

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
JULY 22, 2025

A quorum being present, Chairperson Fox called the meeting to order at 2:01 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: Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner – Present.

Present Remotely: Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner and Chairperson – Present; and Robert E. Boyd, Commissioner –Present.

Others Present in Person: Vincent J. Roy, Executive Director - Present; Karen Moretti, Assistant Treasurer – Present; and Renee Adams, Executive Administrator– Present.

Others Present Virtually: Janie Dretler, 286 Goodmans Hill Road.

2:02 PM: Move out of Open Meeting

Chairperson Fox moved to temporarily close the open public meeting session and move into executive meeting session under executive session “Exemption 3, to discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body if the chair so declares” and to return to the open public meeting session at the conclusion of the executive session. Chairperson Fox so declared. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Sheldon and was approved by a unanimous roll call:

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

2:12 PM: Continuation of Open Meeting Session

Chairperson Fox re-opened the open session at 2:12 PM, a quorum being present. Commissioner Boyd left the meeting at the conclusion of the executive session and was not present for the continuation of the open session.

1. Review and Vote to Approve the Minutes from the Board of Water Commissioners Meeting held on July 8, 2025.

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes for the July 8, 2025, meeting. Janie Dretler of 286 Goodman Hill Road commented that she had been unable to log into the July 8 Commissioners’ meeting and requested that the minutes reflect this. Chairperson Fox acknowledged that security measures implemented for that meeting may have caused technical difficulties for virtual attendees, and therefore added a statement about those technical difficulties at the previous meeting in the minutes. He then moved to approve the amended minutes. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheldon and approved by unanimous roll call vote:

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

2. Review of the Director’s July 18, 2025, Bi-Weekly Report.

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

- Well 5 Investigation Study:

Commissioner Sheldon asked Director Roy the reasoning for the delay in drilling the new replacement well. Mr. Roy responded that the pitless adapter needed for the new well is backordered to September.

- East Street WTP/PFAS Project:

Commissioner Sheldon asked Director Roy to explain why Weston & Sampson did not recommend the proposed change order to replace the stainless-steel pipe with glass-lined ductile iron. Mr. Roy responded that Barbato Construction had estimated the cost to upgrade the relief piping at \$77,000. Weston & Sampson advised against the change, stating the price appeared excessively high and recommended that the District not proceed with the proposal.

Mr. Roy noted that the current design includes 316L stainless steel piping, upgraded from 304L stainless steel, and that it is covered under the general contractor's one-year warranty. Commissioner Sheldon inquired whether the District would bear the cost of pipe replacement after the warranty expires. Mr. Roy confirmed that the District would be responsible for any future replacement costs beyond the one-year coverage.

Mr. Roy further explained that two of the vessels are taken offline annually or thereabouts to replace spent media, so replacing the relief pipe in the future would not be overly complex. Chairman Fox asked Mr. Roy whether he was seeking a vote on the proposed change. Mr. Roy replied that he was not but would continue to keep the Commissioners informed as the project moves forward.

- Well 4 & 6 PFAS Treatment Study:

Commissioner Sheldon asked Director Roy whether Weston & Sampson would be providing a recommendation for PFAS treatment in their final report. Mr. Roy responded that a recommendation would be included, based on the discussion during the most recent presentation. The recommendation is to direct water from Wells 4 and 6 to the Raymond Road Water Treatment Plant (WTP) for PFAS treatment, with the media in the vessels converted to ion exchange resin instead of granular activated carbon.

Commissioner Sheldon then asked if pilot testing would be conducted and whether it would include water from Wells 2, 7, and 9, along with water from Wells 4 and 6. Mr. Roy confirmed that pilot testing would take place to evaluate results from various treatment media, but said that he needed to discuss this further with Weston & Sampson as to whether water from those additional wells would be part of the pilot program. He emphasized that pilot testing is a MassDEP requirement prior to submitting the design for approval and that discussions with MassDEP would be happening throughout the entire process.

Commissioner Sheldon also inquired about the potential use of chloramines for disinfection, as a strategy to reduce disinfectant byproducts if ion exchange were to be used and thereby reducing the benefit of removal of disinfection byproduct precursors (organic carbon). Mr. Roy stated that he is actively exploring the matter further with Weston & Sampson.

- Water Main Break at the end of Brentwood Road:

Director Roy informed the Commissioners that the District repaired a minor water main break earlier today at the end of Brentwood Road. Water service was restored within four hours of the shutdown with only one home affected during the outage.

- AFPP Multi-District-Litigation (MDL) Settlement:

Commissioner Sheldon inquired whether the District had received the first installment of the settlement. Director Roy responded that, as of this date, no payment had been received. However, he noted that a phone conference had been held earlier in the day with an attorney working with SL Environmental Law to confirm the direct deposit account information. Based on that conversation, Mr. Roy said he expected the payment to be received sometime during the coming week.

- Decrease in Water Usage:

Director Roy informed the Commissioners that water usage over the past two weeks decreased by approximately 9 million gallons compared to the previous two-week period. The higher previous usage was primarily due to the water main break on Landham Road, which had gone undetected for a while. Once that leak was repaired, the usage dropped accordingly. He also noted that, under MassDEP standards, this water loss is not classified as unaccounted-for water (UAW), although it does represent lost revenue

3. Vote for Year-End Emergency Fund Transfer

Commissioner Sheldon asked Assistant Treasurer Karen Moretti if this would be the last transfer for FY25, to which Mrs. Moretti responded yes. Chairperson Fox moved to approve the emergency fund transfer to balance the FY25 accounts; the motion was seconded by Commissioner Sheldon and approved by unanimous roll call:

Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner and Chairperson - Aye

Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner – Aye

Conclusion of Open Meeting

Chairman Fox moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Sheldon and was approved by a unanimous roll call:

Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner and Chairperson - Aye

Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner– Aye

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 2:45 p.m.