

Board of Water Commissioners
Meeting Minutes
Acton Water District
693 Massachusetts Avenue, Acton, MA
Monday, October 3, 2022

AGENDA

- A. Comments from the Public
- B. Approve minutes from meeting of 9/12 and 9/19
- C. Appoint one Commissioner to approve warrants while conducting meetings virtually

D. OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)
 - Current sample data, if available
 - Quarterly review of bottled water rebate program

E. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Extension of outdoor water use program
- 2. Fall water main flushing in South Acton beginning on Monday, October 3rd

Executive Session: to consider the purchase, lease of real property as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the District.

Due to the Covid-19 stay-at-home order by Governor Charles Baker, the Board of Water Commissioners meeting was not held at the Acton Water District Office; instead, the meeting was held via Zoom Webinar and was recorded. The meeting was called to order at 7:06 PM on Monday, October 3, 2022, by Mr. Stephen Stuntz.

Present at Tonight's Meeting:

Commissioners: Erika Amir-Lin, Barry Rosen, Stephen Stuntz (Chair)
District Manager: Chris Allen
District Treasurer/Collector: Christine McCarthy and Mary Jo Bates
District Counsel: Mary Bassett
Assistant District Manager: Matthew Mostoller
Finance Committee: Chuck Bradley
Commissioners Secretary: Lynn Protasowicki

Public Present:

Kim Kastens

A. Comments from the Public

No comments this evening.

B. Approve minutes from meeting of 9/12 and 9/19

Mr. Rosen motioned to approve the meeting minutes of 9/12/2022. Mr. Stuntz seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir-Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

Mr. Rosen motioned to approve the meeting minutes of 9/19/2022. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir-Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

C. Appoint one Commissioner to approve warrants while conducting meetings virtually

Mr. Rosen motioned to appoint Stephen Stuntz as the Commissioner to approve warrants while conducting meetings virtually until the next meeting of the Commissioners. Ms. Amir-Lin seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir-Lin, and Mr. Stuntz.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

1. Per- and Poly-Fluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS)

- Current sample data, if available
- Quarterly review of bottled water rebate program

Mr. Allen stated that recent samples for the 3rd quarter have been in excess of the 20 PPT state Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) at North Acton and at Central Acton. We do have preliminary results from September's round. We will be providing public notice for the North Acton Water Treatment and the Central Acton Treatment Plant for the 3rd quarter's average. We are currently providing water to the public from Central, North Acton and South Acton. Clapp Whitcomb is still offline and has not been utilized for the entirety of 2022.

Mr. Mostoller stated that the results haven't been validated but he is confident in sharing the numbers. South Acton for September was at 19 Parts Per Trillion (PPT) and Central Acton was at 27 PPT. Public notice will be going out as a single document and will state that these two plants exceeded the quarterly average and that all the other language will be standard and applied to both facilities. Most likely the public notice will go out during the month of December with possibility after the new year depending upon how quickly they hear from Mass DEP.

Mr. Rosen asked if we are pumping all the wells in North Acton and if so, is there a way that we can play with the mixture to get it lower. Mr. Mostoller stated that we are not pumping all the wells in North Acton. We have been using the Marshall well and three of the Kennedy wells. We have been using this configuration and, historically, have had good success. We have sampled all the individual wells and there is not a lot that can be changed to try and dilute further. With the drought we are just seeing an uptick in PFAS across the board.

Mr. Allen provided an update on the quarterly review of the bottled water rebate program for the current 3rd quarter, the total rebates for the quarter total \$4,155 and to date the rebates total \$13,650 with around 100 participating. We are getting applications from the sensitive sub-group population at a steady rate. Ms. Amir-Lin stated that the program should continue at least through the end of the year. The program will be reviewed again at the end of the year.

Kim Kastens stated that with respect to the new people coming into the program are they new people coming into the program (i.e., new pregnant women) or the outreach is finally reaching some people? Mr. Allen stated that we are not aware of those statistics. There has been a lot of turn around with new people coming into town (houses selling/buying) so that is probably where the new applications are coming from. It's most likely a combination of those conditions.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

1. Extension of Outdoor Water Use Program

Mr. Allen stated that as we are now have moved past the typical expiration date of October 1st of the outdoor water use program, we have decided to continue this program indefinitely. During the summer in dry conditions, we were able to maintain capacity output and keep up with demand with reduced capacity with managing PFAS concentrations. Decision was made to continue the program as we did in 2021.

Ms. Amir-Lin asked if this is a time of year that people are using outdoor watering. Over the past few years, we have been seeing an uptick in water use during the months of September and October. Some people who lose their lawn due to the dry summer will install new lawns and then need to water so water use goes up.

2. Fall Water Main Flushing in South Acton Beginning on Monday, October 3rd

Mr. Allen stated that the flushing program was due to start today but it was postponed due to system conditions. Currently, the program will begin on Tuesday, October 4th after bacterial sampling has been completed. We will continue to evaluate the program as we go through the month to determine what kind of makeup water is available to restore storage after flushing occurs. We may need to modify or truncate the program due to capacity restrictions as we continue to maintain PFAS concentrations.

Mr. Stuntz motioned to adjourn the open meeting and move into Executive Session at 7:30 PM to discuss the purchase, exchange, lease of real property as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the District and not re-convene in open session. Mr. Rosen seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved by a roll call vote: Mr. Rosen, Ms. Amir-Lin, and Mr. Stuntz

Next meeting: October 17, 2022