



DEDHAM-WESTWOOD WATER DISTRICT

General Business Meeting

Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Monday, August 10, 2026 | 6:30 PM

Louis Kustwan, Chair
John Healy, Vice-Chair
Jennifer Perkins, Clerk
Robert Lexander, Member
Mark Phillips, Member
Eric Merithew, Member

Blake Lukis, Executive Director & Assistant Treasurer
Bob Marsh, Business Manager
Pauline Donoghue, Treasurer
Steve Locke, Operations Manager

I. Announcement of the Audio and/or Video Recording

Roll-Call Attendance

Member Eric Merithew called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m., and announced the meeting would be audio- and video-recorded.

Mr. Merithew requested a Roll-Call Attendance: Mr. Lexander, Mr. Healy, Mr. Phillips, and Mr. Merithew Present.

Veering from Agenda order, Mr. Merithew stated voting will take place once Ms. Perkins joins the meeting.

Absent:

Louis Kustwan, Chair

II. Public Participation

No public participants were present.

III. Financials and Warrants

Treasurer's Report

Submission of Warrants 58 through 64

Ms. Donoghue presented Warrants 58 to 64 for activity from July 16th to August 6th for Commissioners' review and approval.

Also presented:

- Graph of Unreconciled Cash Reports for January to June 2026
- Reconciled Cash Report for April to June 2026 includes:

- April 2026 Reconciled Cash, increased from March 2026
- May 2026 Reconciled Cash, increased from April 2026
- June 2026 Reconciled Cash, increased from May 2026
- Summary of Reconciled Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, Interest Income, and Returns for January through June 2026
- Summary of Reconciled Cash Receipts, Cash Disbursements, Interest Income, and Returns for Year-End December 31, 2025

Note - Warrant 62, forwarded earlier, has been corrected, as the original overstated State taxes.

Mr. Marsh informed the Board of a fraud incident with the bank; there was an attempt to cash three District checks. The attempt was detected and prevented, without funds lost. The incident is currently under investigation. Since this meeting is public, no details will be shared. Bank and District software detected the fraud. District and bank controls will be reviewed. Ms. Donoghue filed report with police and the United States Postal Service; for Mr. Healy, Ms. Donoghue confirmed the notification was to the Postal Inspection Service.

Referring to the carbon and filtration payments, Mr. Merithew asked if the work was as originally planned or for ongoing repairs; Mr. Lukis answered that it was replacement of the first four filters.

IV. Business Manager Report

Business Operating Reports

Mr. Lukis shared his screen for Mr. Marsh to review the Financial Statements. Financial Statements through June are completed, with this report issued mid-July.

Billed Water Revenue

- Offsetting MWRA water purchase

User Charges

- Aquarion Water Company Booster Station payment

Investment Income

- Primarily unbudgeted-for excess PFAS settlement funds

Total Revenue YTD

- Following trend

Net Personnel Costs

- Unfavorable, primarily on the Distribution side because some employees are out, so

- Projects are not charged as planned

MWRA Purchase

- Water treatment

- Normal planned usage

- Large excess

- Mr. Lukis stated this is because of the White Lodge Plant at half-capacity during media replacement

Ms. Perkins joined the meeting.

Depreciation & Amortization
Entries less than historically
YTD Profit
Favorable
BAN Bond Premium
Will be utilized with Projects
PFAS Settlement Funds
Answering Mr. Marsh's inquiry, Mr. Lukis stated no additional settlement funds are expected this year.
Operating Funds vs. Budget
Cash in bank
Capital Spending vs Budget
Primarily White Lodge Treatment Plant spending
MWRA Water vs Budget

Mr. Marsh informed that the Budget forecast has not changed. Long-range plans will be developed with the Management Team. Holding on breakeven for the year.

Mr. Locke informed that Capital Projects have started.

Regarding Investment Income, Mr. Merithew asked if that portion of cash has been spent; Mr. Lukis answered that only that portion has been locked-up, with PFAS funds tracked separately to develop a usage plan, currently in the highest-yield savings account.

III. Financials and Warrants (continued)

In response to Mr. Merithew's inquiry, Ms. Perkins did not pose any questions regarding the warrants. With no Member questions voiced, Mr. Merithew motioned to approve Warrants 58 to 64 for period July 16th to August 6th; Mr. Healy seconded the motion.
Roll-Call Vote: Mr. Lexander, Mr. Healy, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Phillips, and Mr. Merithew voted Aye.
Motion passed unanimously.

