

Dennis Water District

Board of Water Commissioners

Paul F. Prue, *Chairman*
Charles F. Crowell
Peter L. McDowell

Main-Line News

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Appointed by Water Commissioners

David Larkowski, Superintendent
Sheryl A McMahon, Clerk & Treasurer
James Ritchie, Asst. Superintendent

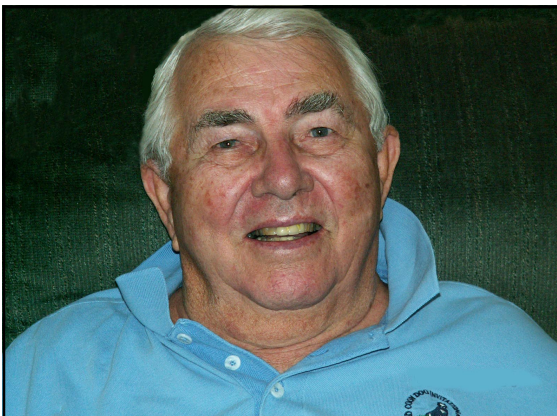
EDWARD A CROWELL, CHAIRMAN RETIRES AFTER 42 YEARS OF SERVICE

In the spring of 1967, after having been told he would have to wait for at least a year to have a water service line installed, Edward A. Crowell decided that progress was needed at the Dennis Water District when he observed the District work crew digging a water service trench by hand. He took out nomination papers to run for Water Commissioner. Ed was the winner garnering 635 votes of the 1,307 cast from a field of five candidates.

Serving in public office was nothing new to the 41-year old Dennis native when he first became Water Commissioner. At the age of 18, he joined the Navy and served two years patrolling in PT boats until his discharge in 1945. Returning to his home town to start his own business, Ed was elected to his first public office as a Cemetery Commissioner. He was just 21 years old. He was later elected as Park Commissioner followed by an appointment to the Conservation Commission.

Once elected as a Water Commissioner, Ed set out to achieve some well defined goals for the District he believed was in the best interest of the citizens of Dennis. His first priority was to see the District become self-sufficient by eliminating the District tax and rely only on the water rates to support the operations and maintenance of the system. Another priority was to preserve as much open space as possible for protecting the wells and water recharge areas. And third, to provide the best quality drinking water possible at a reasonable cost. In a recent interview, Ed said that two of the "smartest things I ever did here at the District was convincing David Larkowski to accept the appointment as Superintendent and hiring Sheryl McMahon as Clerk-Treasurer". "They make a great team working together to ensure that the goals of the Board are implemented", he said.

When asked what he was most proud of at the District, he said that the District's ability to pay "cash" for the construction of the corrosion control stations and the Hokum Rock water tank, along with the purchase of hundreds of acres of land without the need for borrowing and without a tax rate were true accomplishments.



Edward A Crowell
Water Commissioner—42 years
Chairman—32 years

Ed has four children and is married to Debbie Crowell. His two sons Carver and Tyler are part of the family business at Crowell Construction, daughter Sandra is a psychologist practicing here in Dennis and daughter Ashleigh is attending veterinary school.

At the last meeting Ed officiated on April 9, 2009 he said that his biggest disappointment was not being able to run again for a fifteenth term.

The Dennis Water District experienced a great deal of growth and development over the course of Ed's tenure. Through his wisdom, leadership and vision, the District was able to keep pace with the Town's growth, provide quality potable water in sufficient quantity for the extinguishment of fires and build an infrastructure that is the envy of many municipalities.

District and Town officials, friends and family joined together for refreshments and a light-hearted roast of our long-serving Chairman following the Annual District Meeting on April 28, 2009. All of us here at the District wish you all the best and many years of happiness in your retirement Ed. You are sorely missed by those who served with you and for you.

Newly Elected Water Commissioner Joins Board

Peter L. McDowell, a Dennis native and real estate business owner for more than 44 years was elected Water Commissioner on April 22, 2009, filling a vacancy left by Edward A. Crowell who did not seek re-election. Mr. McDowell received 1,163 votes of the 2,120 cast in the largest District election turn-out in more than forty-years.

