



DEDHAM-WESTWOOD WATER DISTRICT Special Business Meeting

**Via Zoom Virtual Platform
Wednesday, May 31, 2023 | 6:30 PM**

Announcement of the Audio and/or Video Recording

The Chair, Robert Lexander, called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. and announced the meeting would be audio- and video-recorded.

Attendance

Robert Lexander, Chair

Gary Yessaillian, Vice-Chair

Eric Merithew, Clerk

John Healy, Member

Mark Phillips, Member

Blake Lukis, Executive Director

Bob Marsh, Business Manager

Pauline Donoghue, Treasurer

Steve Locke, Operations Manager

Absence

James Fox, Member

Also Present

Vivian Daly – 107 Ames Street, Dedham

Kathy Sullivan (did not provide residential address)

Fran (did not provide surname or residential address)

Roll-Call Attendance

Messrs. Lexander, Yessaillian, Merithew, Healy, and Phillips Present.

Mr. Lexander confirmed a quorum present.

Discussion on PFAS Treatment

Review and Action on PFAS Removal Design at White Lodge Treatment Plant

Mr. Lexander welcomed the Dedham/Westwood residents as virtual attendees to the meeting, and requested they provide their full names and residential addresses.

Mr. Lukis introduced that tonight's special meeting is to discuss the PFAS upgrades at the White Lodge Treatment Plant. He informed that the topic was discussed at the last Board general business meeting but that two Commissioners were not present, and it is important for all to weigh in. Mr. Lukis explained that only the White Lodge treatment plant will be addressed, though pilot testing will be performed at both the White Lodge and Bridge Street plants. There is additional information that will be obtained through the pilot testing for the Bridge Street plant before the design can be started.

Mr. Lukis explained tonight’s review and action relates to a Weston & Sampson Engineering task order for the White Lodge treatment plant design, to be finalized upon testing completion and consisting of:

1. Base task order – Design for PFAS Removal
2. Solar Roof Array – Existing and new facilities

Mr. Lukis shared his Dedham-Westwood Water District PFAS Discussion presentation and provided slide explanation:

- Overview of Massachusetts Regulations - from 2020 to current
- EPA Regulations – Draft released March 2023 and to be finalized by December 2023
- Current White Lodge Pilot Testing, Design, and Construction Schedule spanning annuary 2023 through July 2026
- Delayed Schedule would push the timeline out to January 2024 through July 2027

Mr. Lexander confirmed that water would have to be purchased and asked if SRF funds would be guaranteed in 2025. Mr. Lukis responded that SRF funds are available every year but that more systems will be submitting for funding beginning next year, resulting in a better funding chance this year.

Continuing with the displayed presentation:

- Current SRF Funding - Mr. Lukis explained funding is based on points:
 1. Through a meeting between Massachusetts Water Works Association Board of Director and new MassDEP Commissioner Hieple stated PFAS project loans are now available at zero-percent interest loans.
 2. As the MassDEP Commissioner was active with green energy, an application with renewable energy gains more points and places at a higher ranking, with grants eligibility.

Mr. Lexander commented on costs’ increase and contractor scarcity with project delay.

The final slide listed:

- Five Other Reasons Not to Delay

Mr. Lukis concluded the presentation, stating that if Massachusetts changed their current regulations and the District was no longer in non-compliance, PFAS would still be in the District water. Mr. Lukis reiterated his recommendation to move forward with the task order, including the solar array design beneficial to the funding package.

Board discussion covered:

- Technology impacting regulation change
 - EPA's recorded level is the lowest detectible possible level - Design would be to non-detect, future-proof, and would also remove other compounds not measurable now.
 - Engineering team is confident with the level of long-chain removal
- Confirmation a health risk could be targeted
- Decision a crucial pro-active step for the District
- Reiterating the differences between acting now and delaying
 - No Bridge Street consideration
 - DEP Commissioner conversation regarding higher score, grant opportunities, and zero-percent interest loans
- Pilot testing status
 - No DEP approval response yet
 - DEP reviewing Weston & Sampson report
- Tapped & coring
 - Making outlet for electrical aspect
- Helioscope results returned
 - Significant electrical cost saving through inclusion of solar
- Listed reasons to act on now rather than delaying

Ms. Daly introduced herself and stated she is in favor of PFAS monitoring. She asked if different water mixes are delivered to different District areas and also referred to the timeline for PFAS mitigation.

In answer, Mr. Lukis confirmed the District obtains water from three sources, Bridge Street, White Lodge, and the MWRA. All parts of the system get water from all sources, first sent to tanks for distribution. Regarding the timeframe, Mr. Lukis reiterated waiting on pilot testing and needing DEP approval for treatment process review so media to use is determined. With tonight's approval, the design process would be scheduled and the estimate for White Lodge plant completion is mid-2026. Mr. Locke confirmed both pilot testings would be run with DEP approval. Mr. Merithew gave input on the approval process placement. Ms. Daly was informed that testing data updates are available on the District website DWWD.org/PFAS and through social media platforms.

Ms. Daly thanked the Board, and Mr. Lukis invited her to reach out to the District with any additional questions.

Mr. Merithew read the motion: The Dedham-Westwood Water Commissioners vote to approve the PFAS Treatment Design at White Lodge Water Treatment Plant proposal between Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. and the Dedham-Westwood Water District for the contract price of \$407,100. Further, that the Executive Director be authorized to sign the agreement.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Healy. A roll-call vote was taken.
Roll-Call: Messrs. Lexander, Yessaillian, Merithew, Healy, and Phillips voted Aye.
Motion passes unanimously.

Old/New Business*

Security Project – Fencing

Mr. Lukis informed that the White Lodge Treatment Plant manual gate may have to be changed but that not all of the change order would be used. At Mr. Healy's suggestion, Mr. Lukis will look into a solar-powered automatic gate. Mr. Locke stated tree blockage maybe an issue.

DWWD Commissioner James Fox

Mr. Lukis restated that Member James Fox will no longer be a Westwood resident as of June 3rd, necessitating he resign from the Board. The remaining Members voiced thanks for Mr. Fox's almost-five years of guidance serving as a District Commissioner.

It was announced that Mr. John Hickey will serve as Interim Commissioner to fill the gap through the summer. Mr. Hickey has a valued history with the Board. A full-time Commissioner is being sought.

Mr. Yessaillian thanked the public attendees for their attendance and questions.

Next Meeting

The next hybrid regular meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, June 20th.

Mr. Lexander requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Yessaillian to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Phillips. A roll-call vote was taken.

Roll-Call: Messrs. Lexander, Yessaillian, Merithew, Healy, and Phillips voted Aye.
Motion passes unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:15p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Travers Reynolds
Recording Secretary