V. Approval of Minutes for July 14, 2026

Mr. Merithew requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes of July 14, 2026. A motion was made by Mr. Merithew, to approve the meeting minutes as reviewed for July 14, 2026; Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. With no discussion necessary, a roll-call vote was taken.
Roll-Call Vote: Mr. Lexander, Mr. Phillips, and Mr. Merithew voted Aye;
Ms. Perkins and Mr. Healy abstained.
Motion passed.

VI. Approval of Bond for \$1.099 million

Approval of \$1.099 million interest free 10-year Bond with the MWRA for Riverside Drive Water Main Replacement

Mr. Lukis reiterated that, at the April meeting, the Board approved borrowing from the MWRA Local Water Systems Program for the Riverside Drive Project. The MWRA has approved the application. At Mr. Merithew's request, Mr. Lukis read the motion regarding funds borrowing:

VOTE OF THE BOARD OF THE WATER COMMISSIONERS

Voted: that the sale of the \$1,099,000 Water Bond of the District dated August 24, 2026, to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (the “Authority”) is hereby approved and the District Treasurer or any other appropriate District official is authorized to execute on behalf of the District a Loan Agreement and a Financial Assistance Agreement with the Authority with respect to the bond. The bond shall be payable without interest on August 15 of the years and in the principal amounts as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Installment</u>	<u>Year</u>	<u>Installment</u>
2027	\$109,900	2032	\$109,900
2028	109,900	2033	109,900
2029	109,900	2034	109,900
2030	109,900	2035	109,900
2031	109,900	2036	109,900

Further Voted: that any certificates or documents relating to bond (collectively, the “Documents”), may be executed in several counterparts, each of which shall be regarded as an original and all of which shall constitute one and the same document; delivery of an executed counterpart of a signature page to a Document by electronic mail in a “.pdf” file or by other electronic transmission shall be as effective as delivery of a manually executed counterpart signature page to such Document; and electronic signatures on any of the Documents shall be deemed original signatures for the purposes of the Documents and all matters relating thereto, having the same legal effect as original signatures;

Further Voted: that all action taken to date by the District and its officers and agents to carry out this financing, including the execution of any application agreement by the District Treasurer or any other official of the District, are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed; and

Further Voted: that each member of the Board of Water Commissioners, the District Clerk and the District Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing vote.

I further certify that the votes were taken at a meeting open to the public, that no vote was taken by secret ballot, that a notice stating the place, date, time and agenda for the meeting (which agenda included the adoption of the above votes) was posted in a manner conspicuously visible to the public at all hours in or on the municipal buildings in which the office of the District is located or, if applicable, in accordance with an alternative method of notice prescribed or approved by the Massachusetts Attorney General as set forth in 940 CMR 29.03(2)(b) or 940 CMR 29.03(3)(b), at least 48 hours, not including Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays, prior to the time of the meeting and remained so posted at the time of the meeting, that no deliberations or decision in connection with the sale of the Bond were taken in executive session, all in accordance with G.L. c.30A, §§18-25, as amended.

Mr. Phillips asked if any stipulations are placed regarding how funds may be allocated; Mr. Lukis answered that the funds must be used for Riverside Drive's water main replacement.

Mr. Lexander moved the motion; Mr. Phillips seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Mr. Lexander, Mr. Healy, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Phillips, and Mr. Merithew voted Aye.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lukis relayed that, as with prior bonding, signatures are required from all Board Members. The Commissioners are requested to contact Mr. Lukis to arrange signatures, for submission by August 14th.

VII. Action on White Lodge Filter Repairs

Vote to approve corrective action on the remaining 4 filters

Mr. Lukis informed that, similar to a prior vote which replaced green sand, anthracite, and four filters, it has been determined the other four filters need to be replaced. The motion is to have filters replaced by Carbon Filtration Systems. Hungerford & Terry is supplying the media. Replacement should be completed by the end of September/beginning of October, to have the Plant online at 100%.

Mr. Merithew asked if the scope of work and pricing is the same as for the first four filters; Mr. Lukis confirmed that, as with the previous four filters, Alternates 1 and 2 will not be required. Some conditions are anticipated. With four new filters online, a new backwash SOP was created, utilizing pressure differential and total flow through filters. To-date, the

volume through filters has been the backwash indicator. Had been running with five filters, with high manganese level with Well 5 offline, two backwashes most days. To run the Plant, eight-hour shifts seven days a week are required. Hungerford & Terry recommends to perform each backwash with permanganate regeneration; had previously run regeneration intermittently. Now, each backwash lasts longer and produces more wastewater, discharged to MWRA. A system for continuous regeneration like at the Bridge Street Plant is being reviewed; Mr. Lukis described the process.

