



DEDHAM-WESTWOOD WATER DISTRICT General Business Meeting

Hybrid Meeting

In person attendance: 50 Elm Street, Dedham, MA 02026

Tuesday, March 21, 2023 | 6:30 PM

Announcement of the Audio and/or Video Recording

The Chair, Robert Lexander, called the meeting to order at 6:31p.m. and announced the meeting would be audio- and video-recorded.

Attendance

Robert Lexander, Chair (remote)

Gary Yessaillian, Vice-Chair (remote)

Eric Merithew, Clerk (remote)

James Fox, Member (remote)

Mark Phillips, Member

Blake Lukis, Executive Director

Bob Marsh, Business Manager

Pauline Donoghue, Treasurer

Steve Locke, Operations Manager

Absence

John Healy, Member

Roll-Call Attendance

Messrs. Lexander, Yessaillian, Merithew, and Fox Present.

Mr. Lexander confirmed a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of March 7, 2023

Mr. Lexander called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 7, 2023. A motion was made by Mr. Yessaillian to approve the minutes as reviewed for March 7, 2023; the motion was seconded by Mr. Merithew. With no additional discussion necessary, a roll-call vote was taken.

Roll-Call: Messrs. Lexander, Yessaillian, Merithew, and Fox voted Aye.

Motion passes unanimously.

Mr. Phillips entered the meeting.

Financials and Warrant

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Donoghue's presented Warrants 18-20, for activity from March 6th to March 16th. Ms. Donoghue informed that Mr. Merithew's questions regarding the meter invoices was answered and it was confirmed that all meters paid for were received into inventory.

Ms. Donoghue reported that most of the District's significant cash balance is with Dedham Savings. Looking to diversify how funds are held, Ms. Donoghue will follow-up, along with Messrs. Lukis and Marsh, to report to the Board.

Mr. Fox referred to the level of funds authorized to be kept at DIF and FDIC banks. Mr. Marsh confirmed information will be sought, informing that the funds level is open-ended in banks that are part of an insurance group. Mr. Fox stated services are available which deploy funds so high balances are kept at FDIC-insured banks, a concern with recent banks failing; and informed that Dedham Savings Bank has merged with South Shore Bank. Mr. Marsh confirmed more information will be sought so risk is kept low. Mr. Lukis stated he spoke with a service institution. Part of the funds deployment Mr. Fox referred to is an auto-sweep to MMF accounts which are cash funds. Ms. Donoghue confirmed several banks are being looked into, this begun before the recent bank failures. Mr. Lukis added that Dedham Savings Bank has offered the best rates; so if the funds are moved, it would be to an institution offering at least the same.

Mr. Fox asked about T-bills. Ms. Donoghue informed that the December purchase has matured and will move to the Bank of Canton, and that additional T-bill reinvesting will take place.

Business Manager Report

Business Operating Reports

Mr. Marsh did not offer an operating report since the audit continues, to be completed in May for Board presentation in June.

Mr. Marsh informed that the employee handbook is being revised to incorporate the recommended changes and that updating will be done periodically.

Mr. Marsh is working with a broker on health benefits and insurance.

Mr. Marsh will present January's financial statements at the end of March and February's shortly thereafter, the schedule returning to normal after the audit close.

Mr. Marsh is reviewing the annual District compliance plan, finding no issues for timely presentation.

Operations Manager Report

Pumping and Operational Report

Mr. Locke conveyed there was a glitch in the pumpage reporting software, but he was able to report usage of 3.4728 million gallons per day of which approximately 650 thousand gallons a day is MWRA-supplied.

Mr. Locke reported there have been no leaks in the past two weeks and that the leak-detection company began work, with nothing yet found.

Update on New & Existing Projects

Mr. Locke shared that ongoing projects are in a holding pattern, with many awaiting requested information; but he was able to report on the following:

- The Dedham Country Polo Club (DCPC) project will be going forward. Attorney Peter Zahka will hash out the easement and language; the project will then be brought to the Club Board and then to the DWWD Board.
- For the Canton Street project, Weston & Sampson is awaiting confirmation of their being provided the base map from the MASSDOT TEC engineering firm, stating Weston & Sampson is the most cost-effective avenue.

Mr. Phillips asked what the impact would be of DCPC doing something? Mr. Locke explained that a 300-foot extension of their fire service line will be directed to School Master Lane, and a five-to-ten year plan to continue the line for both Towns to gain better circulation and quality will be devised. The Club's fire service will be from in front of the building to the pond, and the District would take over to make a water main. This would also eliminate the meter vault on the 18th fairway, which often fills with water requiring pumping to read the meter. This is being written and discussed with lawyers.

Mr. Phillips asked about the extension funding. Mr. Locke responded that the 300-foot extension is in the Capital Budget, with any additions paid for by the Club.

Mr. Phillips asked if Dedham Golf would pay to bring water to their location. Mr. Locke answered that some deals had been offered but no response has been received.

Mr. Locke also updated that the CIP did not include the average age of the Districts water pips as Mr. Phillips had questioned in the last meeting, but that we should be able to extract this information from our GIS data.

