

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
APRIL 14, 2026

A quorum being present, Chairperson Fox called the meeting to order at 5:04 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; Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner and Chairperson- Present; and Robert E. Boyd, Jr., Commissioner – Present.

Others present in person: Vincent Roy, Executive Director; Renee Adams, Executive Administrator; Karen Moretti, Assistant Treasurer; Tom Travers, Treasurer; and Michael Abbondanzio, Foreman.

Others present remotely: None

1. Review and Vote to Approve the Minutes from the Board of Water Commissioners Meeting held on March 31, 2026.

The Commissioners reviewed the minutes for the March 31, 2026, meeting. The Commissioners discussed corrections to the minutes, including removing unnecessary statements of “Present” for attendees other than Commissioners. Commissioner Sheldon moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boyd and approved by unanimous roll call vote:

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

2. Review of the Director’s April 10, 2026, Bi-Weekly Report.

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

• *Boston Post Road Water Main Break on April 9, 2026*

Director Roy informed the Commissioners that the water-main break on Boston Post Road last Thursday, April 9, was caused by severe corrosion on the underside of the 12-inch ductile iron pipe. He noted that the pipe, installed in 1994, should have had an expected service life of more than 100 years. Commissioner Sheldon added that he recently spoke with Randy Nixon, a metallurgist at and founder of Corrosion Probe, which led to a broader discussion about potential cathodic protection measures for similar pipes throughout the system. Mr. Nixon said that in recent years it has been found that when the pipe is bedded on clayey soils with gravel or crushed stone along the sides and top, it can lead to a zone of no oxygen at the bottom and oxygenated soil elsewhere. That combination can lead to the bottom of the pipe becoming an anode with associated loss of metal. He has seen this condition in many other areas, including Boston, Worcester, and Portland, Maine. He said his firm could analyze the pipe if the District still had the pipe and wanted the analysis done.

• *Craig Lane/Silt Removal:*

Director Roy informed the Commissioners that he recently outsourced a portion of the cleanup related to the Craig Lane water main break that occurred on December 26, 2025. He explained that the break resulted in a significant accumulation of silt within the wetland area along Craig Lane.

Mr. Roy noted that, although conservation officials, including Lori Capone (the Town’s Conservation Agent), expressed concerns about using excavators for silt removal, the District is proceeding with cleanup efforts using a mini excavator to address the affected areas. Hand excavation would not be feasible. She also had concerns that silt sacks were not used or had been compromised at catch basins, leading to silt migrating to the wetlands. Mr. Roy said his response to that concern was that water-main breaks are unpredictable events and that it is almost impossible to modify catch basins during major emergencies with water flooding an area and the most important measure for District staff is to locate

the appropriate valves to isolate the leak and then close them. It would be impractical to take precautionary measures throughout District’s extensive network at all wetland areas in case of a potential break and subsequent flooding.

3. Vote to Amend 90th Annual Meeting Warrant.

Director Roy presented the revised warrant and noted that the only modification was an adjustment to the proposed FY27 budget salary line. He explained that Karen Moretti has announced her intention to retire on January 31, 2027. In anticipation of her departure, he increased the salary line by \$72,000 to allow the District to hire her replacement in September, ensuring sufficient time for training and transition.

After a brief discussion, Commissioner Sheldon moved to amend, restate, and replace the 90th Annual Meeting Warrant to reflect the adjustment made to the budget salary line for the new employee. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boyd and approved by unanimous roll-call vote:

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

4. Review 90th Annual Meeting Power Point Presentations.

The Commissioners reviewed and verified warrant articles for a District meeting, confirming that the proposed motions matched the language in the warrant book.

- *Discussion on Article 12:*

The Commissioners discussed the motion to borrow up to \$8,412,000 under Chapter 44 of the General Laws for PFAS design and construction costs. Director Roy explained the borrowing process, including the use of a short-term bond and reimbursement requests to the state. Meeting attendees worked to wordsmith the article so that anyone who read the warrant would understand that this was addressing PFAS removal for the last of the active water sources and not additional requests for authorization of borrowing for Raymond Road and East Street PFAS plants that had been approved at previous meetings. Upon reaching an agreement on the appropriate rewording of the article, Commissioner Sheldon moved to amend, restate, and replace the 90th Annual Meeting Warrant to reflect changes made to the wording of Article 12. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Boyd and approved by unanimous roll call vote:

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

5. Review Draft Employee Policy.

The Commissioners decided to table the review of the draft Employee Policy Handbook.

Conclusion of Open Meeting

Chairperson Fox asked attendees if there were any questions or comments on the proceedings so far, because he was preparing to make a motion to close to open public meeting. There were no comments or questions.

Chairperson 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 discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual,” and to review and vote to approve executive session minutes from March 17, 2026, and March 23, 2026, meetings. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Sheldon and approved by unanimous roll call:

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

Robert E. Boyd Jr., Commissioner - Aye

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 7:20 p.m.