Mr. Merithew asked what the prior frequency of backwashes was; Mr. Lukis answered that backwashes were run every three to four weeks. The original SOP from plant going online in 1985 stated should be looking at differential pressure for backwashes. Differential transmitters were never installed, so the percentage of the valve opening determined when to initiate backwash.

Mr. Merithew asked if there has been any impact to water quality; Mr. Lukis relayed that very good water quality results had been seen. Once a level was hit, an increase in the manganese numbers coming from the filter could be seen. Some may be because of newer media. Longer run times may be seen.

For Mr. Merithew, Mr. Lukis confirmed that the most could hope for is to backwash once a day rather than twice.

Mr. Merithew asked if the frequency is still much higher than prior; Mr. Lukis confirmed the frequency is higher and stated frequencies could also impact the MWRA discharge permit, so annual discharge water amounts may need to be changed. Mr. Merithew asked if the MWRA discharge is the only option; Mr. Lukis answered that lagoons are also an option, but the District does not have space to create them.

Mr. Lexander informed that the flow-control valve and the meter were original equipment, so may have been getting more water than thought, putting more pressure on the filter.

Mr. Merithew stated the massive backwash difference is a challenge to understand - What would be done to not encounter this situation again? Mr. Lexander answered that not trying to fit more water through the filter and keeping track of the current backflow would assist.

Mr. Merithew asked of the backwash rate calculated with Well 5 functioning properly; Mr. Lukis answered that the results all showed higher manganese levels with Well 5 offline. The manganese influent level was half when Well 5 was running. With eight new filters and Well 5 running, longer run times and no need for daily backwashes should be seen. Mr. Merithew asked if backwash is with all four filters on each side; Mr. Lukis described the process as filter-by-filter.

Mr. Phillips asked if inSCADA integration is a manual process; Mr. Lexander explained that the integration was computer-oriented. Mr. Lukis described the process as allowing the operator to know when a backwash is needed; the manual process was detailed.

Mr. Lexander asked if another tank will be installed for continuous permanganate feeding; Mr. Lukis answered that, if assessment determines a move to continuous regeneration, it will require a bulk tank and a day tank of permanganate in the plant. Mr. Merithew asked if that will potentially impact additional PFAS treatment; Mr. Lukis stated continuous regeneration should not impact the Plant. High levels of manganese leaving the green sand filters will, as it will chew up PFAS media before PFAS is removed. Mr. Merithew stated additional backwashes may keep resin filters from going so quickly.

Mr. Lexander asked if will try to get finish water for backwashes. Mr. Lukis answered that this will be looked into by getting a price from RH White; Mr. Locke relayed that Weston & Sampson has been informed that the pricing is wanted.

Mr. Merithew read the motion: The Dedham-Westwood Water Commissioners vote to award the White Lodge Filter Media Replacement for the four additional filters to Carbon Filtration Systems of Johnston, RI for the amount of \$239,743.13.

Mr. Lexander seconded the motion.

Roll-Call Vote: Mr. Lexander, Mr. Healy, Ms. Perkins, Mr. Phillips, and Mr. Merithew voted Aye.

Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Lukis sent a memo to the Board last week, informing of the decision to turn off the White Lodge Treatment Plant for the next two months, August through September, for multiple reasons: Five filters equal half capacity, multiple backwashes, staffing eight-hour shifts seven days a week. As the highest-yielding well, with lowest manganese level, when Well 5 is offline, the level is about double. The process included finding material in the well, now removed, planned remediation, new pump and motor, discharge pumping, chlorinate, and test to put online. Scheduling of employees is stressful. This combination necessitates a shutoff of the White Lodge Treatment Plant for two months, through other processes and summer schedules, to then reassess.

Mr. Merithew asked when the shutdown is scheduled for; Mr. Lukis confirmed it started last week.

Mr. Phillips asked if there are any concerns about the reduced diameter impacting at Well 5. Mr. Lukis responded that the parameters around the pump and motor will probably have to be changed to get the same amount of water from the smaller diameter, which will probably only be known when the Well is completely redeveloped, for comparison to as prior rehab. A decrease in water should not be seen, but a decrease in capacity could be seen, hopefully insignificantly. Relined wells history showed close-to-prior production.

