and Commissioner Mark Robinson will serve on the Policy Advisory Committee.

Superintendent Wiseman reported that there were no total coliform detections. PFOS results from the DEP required tests in April were reviewed noting that they were higher than previous results but still below State and Federal MCLs. The commissioners asked for some revisions to the report format. Commissioner Churbuck and Mrs. Nash will work on these revisions together. The commissioners also discussed doing back-to-back testing to see if there is consistency or trends in a short period of time. Superintendent Wiseman will discuss this with Mark Nelson as detections of such a small amount can vary greatly and the cost of each round of test is approximately \$1,900.00. Commissioner Horsley still feels that wastewater/septic systems upgradient of the well field is the likely source.

The superintendent gave his report:

	<u>2025</u>	<u>2026</u>	<u>+/-</u>
April	8,058,000	7,862,000	-196,000
May	12,338,000	14,334,000	+1,996,000

Service activity was reviewed: 0 new service, 2 replacements, 0 leaks.

Association Updates: Trade shows and classes have slowed down a bit during the busy summer months.

Groundwater Contour Mapping, Station #5: Mr. Cambareri notified us that he needs to put this project on hold for a period and will pick it up again in the fall.

PFOS Settlement -A new payment has been received: 3M - \$44,731.87. This is the 3rd payment from 3M. The total funds received to date are \$279,270.34.

Drought Declaration/Water Conservation Restriction - The monitoring well reached the level defined in our Water Withdrawal Permit and remained there for two weeks in June. Although the consecutive 60-day requirement for mandatory restrictions has not been met, due to the drought conditions and the rapidly decreasing level of the monitoring well, Cotuit Water will implement a Voluntary Water Conservation Restriction beginning July 1. Commissioner Churbuck will check with the Special Project person at the DPW to see if there are any plans for restoring Little River.

Interconnection Agreements - As part of a recent insurance risk assessment, the district's insurance carrier requested copies of the interconnection agreements with the COMM Water Department and the Mashpee Water Department. Copies of the agreement with COMM were located; however, they did not include the signatures of the Commissioners from either district. The Mashpee Superintendent located a copy of the agreement signed by the Mashpee Commissioners, but not by the Cotuit Commissioners. The Superintendents of all three water departments have agreed to have the agreements reviewed by their respective district counsel before presenting them to their Boards for signature or countersignature. Due to counsel availability and the scheduling of monthly commissioner meetings, this process will take some time to complete. The insurance carrier has been advised of the situation and has been asked for patience while the agreements are reviewed and executed. The Superintendent informed the Board that, although the agreements have been in effect for many years, they will be presented to the Board at a future meeting for formal signature.

Annual Service to Sideline and Emergency Repair Bid (FY27) - Bid opening was held on June 22, and three bids were received. The lowest apparent qualified bidder was Ruberti Construction, the District's current contractor. Superintendent Wiseman recommended awarding the FY27 Annual Service to Sideline and Emergency Repair contract to Ruberti Construction. A motion was made and seconded, and the Board voted unanimously to award the contract to Ruberti Construction. The Chair will sign the award letter, which will then be forwarded to James Ruberti for execution.

This concludes the Superintendent's report.

Cotuit Elementary Conservation Restriction - Forward progress on this has stopped. Mark Robinson will ask Mark Boudreau to follow up on this with the Town's attorney so that we can submit it to the state. Superintendent Wiseman noted that the service to the school has been cut and capped so that the building can be demolished. The hydrant meter remains in place so that they have water for dust remediation during the demolition.

Source Water Protection - Commissioner Horsley, who also serves on the CWMP Ad Hoc Committee, reported that the Committee will submit its final report to the Town Council at its July meeting. He also noted that a proposed debt exclusion related to the CWMP is scheduled to appear on the November ballot. Concerns were raised that available funding may not be sufficient to complete the full scope of the sewer construction project. Commissioner Horsley noted that the area north of the district's wellfield, where many properties rely on septic systems, remains a priority for source water protection. Should funding prove insufficient to complete the project as planned, he would like the Board to consider alternative measures to help protect the wellfield, such as a small-scale wastewater treatment facility to serve those neighborhoods. After discussion, the Commissioners agreed to defer any decisions until after the November vote. In the meantime, the Board will submit a letter to the Town requesting that the neighborhoods surrounding the wellfield be given priority

as future phases of the Sewer Expansion Project are planned. Commissioner Horsley will connect with Rob Steen on this.

Chairman Churbuck will request a copy of the signed enabling legislation from the Governor's office. The Board would like it sent to the Prudential Committee, the Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer/Clerk and for it to be included in the FY26 Annual District Report.

The Board voted unanimously to accept the minutes of the April 22, 2026 meeting.

Cotuit Currents - The Board agreed that the next article for *Cotuit Currents* will focus on the Water Conservation Restriction and the importance of water conservation during the current drought conditions.

The next meeting was set for Wednesday, July 29, 2026, at 5:45pm.

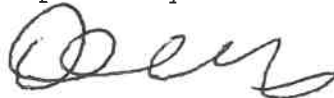
Matters Not Anticipated by the Chair - A Commissioner asked about the \$12,000 invoice for RFID readers included in the warrant reviewed by the Board. Superintendent Wiseman confirmed that the invoice was for the purchase of 100 new-technology RFID readers.

Mrs. Nash raised the topic of non-water-use-related rates, such as the hourly labor rate and the cost of meters and requested that the Board review them at a future meeting. She will compile a list of the current rates and associated costs for the Commissioners to review to determine whether any adjustments are appropriate.

The meeting was re-opened for public comment. Carol Zais, representing the Civic Association, provided feedback to the Board regarding the meeting audio quality and also suggested displaying presentation materials during meetings or providing additional printed copies for attendees. She also expressed concern about the transfer of institutional knowledge as Superintendent Wiseman approaches retirement, noting the recognition of his years of service at the recent Annual District Meeting and Budget & Candidate Night. Mrs. Zais further offered the Civic Association's assistance in distributing information to residents regarding the upcoming Voluntary Water Conservation Restriction.

The meeting was adjourned at 6: 43 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

David Churbuck, Chairman
Board of Water Commissioners