Mr. Phillips asked when the MWRA is relied on. Mr. Locke responded that MWRA water is used as a supplement usually in the summer as needed; currently trying to blend to reduce TTHMs, so using more than last year. Mr. Merithew asked if the MWRA usage could be added to the reporting; Mr. Lukis offered to post monthly the MWRA's three-year usage report to Basecamp, confirming the report is one month behind.

Mr. Merithew asked about the new leak detection company. Mr. Locke responded that the company had begun work and found one possible leak. Mr. Merithew asked about comparison for the company's work. Mr. Lukis responded that staff go to locations with the company representatives, so a sense of their performance could be ascertained.

Executive Director Report

Contracts Signed by Executive Director

Mr. Lukis informed that contract tracking has been updated, with the Ford F150 Lightning truck order cancelled and the 2023 Ford Explorer Hybrid added. Change order tracking has been applied; the one listed is the one discussed at the last meeting, amounting to two percent of the total contract value. Mr. Lukis received a favorable response by the Members on the tracking format.

Update and Action on CO to Security Project for Fencing

Since no proposal has been received from LaVigne Electric, Mr. Lukis had nothing additional to report on the security project fencing.

Architectural Design Update

Regarding the vertical construction as a municipal entity, Mr. Lukis searched for available commercial properties, finding none with garages for sale or rent in Dedham or Westwood. Inquiring with Federal Realty, he was informed the six-bay garage mentioned at the last meeting is now under leased until 2027. Based on these factors, Mr. Lukis recommends moving forward with requesting qualifications to hire a contractor, suggesting a fee ceiling of \$175K. No Board action is required at this time.

Update on EPA's Proposed PFAS Regulations

Mr. Lukis stated he provided the backup memo regarding extremely low MCLs as PFOA & PFOS, with readings below 4, which is essentially '0,' set to the lowest possible number. Four other compounds will be placed on the hazards index. If readings stay at 4, the District will be in non-compliance, in one compound or the other. Mr. Lukis displayed graphs showing the PFAS and PFOA sampling results at the effluent of the treatment plants since April 2021. By implementing PFAS treatment now, the District is being proactive, including having already submitted the permit request to the DEP.

With the new reading limits set to finalize in Fall 2023, implementation will take a minimum of three years, with the possibility of a year's extension, to 2026/2027.

Mr. Merithew asked if the report has a timetable to meet deadlines. Mr. Lukis responded that Weston & Sampson has not updated, but that White Lodge construction will be by 2027. Discussion was held regarding timeline, tracking, pilot study, DEP application timing, and SRF funding next year's construction based on design timeframe.

Mr. Lukis offered that implementation rule changes could bring the timeline closer. Mr. Merithew asked if Federal guidelines are any indication of the notification process. Mr. Lukis answered that quarterly sampling is used with compliance based on the rolling annual average: If a reading is greater than 4, notification is made; if less than 4, the reading is essentially '0.' With the District lower than other systems, Mr. Lukis feels strongly that the non-detection level can be met with the proposed treatment. Mr. Lukis posted the Massachusetts regulation PFAS sampling, showing readings have been less than last year's, a trend he hopes remains.

Mr. Merithew asked if Massachusetts uses a rolling average. Mr. Lukis answered that monthly samples give a quarterly average, with first quarter 2023 compliance sampling posted. Mr. Lukis confirmed he will share as learns more.

Mr. Merithew asked about the timeframe of the MWRA tie-in to the White Lodge Facility. Mr. Lukis responded it is not currently in the program and reiterated he will speak with the MASSDOT regarding funding some improvements. Mr. Lexander referred to the sodium lack of improvement funding history. Mr. Lukis said the MASSDOT highway salting report states new technology is being implemented to track salt amount spread. Mr. Lexander responded that routing was to have changed and tracking used, with neither done. Mr. Lukis informed that improvements have been funded by MASSDOT to help reduce salt for private homes, adding that the Legislature will be contacted if no assistance is offered. Responding to Mr. Merithew's statement that the process is easier with a project in mind, Mr. Lukis stated known costs are available.

Update on TTHM Sampling

Mr. Lukis reported:

- March 3 sampling – Far Reach Road reduced to 76.2, Fox Hill 1 - 56.8, Fox Hill 2 - 48.1 Results are being seen at tanks. Bridge Street/High Street service operation change started two days before samples taken.
- March 10 – Waiting for four tanks' samplings results.
- March 17 – Samples sent to a different lab to receive results within seven days.

The intent is for Far Reach Road to reduce to below 70.

Mr. Lexander asked about flushing. Mr. Lukis responded that flushing had been done March 9, with auto-flushers increased amounts set in February. The next regulatory sample is scheduled for to be taken the first week in April.

Old/New Business*

Mr. Lukis notified the Board that he would be attending the Dedham Planning Board meeting tomorrow evening, March 22, because he was asked to answer questions regarding District water sources, in response to a citizen's request for the Aquifer Protection Overlay District to be increased in size. He anticipates the article being removed; he met with City officials last week.

Mr. Yessaillian had exited the meeting.

Mr. Lexander requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Fox to adjourn, and Mr. Merithew seconded it. A roll-call vote was taken.

Roll-Call: Messrs. Lexander, Merithew, Fox, and Phillips voted Aye.

Motion passes.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:23p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Travers Reynolds
Recording Secretary