Mr. McDowell has served as a member of the Dennis Finance Committee, Dennis Planning Board and as Dennis Town Moderator. He also served as a State Representative and was a Commissioned Officer in the Army Reserve National Guard.

HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY

Saturday, September 12, 2009
Tony Kent Arena from 9 am to 1 pm

In a cooperative effort, the Dennis Water District and the Town of Dennis each sponsor a HHWC Day. The District's was held last June. The Town of Dennis will hold their 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.

CAMERA! LIGHTS! ACTION!

The Board of Water Commissioners has embarked on a new venture: the broadcasting of their regular monthly meetings. The Board meetings are generally scheduled for the fourth Thursday of each month and are held at the Dennis Police Department in the Thomas Martin Training Room at 6:30 PM (except for Nov. 18 and Dec. 17 to avoid Thanksgiving and Christmas).

In cooperation with the Dennis Board of Selectmen and the Town of Dennis Information Technology Department the meetings will be broadcast live on Cable Channel 18 beginning with the August 27 meeting. Meetings will also be rebroadcast as scheduling and time permits. Please check the District's website for dates, agendas and minutes of Board meetings. A link for download streaming video of previous meetings is available on both the District's and the Town's website.



READING THE WATER METER

Being able to locate and read your water meter has several benefits. Since the District reads and bills for water consumption only twice per year, we strongly urge customers to read their meters on a regular basis, preferably monthly. This will help you identify extraordinary water usage, discover leaks and verify the accuracy of your water bills.

Write down all the numbers on the face of the meter, including the sweep hand. When you take the next reading, simply deduct the previous reading and this will tell you how many gallons were used.

Additional information on reading your water meter is available on-line or at the District office.

NEW WATER RATES IN EFFECT FOR AUGUST BILLS

In the spring of 2008, the District voters approved a borrowing authorization of \$9.5 million for the construction of two iron and manganese treatment plants, each capable of processing 4 million gallons per day. The Massachusetts Water Pollution Abatement Trust (Trust) approved the project for a 2%-interest state revolving fund loan of \$8.6 million. It is estimated that the Trust loan will save the District ratepayers more than \$2 million in interest costs over the life of the loan.

Generally, the Trust sells permanent bonds for approved projects in October of each year. Dennis was scheduled to receive approximately half of the permanent funds (about \$4 million) and the balance would be provided with interim loans until October 2009 after the project was complete and the balance of the permanent bond financing would be issued.

As we all know all too well, the country experienced a deepening financial crisis last fall which resulted in the Trust postponing the sale of its bonds until the market improved. Given the market conditions and accelerated progress being made on the construction project, the Trust decided to issue all of the bonds for this project in March 2009. This change meant that the first full principal and interest payment on the new loan would be due and payable in July 2009. This first payment increased the debt service by \$567,600.

In order to meet this obligation, in addition to other significant increases in the operating budget such as treatment chemicals, insurances, employee benefits, etc., it was necessary to increase both the Account Charge and the water usage rates. The following table compares the old rates with the new rates:

	Old Rate	New Rate	Estimated Revenue Increase
Account Charge (semi-annual)	36.00	42.00	167,520.00
Per Thousand for first 50,000 gallons	2.00	2.50	282,721.00
Per Thousand for next 50,000 gallons	2.50	3.00	63,469.00
Per Thousand for usage 101,000 gallons +	3.00	3.50	73,406.00
Total Revenue Increase			587,116.00

The most significant impact to the FY 2010 budget was the dramatic increase in the debt service, which more than doubled. Although the District did assess a property tax this past year, the Board of Water Commissioners does not anticipate the need for any such assessment over the next several years. Nearly 95% of the District's revenues are generated by water rates, charges and services provided to our customers. The remaining 5% comes from cellular antenna leases on the District's water tanks.

Please feel free to call or email the District office if you should have any questions about your water bill.