



BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Cotuit Fire District

Water Department

4300 FALMOUTH ROAD, P. O. BOX 451

COTUIT, MASS. 02635

09/18/2019

The monthly meeting of the Board of Water Commissioners was held at Freedom Hall at 5:45 p.m. Chairman Mark Robinson, Commissioner Tom Hoppensteadt Commissioner Scott Horsley and Superintendent Chris Wiseman were present.

The meeting was called to order at 5:45 p.m. and opened to public comment.

The minutes from the 08/05/19 and 8/14/19 meetings were reviewed, a motion was made to accept them, and it was so moved and approved with a correction to the spelling of a name in the document.

The warrants were reviewed and approved.

The water quality report was given noting that all routine bacteria samplings were returned non-detected results. The results of the lead and copper testing conducted this summer were given, noting that all results were below action levels. Inorganic Compounds (IOC's) and sodium results were given noting that sodium has increased from prior years. The sample was taken from the treated water supply and could be a result of the Sodium Hypochlorite used to treat the water. Superintendent Wiseman will take follow up samples from the raw water tap to see if there is a difference. The commissioners asked for the historical trend of Sodium and if it was possible to tell if the increase was seasonal in nature (summer vs. non-summer). Sodium samples are only taken every 3 years as they are an unregulated compound.

Follow up communication was received from John Hobil regarding the PFOA/PFOS testing that will be conducted at no cost to the district by MassDEP. Sites that are within 2 miles of areas with increased levels of the contaminate will be tested first, and then they will come lower risk areas such as Cotuit. Commissioner Robinson would like to send a letter thanking them in advance for including the district in their testing in hopes that the results can be received by the end of the fiscal year.

The Superintendent report was given.

Monthly Pumpage Results is as follows:

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>+/-</u>
August	36,998,000	37,541,000	-543,000

August Stats:

There were no new services and no replacement services.

The commissioners reviewed photos of the West Street Tank and advised the Superintendent to request USDA Maintenance Reserve funds from the treasurer to have the tank cleaned.

GHD and Kaman will be here during the first week of October to begin installing the PLC's for the SCADA system beginning at Station #3.

Superintendent Wiseman followed up with Chief Rhude regarding the usage of foam in the district and was advised that there were none. The "foam" used at July 4th celebrations is dawn dish soap.

The commissioners made a motion at the request of the treasurer to approve the reimbursement of sales tax for personal expenses. A vote was taken, and it was unanimously approved. Superintendent Wiseman will notify the treasurer and a pending expense will be paid.

Some discussion was had regarding the former tower site at 414 Main Street. Cranes were onsite moving antennas onto the monopole. There is no update on the AmeriCorps application and the relocation of the gate, and any new plantings are on hold for now.

Commissioner Horsley is working with Meghan at Tata & Howard regarding the conservation land and cold-water fisheries that can be included in the Water Management Act Withdrawal Permit application.

Commissioner Horsley presented an analysis of the effects of pumping in the main well-field on the Little River Stream. According to his measurements and calculations the stream loses approximately 300 gallons/minute over the reach near the wellfield. Measurements were taken the morning of August 7, 2019 just north of Route 28 (from Lovell's Land) and where the stream crosses Sampson's Mill Road. According to SCADA readings reported that morning the main wellfield was pumping approximately 900 gallons/minute suggesting that approximately one-third of the pumped water is induced from the stream. He also referred to a report by the United States Geological Survey (USGS) that presents a groundwater model that shows significant water table drawdowns at this location. He suggested that there are three impacts associated with this induced infiltration to be considered: 1) impacts on the Little River stream habitat, 2) impacts on Cotuit Bay (reduced clean freshwater discharge), 3) water quality impacts to the water supply including mobilization of iron and manganese from the wetlands associated with the stream (potentially leading to expensive treatment requirements).

Commissioner Horsley suggested that approximately half of the peak summer pumping may be attributed to lawn irrigation and asked if it would be possible to investigate a more intensive water conservation effort including alternative irrigation sources. He suggested that the District could promote alternative landscaping (to reduce lawn areas) and on-site private irrigation wells to reduce these demands on the public system. He suggested that we could post a recent report, "Ecological Landscaping on Cape Cod" authored by a University of Massachusetts professor, Jack Ahearn. He also suggested that

on-site private irrigation wells could provide a nitrogen recycling benefit by recapturing nitrogen in groundwater before it discharges to Cotuit Bay and applying that water as a "fertigation" source to lawns rather than using public drinking water. The Cape Cod commission identified such wells as "fertigation wells" in their Cape Cod Water Quality 208 Plan. The commissioners discussed potential conservation efforts, including options for reducing irrigation demands on the system and how they could impact the demand volume in the future, which would reduce the pumpage and the impact on Little River. Commissioner Horsley will send a copy of the reports in PDF format to be posted on the district website.

The commissioners were given the current water department policy document for review and comment at the next meeting. It will need to be updated with the current rate and billing structure and with any other edits or inclusions submitted.

The next regular meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, October 16th at 5:45pm. As the floors at Freedom Hall will be worked on, the meeting will be held at the Fire Station Conference Room. The meeting was adjourned at 7:09 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark H. Robinson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "M" and "R".

Mark Robinson, Chairman