

## Annual Report to the Town of Dedham for Fiscal Year 2011

The Dedham-Westwood Board of Water Commissioners sets policy, prepares operating and capital budgets, and establishes rates along with rules and regulations for the Water District.

### **Board of Water Commissioners**

The Dedham and Westwood Boards of Selectmen each appoint three Commissioners to serve three year terms. The Dedham Commissioners are Steven M. Mammone, Chair, term ends December 2011, Kenneth C. Bragg, term ends December 2013 and Robert N. Blume, Clerk, term ends February 2013. The Westwood Commissioners are Joseph S. Carter, Jr., Chair, Robert E. McLaughlin, Jr., Vice Chair and James J. Galvin.

### **Projects**

\$2.4 Million dollars was invested in the Water System during the past year. Highlights include the installation of 9400 feet of water main, 34 hydrants, 54 water services and 979 water meters. Water mains were replaced in Dedham on both the Ames and Bridge Street bridges. In Westwood, water mains were replaced in several streets in the Beechnut and Edgewood Road areas. The roofs at both the Elm Street Office and the Whitelodge Water Treatment Plant and a well station in Westwood were replaced last fall. The MWRA approved a zero interest, \$500,000 ten year loan to be used to replace water main in Dedham Square and on Clark and Charles Streets in Dedham. The District received a \$7500 grant from the Commonwealth to update its Capital Improvement Plan.

### **Water Supply**

The District continues to conduct its operations towards providing high quality safe drinking water, in compliance with all Drinking Water Regulations as well as actively pursue land use and

regulatory measures which will serve to protect the water resources used to supply our drinking water. The District's partial membership in the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority allows for the annual purchase of up to 36.5 million gallons of water which is available as a supplement, as well as for an emergency, to the District's existing water supply. The District conducted monitoring for lead and copper in the drinking water in the summer of 2010. The testing proved to the satisfaction of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection that the water treatment has been optimized to prevent these harmful metals dissolving into the drinking water

### **Security**

The District upgraded the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system which monitors the Districts treatment and other equipment sites electronically and provides operating data to District personnel 24 hours per day. A secondary radio telemetry system was installed at the Sandy Valley Tank in Dedham.

### **Rates**

There was an overall 2% rate increase in February, 2011. The so called residential minimum rate, unchanged at \$29.61 per quarter since 2000 was increased to \$35.62. A low income water rate was also implemented. A new conservation tier was added at 42 hundred cubic feet to further discourage outdoor watering.

### **Water Conservation**

District continues to partner with the Environmental Protection Agency Water Sense initiative to help consumers save water and reduce costs on their utility bills. The rebate program for toilets and low flow washing machines returned \$31375 to customers. Residents took advantage of these rebate programs and, in so doing, contributed significantly to water conservation. The District also received a \$35000 grant from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for Water Conservation, \$8000 of which was specifically for rebates.

A new rebate has been introduced for high efficiency toilets which came on the market in recent years.

### **National Drinking Water Week**

May 3, 2011 – Celebration of National Drinking Water Week included poster and Essay Contests involving all Dedham and Westwood Schoolchildren from Kindergarten through grade 6. Savings Bonds were awarded to the best entries and participation of all students was recognized by the Commissioners.

### **Rain Sensors and Rain Barrels**

Free Rain Sensors continue to be available at the District office to allow residents to comply with the District Rules and Regulations pertaining to irrigation sprinkler systems. Well over 100 barrels were purchased with a subsidy from the District. Since the program began in 2003, over 740 barrels have been purchased.

### **Leak Detection**

The District conducted an extensive leak survey in spring of 2011. Work continues on testing a new technology for leak detection with equipment consisting of acoustical logging devices which are dropped onto underground valves and which transmit leak noise data via a text messaging transmission to a computer system which can differentiate between water pipe leaks and other noises such as traffic or transformers.

### **Resource Protection**

With the support of the Dedham Conservation Commission, the District continued participation in a study with the Massachusetts Highway Department and the University of Massachusetts. The purpose of the study is to consider the District's request to have portions of the Route 128/Interstate 95 areas designated as low salt zones. The goal is to remediate water quality

impacts to the District's wells that are attributed to MHD winter road deicing practices. The study will be concluded in March 2011 and a Final Report will be issued in late summer 2011.

### **Future Goals**

The District continues installing radio read water meters. Approximately 65% of customers now have them. These new radio meters continually monitor water flow data and can help identify customer leaks. Leak detection continues to be a priority for the District. Our existing water conservation programs that benefit both residents and commercial interests will be expanded and new initiatives will be implemented in the future. The District will continue to communicate with the Towns of Dedham and Westwood on a regular basis, particularly regarding new development projects and their impact on our water resources. The Dedham-Westwood Water District is grateful to the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals, Building Department, Conservation Commission, Board of Health, the agents for the aforementioned Boards as well as the Fire and Police Departments, the DPW, the Assessor's and Treasurer-Collector's Offices, and especially the Town Administration and Board of Selectmen for their continued cooperation and support.