

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS - MEETING AGENDA
MONDAY, SEPTMEBR 30, 2024

1. Introduction of the Board and Water Staff
2. **Overview of how we got here.** The GWD has been mandated by the EPA which is enforced by the State DEP to provide PFAS treatment to three of our wells by 2029. The GWD has taken a proactive approach to start this process early. Starting early hopefully avoids the possible shortages of engineering firms, contractors and products needed to build the treatment plants. This process is slow taking upwards of 3-5 years from the start. We are already at the end of year 2. As a result of the PILOT TEST at Worcester street the GWD had to pump the well at full capacity to obtain water quality data to be able to design the proper treatment for PFAS. EPA also mandated 4-log chlorine requirements which increased the chlorine levels injected at wells from .25 PPM to 1.2 PPM or more. As a result of the mandated high chlorine levels created higher dissolved iron and manganese levels in the water system resulting in discolored water.
Also, pumping requirements to meet usage demand during the summer months, June through September increases dramatically. Peak days during the winter are around 1.3 million gallons a day vs 1.7 million gallons a day during summer months. Seasonal increases can be attributed to lawn watering.
3. **What have we done.** The GWD has been flushing for a week and we will continue to flush the entire system until it is as clear as it can get. We will be flushing nights also from 7-midnight in addition to flushing days from 8-3:30PM. Weekend flushing is not being done as we felt it would give the wells time to rest and water might be clearer when everyone is home on the weekend. Flushing is limited to the amount of water we can produce in a day, without jeopardizing fire protection and domestic use.
4. **Where do we go from here.** The GWD will continue flushing until the water is as clear as possible. The Board will meet on October 9th and discuss options regarding rebates for “in home” treatment systems. Operations staff has also reduced the number of hours they use the Worcester street well. Reduction of water being pumped in the fall/winter will allow them to use other sources to keep up with demand. The GWD has also asked DEP to withdraw additional volumes of water from the Follette Street well on an emergency short-term base. This may or may not be allowed and may take months for approvals. We are also asking, DEP for a longer-term approval for use of Follette street during the PFAS construction phases, this started a year ago and we hope to have an answer early next year.
5. **Treatment timelines.** GWD has 3 treatment plants to build. Realistically the first plant will not be on-line until fall of 2027 and the other 2 to follow over the next year after that. Timing is very fluid due to permitting, DEP approvals, construction activities and supply chain issues. Right now, everything has been moving along as expected with minor delays. GWD needs the support of the customers and the Town permitting Boards to facilitate this project.
6. **Costs.** These projects are going to total around \$50 million dollars. We have been approved for a loan through the State program for a \$23 million zero percent loan. We have submitted an application for \$32 million in this year’s application round. Results of our eligibility for the latest round will not be known until around January 2025.
7. **Public comment.**