

Dedham-Westwood Water District Annual Report 2020

John Miller Chairman

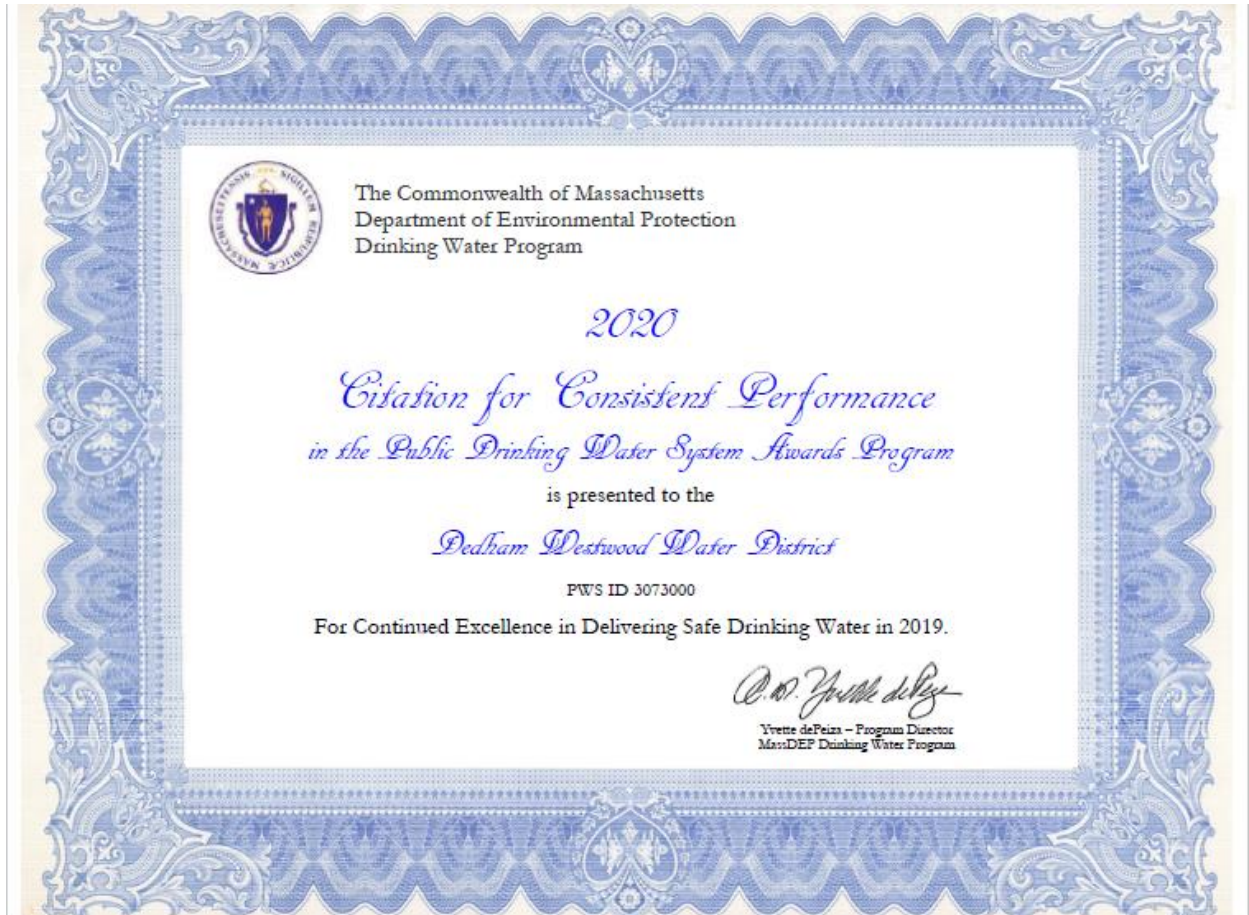
Board Members

Andrew Kara, James Fox, Eric Merithew, Gary Yessaillian, Robert Lexander

Mission

To provide high quality drinking water and water for fire protection to the Towns of Westwood and Dedham. In March 2020, because of the Covid-19 pandemic, the Dedham-Westwood Water District took many measures, as an essential service provider, to protect the Water District employees as they carried out the essential functions of providing water service to the communities.

Water Quality



DWWD Employees and Commissioner receive award during Drinking Water Week May 2020

In 2020, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection named Dedham-Westwood Water District as a winner of the annual Public Water Systems Award. The

award was also received for the prior five years! Dedham-Westwood Water District was among seventeen Public Water Supply systems to receive the Consistent Performer Award.

The Dedham-Westwood Water District complies with all Massachusetts and EPA primary drinking water standards.

2020 Capital Improvement Projects

During 2020, \$4,131,000 was invested into the water system infrastructure. Significant projects included new and replacement water main on Carroll Ave, Westdale Rd, Canton and East Streets in Westwood and Benjamin, Border, Reed and Ashcroft Streets in Dedham. Work this past year included installation of 6967 feet of water mains, 19 replaced and new fire hydrants, 71 new and replaced water services and 246 meters replaced or installed.

In 2020, the DWWD installed a new pipeline underneath Route 128 at the East St Rotary. The project was done in partnership with the MWRA as they were also installing a new pipe crossing the highway. This allowed the DWWD work to be done at a much lower cost than if done as a stand-alone project. The cost of the project was \$626,000.



Section of pipe lowered into the pipe jacking pit to be installed beneath the highway near the East Street Rotary



Worker at open face of jacking pit showing soil, conveyor ramp, and cart for hauling spoils out of tunnel.

The Bridge Street Water Treatment Plant went back online in May 2020. The Modernization project begun in 2017 took significantly longer than originally scheduled. The project exceeded the original budget of \$8.8 million dollars by \$772,000. The treatment plant has undergone renovation to the structure, the heating, cooling and ventilation

systems, treatment process and pumping equipment replacements, new emergency generator and a new building to house filtration equipment. Additional items added to the scope of work after construction began included new raw and finished water piping, a new roof on the Pre-Treatment Building and new water quality automatic analyzer equipment. The project received a 2% loan from the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust.



New Finished Water Pumps installed as part of the Modernization Project.

MADOT Low Salt Zone Request

The DWWD continues to urge MassDOT to take measures to reduce the amount of sodium and chloride they apply during deicing operations which ends up in the Public Water Supply Wells situated near the highway.

Water Conservation



The DWWD is committed to working to protect water supplies and encourage conservation of water. We continue to provide *dropcountr*-an application which helps customers access their water consumption patterns from smart phone or computer and provides timely water saving ideas and information.

DWWD also continues to offer rebates and provided incentives to 32 residents to purchase water efficient washing machines and to 58 customers to replace their toilets with ultra water conserving models. Rain Sensors, low flow showerheads and aerators are available free of charge at our office. The District provides a \$10 subsidy toward rain barrel purchases. The District provides a hands-on classroom education program to Dedham and Westwood elementary schools covering water resource protection and water conservation through a partnership with the Neponset River Watershed Association. Unfortunately, the program was put on hold in March 2020 when classrooms went remote due to the pandemic.

Special Recognition

James J. Galvin ended twenty-one years of service to the Town of Westwood in 2020, serving as a Water Commissioner. His dedication to the District has been remarkable and accomplishments reached under his guidance are numerous. The Board and Staff of the District are grateful to Jim and wish him and his family all the best. Lastly, we thank the Town and its employees and boards, who work with us in so many ways.

Respectfully Submitted,

Eileen M. Commane, Executive Director