Mr. Merithew asked what the cause of the screen separation was; Messrs. Lukis and Locke answered that the reason was a dissimilar metal analysis. Mr. Lukis added that this is why stainless-steel casing and screen is being considered for future prevention.

Mr. Merithew asked if there is enough room to separate packing from the older materials, to prevent corrosion; Mr. Lukis confirmed using the smooth bead for water is quicker, and Mr. Lexander further described packing.

Mr. Merithew asked if the PFAS Project timing could be changed; Mr. Lukis informed that the possibility of limiting the next shutdown and not interfering with the four-filter media exchange is being reviewed. Possible change aspects were discussed. Mr. Lukis added that, otherwise, another planned shutdown will happen during the winter.

For Mr. Merithew, Mr. Lukis confirmed the wastewater pumps are being replaced. Mr. Merithew asked if there is enough redundancy in that area; Mr. Lukis confirmed there was redundancy. Mr. Locke added that pump capacity was increased, and confirmed for Mr. Merithew that they are new and larger; Mr. Lexander described the old pumps.

Mr. Merithew stated that new backwash will have to be adjusted with plant personnel and production rates; a good backwash schedule will increase water quality going into the resin PFAS filters, which are expensive to replace. Mr. Locke commented on the plant operators being given the proper tools according to Hungerford & Terry operating procedures; he agrees with Mr. Lexander's opinion of the issue which caused the increased backwash need. Mr. Locke appreciates the reaction time being good though there was no way to plan.

Mr. Healy asked if the damage and resulting costs would be more severe if occurred after the PFAS Plant was completed; Messrs. Phillips and Merithew confirmed the resin would have been destroyed.

Mr. Healy asked if District retirees might return per diem to reduce overtime costs; Mr. Lukis remarked on that being a good idea, which has been discussed and the Union has been contacted regarding training contract operators. Mr. Locke informed that the District has advertised for staff hiring.

Mr. Merithew asked how the changes will impact the plant operation; Mr. Lukis answered that the only restriction is in the amount of MWRA water being limited, submitted through Weston & Sampson for a later-in-year shutdown, with the ability to purchase more water this year. No planned actions require DEP approval; Mr. Lukis described why.

Mr. Merithew asked about the continuous permanganate; Mr. Lukis answered that if that is the recommended direction, a treatment process change approval for installation will have to be submitted to the DEP.

Mr. Merithew asked if running the White Lodge Plant from the Bridge Street Plant impacted by the frequent backwashes and permanganate restriction until switch to continuous must be reported to the DEP. Mr. Lukis stated the backwashes would be planned around shifts but that the continuous permanganate should not affect staffing, so no need for relaying to the DEP. For Mr. Merithew, Mr. Lukis confirmed moving away from daily backwashes could make weekend coverage unnecessary unless an operational requirement is to staff all days.

Mr. Healy voiced appreciation of the timely memo to residents; Mr. Lukis confirmed the intent to timely relay decisions and action plans. Further, Mr. Healy appreciates public health being at the center of District decisions; Mr. Locke confirmed leaving the plant on was not an option.

VIII. Operations Manager Report

Pumping and Operational Report

Mr. Locke reported:

Pumpage - Pumpage today was 4.561. With the MWRA water supply off, the average daily usage has increased significantly, up to 2.758 from 1.69 million gallons per day the previous week. Every week will be pumping 75-80% of MWRA water until the White Lodge Plant is back in service.

Main & Service Line Report

University Avenue - Replaced a corporation - Will be paved Thursday

19 Winter Street in Westwood - Leak detection found - Repaired 7/25

242 Burgess Avenue in Westwood - Leak detection found - Repaired 7/16

45 Pine Lane in Westwood - Catastrophic break found 7/16 - Pipe ~3' x 3-4" long -
Pavement upheaval - Road shutdown and pavement removal
for extensive repair - Curb-to-curb repaving Friday

Mr. Lexander asked the year of the cast iron pipe; Mr. Locke stated it was from the 50s or 60s, at least 125 PSI cement-lined.

Mr. Merithew asked if the leaks were found by the hydrant system or by the company used; Mr. Locke answered that two leaks were found from the manual leak detection survey, noting that some potential leaks may have been missed during the two-month no-charge sensor upgrading by *64 Seconds*. Mr. Locke commented on the company's progress with their product, reminding that Mr. Lukis secured grant funding for the sensors. He informed that the District Engineer and Interns have worked on the Project. For Mr. Healy, Mr. Locke confirmed the sensors placement and provided the company's history.

