

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
JUNE 24, 2025

A quorum being present, Chairperson Fox called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM. He announced that the virtual version of the meeting was being recorded and requested those in attendance to state their name and title for the record by roll call:

Board Members Present in Person: Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner and Chairperson - Present; Robert E. Boyd, Commissioner – Present; and Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner – Present.

Others Present in Person: Vincent J. Roy, Executive Director - Present; Thomas S. Travers, Treasurer - Present; Karen Moretti, Assistant Treasurer – Present; and Mike Abbondanzio, Foreman – Present. Andy Reid and Margaret McCarthy of Weston & Sampson were also in attendance.

Others Present Virtually: None

1. Wells 4 & 6 PFAS Treatment Evaluation Presentation.

Director Roy introduced Andy Reid and Margaret McCarthy of Weston & Sampson for the Wells 4 & 6 PFAS treatment evaluation presentation. Mr. Reid provided an overview of the evaluation study, with the primary goal of achieving PFAS removal from Wells 4 & 6 to meet the new EPA standards. He noted that, although both wells are currently below the state MCL for PFAS-6 compounds (20 ppt), they contain PFOA concentrations that exceed the EPA's updated standard of 4 ppt.

Mr. Reid presented six comprehensive treatment options:

1. Blend water from Wells 4 & 6 with treated water from the Raymond Road Water Treatment Plant (WTP)
2. Install seasonal treatment systems at Wells 4 & 6 without constructing a building
3. Build a dedicated treatment system for Wells 4 & 6 adjacent to the Raymond Road PFAS treatment facility
4. Replace the granular activated carbon (GAC) in the Raymond Road WTP filters with organic clay media or resin
5. Modify the existing PFAS treatment system to accommodate Wells 4 & 6
6. Construct a new WTP dedicated to Wells 4 & 6

Margaret McCarthy addressed the evaluation of water main construction and wetland permitting considerations. She outlined two routing options:

1. Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) through wooded and wetland areas on a straight line from the wells to 199 Raymond Road
2. Installation of a new 12-inch ductile iron (DI) pipe within the roadway using Warren Road and Raymond Road

She noted the cost comparison between HDD and roadway installation is approximately \$850/linear-foot (lf) versus \$440/lf, respectively **[wasn't the HDD more expensive on a unit cost basis?]**. Ms. McCarthy highlighted several advantages of the roadway installation, including:

- The ability to phase the work ahead of treatment construction
- Improved water main accessibility within the public right-of-way
- Easier replacement of existing asbestos cement (AC) pipes during construction
- **Fewer environmental permitting challenges**

The projected cost for the various options ranges from \$4.8 million for Option 4A to \$18.6 million for constructing a new WTP as described in option 6B.

The Commissioners expressed appreciation to Mr. Reid and Ms. McCarthy for their informative presentation. Director Roy concluded by stating he would continue discussions with Weston & Sampson and report back to the Commissioners with recommendations on the preferred option.

2. Review Kleinfelder Draft Report/Emergency & Long-Term Water Supply.

Director Roy requested that this topic be postponed until the next Commissioner Meeting scheduled for July 8, 2025, to which the Commissioners agreed.

3. Review and Vote to Approve the Minutes from the Board of Water Commissioners Meeting held on June 10, 2025.

The Commissioners reviewed and approved the minutes for the June 10, 2025, meeting, as amended. Commissioner Fox made the motion for approval, which was duly seconded by Commissioner Sheldon, and approved by unanimous roll call:

Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner and Chairperson - Aye
Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner Chairperson – Aye
Robert E. Boyd, Commissioner - Abstained

4. Review of the Director's June 20, 2025, Bi-Weekly Report.

Director Roy presented his bi-weekly report, covering the following topics:

- Well 5 / Replacement Well Drilling Project:

Chairman Fox inquired about the contract award for the project. Director Roy informed the Commissioners that the District had received two qualified bids: Weston & Sampson (CMR) at \$227,525.00 and Maher Services at \$283,000.00. The contract was awarded to Weston & Sampson as the lowest bidder.

Director Roy further explained that, due to the urgency of expending the grant funding by June 30th, he made an executive decision to award and execute the agreement with Weston & Sampson without prior approval from the Commissioners.

Commissioner Sheldon noted that, in future situations of a similar nature, the Director should at least consult with the Chairperson before awarding a contract.

- PFAS Multi-District-Litigation (MDL):

Director Roy informed the Commissioners that he recently submitted the required distribution disclosure form for the District to receive its first settlement installment from 3M. The initial net payment, totaling \$439,080.65, is scheduled to be sent to the District on July 1st.

Chairman Fox inquired about the number of installments and associated attorney fees. Mr. Roy explained that there are nine remaining installments, with the next payment of \$1,208,620.95 (gross amount) expected in September. He noted that subsequent installments will gradually decrease in amount and will be distributed during the second quarter of each year, concluding in 2033. Mr. Roy also mentioned that attorney fees will account for approximately 17% of the total award.

Additionally, Mr. Roy reported that the DuPont settlement will be issued as a one-time payment, anticipated by the end of Calendar Year 2025. He added that the Tyco and BASF cases remain unsettled at this time.

There were no further questions regarding the Director's Bi-Weekly Report.

5. Vote for Year-End Emergency Fund Transfer

Chairman Fox requested that Assistant Treasurer Karen Moretti provide an explanation for the emergency fund transfer. Ms. Moretti stated that the transfer is needed to balance off overdrawn accounts for FY 25 (Audit/CPA, General Extensions, and New Meters). Commissioner Sheldon moved to approve the emergency fund transfer to balance the FY25 account, and that was seconded by Commissioner Boyd and approved by unanimous roll call:

Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner and Chairperson - Aye
Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner Chairperson – Aye
Robert E. Boyd, Commissioner - Aye

6. Review Abatement Policy.

Director Roy provided the Commissioners with a copy of the current abatement policy. He noted a potential error in the revised policy concerning the section on leak abatement limitations. According to Mr. Roy, the original policy allowed abatements for water usage that exceeded 200% of the average usage during the same billing cycles in three prior years. However, the revised policy lowered this threshold to 100%, which significantly increases both the number of requests that qualify for abatement and the total dollar amount that would be awarded.

Mr. Roy expressed concern that the 100% threshold could be problematic, particularly because a three-year average may be substantially lower than a customer's usage in two of those years. As a result, more customers may qualify for abatements than originally intended. It would also be much more possible to have the average of the three quarters include a quarter with usage equaling the average of the three if the 100% threshold were used, as opposed to using the 200% threshold. To address this, he recommended restoring the threshold to 200%, which would reduce the number of qualifying applications and the overall abatement amounts. He also reminded the Commissioners that they retain the authority to grant hardship abatements in any amount they deem appropriate.

Chairman Fox stated that he needed additional time to review the policy and requested that Director Roy include the item on the next Commissioners meeting agenda. Mr. Roy agreed.

Conclusion of Open Meeting

Chairman Fox moved to conclude the open public meeting session and move into executive meeting session, not to return to the open public meeting session, under executive session "Exemption 1. To approve Executive Session Minutes for June 10, 2025, and the chair so declares." Chairperson Sheldon subsequently so declared. The motion was duly seconded by Chairperson Sheldon and was approved by a unanimous roll call:

Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner - Aye
Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner and Chairperson – Aye
Robert E. Boyd, Commissioner - Aye

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.