

# Dennis Water District

Board of Water Commissioners  
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Edward A Crowell, *Chairman*  
Paul F. Prue  
Charles F. Crowell

## Main-Line News

[www.denniswater.org](http://www.denniswater.org)

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Appointed by Water Commissioners  
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David Larkowski, Superintendent  
Sheryl A McMahon, Clerk & Treasurer  
James Ritchie, Asst. Superintendent

### VOTERS AUTHORIZE CONSTRUCTION OF TWO WATER TREATMENT PLANTS

At the Annual District Meeting, held April 29, 2008, the voters in attendance unanimously approved the construction of two water treatment plants for the removal of iron and manganese from ten District water supply wells. Authorization for the project followed several years of careful study and planning. The District vote authorizes the Board of Water Commissioners to spend no more than \$9.5 million and to issue bonds to pay for the construction costs.

The project, as outlined in the meeting, will include two 50' x 100' steel buildings which will house the tanks and equipment necessary for the removal of iron and manganese, the installation of approximately 4.5 miles of raw and treated water mains and the construction of six lagoons for the settlement and collection of the removed material. This entire project has undergone strict environmental review as required by the Department of Environmental Protection. All areas to be disturbed were reviewed during the permitting process and the appropriate certificates of approval were obtained from the Town of Dennis Conservation Commission.

The project is split into two components. The District is responsible for self-performing the installation of 24,000 feet of water mains to connect ten wells to the new water treatment plants. The District is also responsible for the installation of equipment upgrades in existing facilities in order to meet the demands of the new treatment facilities. The general contractor, Kinsmen Corporation of Hooksett, NH, will construct the two treatment plants. Kinsmen, as the lowest and responsible bidder, had been pre-qualified as a suitable contractor before the general bids were advertised. The contract for the two plants is \$5.9 million. Construction began last month and is expected to be completed in late 2009.

Borrowing for the construction was the result of a successful application process with the Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust. The favorable interest rate of 2% will save millions of dollars for rate payers over the life of the twenty-year loan. There will be a need to increase water rates over the next several years in order to meet the new debt service obligations and increased operation and maintenance costs associated with the new facilities.

*Continued on reverse.....*



*A Dennis Water District work crew installs 12" water main on Setucket Road in July. The District is self-performing all of the raw and treated water main work necessary to connect the 10 wells highest in iron and manganese with the new facilities*

### WATER RATES AND CHARGES

The Board of Water Commissioners, with the unanimous recommendation of the District Finance Committee, submitted a budget for the operations, maintenance, debt service and capital expenditures for the Fiscal Year 2009 based on an increase in the **Customer Account Charge** from \$25 every six months to \$36. The \$22 annual increase per metered account is estimated to generate \$310,000 of additional revenue.

The increase was necessary in order to meet significant cost escalations in treatment chemicals, electricity, diesel fuel, gasoline, lab fees, retirement and insurance assessments. Long range budget **projections** anticipate the following increases in the Account Charge:

July 1, 2008	\$72
July 1, 2009	\$82
July 1, 2010	\$84
July 1, 2011	\$84

The following is a **projection** on the water use rate charges:

	<u>1st 50,000 gls</u>	<u>2nd 50,000 gls</u>	<u>101,000 gls plus</u>
July 1, 2008	2.00	2.50	3.00
July 1, 2009	2.25	2.75	3.25
July 1, 2010	3.00	3.75	4.25
July 1, 2011	3.25	4.00	4.50

*Continued on reverse.....*

## Landscaping Doesn't Have to be a Drain on Your Water Budget.

Ever hear of "Xeriscaping" ? The "X" is pronounced like a "Z" and it's the new buzz word in landscape techniques. The term comes from the Greek word "xeros" meaning "dry".

So what's it all about, this *xeriscaping*? Well, it doesn't mean that your yard has to look like a miniature Mohave Desert. What it does mean is that your gardens and landscaped areas are planned with common sense and an eye towards indigenous plants that can survive and even flourish on the amount of water that occurs naturally here on Cape Cod, especially during the summer. Another aspect of *xeriscaping* is the reduction of lawn grass areas. Lawns are notorious for their expensive dependency on fertilizers, pesticides, herbicides AND water. Irrigating a lawn is the single largest non-essential use of potable water by customers of the Dennis Water District.

Xeriscaping doesn't have to be accomplished all at once. Over time, replace thirsty exotic-type plants with those that are native to Cape Cod. Assistance with selecting plants can be found at your local garden shop or by contacting the Cape Cod Extension Service at 508-375-6690. Situate shrubs and flowers that have the same watering requirements next to each other in the garden. It saves work when spot watering certain areas just to meet the needs of one particular plant.

Over the next several years, plan on reducing the size of lawn areas by expanding shrub beds, use low-growing drought-resistant ground coverings for those areas where grass is difficult to grow such as steep slopes. Use a variety of grasses that can withstand the summer heat and are resistant to disease and pests.

## VOTERS APPROVE TREATMENT PROJECT *Continued....*

Once the treatment plants are on-line, customers will begin to experience less frequently the most common complaints associated with the high iron and manganese now found in water. Customers should see marked improvement in water discoloration, staining, taste and odor. Treated water from the new plants will be chlorinated as is currently done system-wide. The need for system-wide flushing of hydrants to remove buildup in the mains will decrease over time.

A good *xeriscape* plan divides the yard into three water usage zones: high (regular watering) moderate (occasional watering) and low (natural rainfall only). Xeric landscapes need good irrigation in the first few years to establish the root systems of plants.

Less can be more in terms of xeriscaping your yard. The more plants used that are natural to Cape Cod soils and rainfall the less work, time, fertilizing and watering will be needed. Xeriscaping the Cape Cod way is not only an efficient way to beautify your yard space, it will save you money.



*Salvia* enjoy dry, gritty soil and comes in hundreds of varieties that bloom at different times of the year.

## REMEMBER TO WATER WISELY

## WATER RATES AND CHARGES *Continued....*

The Board of Water Commissioners will continue to evaluate and anticipate the need for increased water rates and charges based on budgetary requirements and water usage across all consumption tiers. Please remember that these rates are only estimates. Actual rates are set by the Board annually in order to meet actual budget expenses.

## CAN YOU SAVE 10%?

The United States Geological Survey estimates that the average person uses 80 to 100 gallons of water per day. The primary use is for flushing toilets. The second most common use is for showers or baths.

Try an experiment. Keep track of how much water you actually use in a day. Then challenge yourself and your family to use 10% less the next day. It may be easier than you think!

## HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

**Saturday, September 13, 2008**  
**Tony Kent Arena**  
**9 am to 1 pm**

Each year the Dennis Water District sponsors a HHWC Day in June. The Town of Dennis also sponsors a HHW Collection Day in September.

The free collection and disposal of residential HHW is an environmentally important service provided to the citizens of Dennis. Please continue to act responsibly. Save your HHW materials and bring them to the second Collection Day.

## PROTECT OUR WATER SUPPLY.

**NEVER pour HHW products down the sink or toilet or on the ground.**