New Projects

Burgess Avenue Booster Station - Slated to begin in March
Weston & Sampson may adjust timing.

Schoolmaster Lane in Dedham - No ledge was encountered for 280 feet,
Ledge encountered within the next 124 feet
No negative residential calls received

Mr. Merithew relayed that he spoke with an appreciative resident.

Riverside Drive in Dedham - Starting the services transfer to the temporary main
Pleased the new contractor planned to divide the project in
half for resident passage, as this process is District-suggested.
First bacteria test failed; second passed.

Mr. Merithew asked if any residences have been placed on the temporary main yet;
Mr. Locke answered that five or six homes were placed today, with no notice of
concerns received.

Miles Leak Detection Survey - All breaks and service-line issues repaired

The Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force dropped the level from Significant,
Level 2, to Mild, Level 1.

As highlighted in the Operations Manager Report, green sand filter replacement planned for
Monday has been delayed.

Answering Mr. Phillips' inquiry, Mr. Lukis stated the change in drought restrictions was
made for at least the Southeastern Region, to Level 1; tomorrow's press release will inform
of relaxed water restrictions to one day per week for the District in place beginning Monday,
August 17th.

IX. Executive Director

Discussion of WLTP Shutdown Memo
Contracts Signed By ED

Mr. Lukis has signed no new contracts.

Mr. Lukis forwarded the White Lodge Treatment Plant PFAS Upgrades Change Order
Tracking. Change Order 3 was finalized. To-date, three change orders total 1.31% of the
contract value and known PCOs total 1.59%.

Mr. Lukis highlighted Change Order 16 related to corbel modification from architectural
versus civil plans discrepancy; he described the elevation difference. It was agreed that the
result did not meet the Planning Board's approval for aesthetics. Working with RH White,
Weston & Sampson, and Tighe & Bond, an economical solution was found. Mr. Lukis

listed the considered options and described the choice. Weston & Sampson is open to some cautionary regarding their error; Mr. Lukis will work with the firm to determine their contribution amount.

Mr. Merithew asked if the building's low side is visible from University Avenue; Mr. Lukis confirmed the side is visible from the street, describing why the option was chosen to adhere to Planning Board approval.

Mr. Lukis described some expected billing credits.

Mr. Lukis described Phase 2 of the Clean Water Trust Lead Service Line Inventory Replacement Program; the information had been uploaded and emailed. At the April Board meeting, the vote was to move forward with the MWRA interest-free loan which includes potential forgiveness of 25% for lead service line replacement. The Clean Water Trust has changed the program, now offering 40% principal forgiveness. Mr. Lukis will speak with Counsel, but recommends rescinding the April motion and vote to allow to borrow from the Clean Water Trust rather than from the MWRA. Ways for ratepayers to not be monetarily impacted are always sought.

Mr. Merithew asked if the previous option should be rescinded first, if the loan is guaranteed. Mr. Lukis answered that the process is first-come/first-serve and confirmed he will speak with Counsel regarding the process steps order so bond rating is not affected; he will also speak with Weston & Sampson regarding their timing.

Three qualified Distribution Superintendent candidates were interviewed. One was agreed upon and accepted the position. He will start in two weeks, to be introduced to the Board at the next meeting.

For Mr. Merithew, Mr. Lukis confirmed there will be no return to open session after tonight's Executive Session.

X. Old/New Business*

Mr. Healy suggested that the Minnesota cyber attack be discussed; Mr. Phillips had also mentioned. Mr. Lukis confirmed this will be an agenda item for the next meeting.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 15th, beginning at 6:30pm.

Mr. Healy exited the meeting.

Mr. Lukis informed that the Town of Dedham's Fall Summit Meeting will be held Monday, September 14th, and the Commissioners may attend.
Mr. Healy rejoined the meeting for Executive Session.

XI. Executive Session

Pursuant to MGL c.30A Sec. 21(a) Exemption 3 - To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares

Mr. Lukis suggested a motion to adjourn open session to move to Executive Session pursuant to MGL c.30A Sec. 21(a) Exemption 3 - To discuss strategy with respect to litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

Mr. Phillips moved the motion, and Mr. Merithew seconded.

Roll-Call Vote: Mr. Lexander, Mr. Phillips, Ms. Perkins, and Mr. Merithew voted Aye.
Motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Healy rejoined the meeting for Executive Session.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Travers Reynolds
Recording Secretary