

# Dennis Water District

Board of Water Commissioners

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## Main-Line News

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

Appointed by Water Commissioners

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

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### WATER MANAGEMENT ACT PERMIT RENEWAL

Over the course of the last several months the District, along with all other Cape Cod water utilities, received our Water Demand Projections from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). Originally, the District anticipated a reduction of 94 million gallons per year from the current permitted annual withdrawal of 1.189 billion gallons. As it stands now the annual reduction will be 104 million gallons. This is about 8% lower than the District's current permit. Every community on the Cape is being impacted in the same manner.

The Superintendent has challenged the rationale for the reduction and has determined that there does not appear to be a defensible scientific reason. While there are certainly areas within Massachusetts that are sourcing water from stressed basins such as rivers and streams, the Cape is a water-rich region with more than enough capacity to sustain current permitted withdrawal limits. There may be site-specific situations which are impacting a water department's ability to supply water, such as pollution or an insufficient number of wells to meet demand but, it has nothing to do with the availability of drinking water on Cape Cod.

According to the Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI) report, the Cape's safe yield is 260 million gallons per day (MGD). The total of all currently permitted water suppliers on the Cape is only 54 MGD. Of that, the actual average withdrawal is approximately 47 MGD. The recently completed wastewater study by the Cape Cod Commission reports that about 80% of what passes through water meters is discharged back into the aquifer through septic systems.

Simply calculated, DEP is proposing a new permit limit based on the average of a 5-year block of historical usage from 2010 – 2014. The reliance on an 'average' will logically dictate that the District will exceed its withdrawal limit at least one-half of the time. Based on a 25-year history, the District would have been in violation of its permit at least five times.

The proposed limit will inevitably result in the District being in violation of its permit. DEP officials have been seemingly unwilling to move from this position despite a lack of evidence that the Cape Cod Basin is a stressed resource.

The Cape's economy is tied to tourism and planning officials seek ways to promote clean businesses for economic growth. The proposed limitation on water withdrawal, when there is no scientific proof that there is a need defies logic and may have negative economic consequences in the future.

*Continued on back: PERMIT*

### WHO OWNS THE WATER SERVICE?

Most residential and commercial property owners are unaware that all water services are installed and repaired by the District and the costs of those installations and repairs are the financial responsibility of the property owner.

The following excerpts are cited from the District's Rules & Regulations which can be found on the website:

**Section 1: Water Services**—*The property owner is financially responsible for all repairs made to the water service line from the connection on the street water main up to the water meter.*

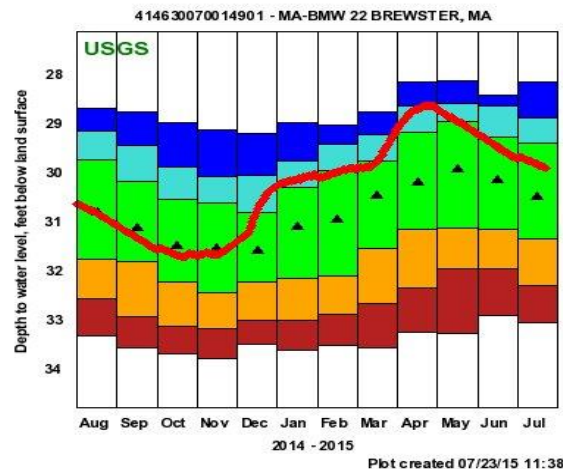
**Section 2: Water Meters**—*No one other than authorized District personnel is permitted to remove the water meter, no part of the meter shall be tampered with—no nuts loosened, etc. Meter tampering is subject to fines, costs and penalties in accordance with Mass. Gen. Law Chap. 165, Sec. 11, as amended.*

**Section 4: Water Consumption-Water Bills**—*Property owners are responsible for the payment of all water bills. According to the provisions of Chapter 40, Section 42A (M.G.L.) all unpaid water bills are a lien on real estate.*

### State of Water Conservation

Based on current water conditions, the Board of Water Commissioners report that water levels are "Normal" at this time. Based on the District's Drought Management Plan both ground water and precipitation is at or above normal.

A U.S. Geological Survey link to a ground water monitoring well in Brewster provides data used by the District as one tool in determining the current status of any drought conditions and predict adverse or positive trends. Any one can visit the site using the following link: <http://groundwaterwatch.usgs.gov/AWLSites.asp?S=414630070014901>.



The Barnstable County Water Utilities Association, as well as individual permit holders, have been meeting with legislators to bring DEP and other state officials together for open discussion on this issue. Through communications such as this newsletter, press releases and public forums citizens and business owners on Cape Cod will understand the potential impact this reduction will have on our communities. It may result in increased water use restrictions and water rates.

Cape Cod public water suppliers have been good stewards of our resource and the environment. Many communities continue to purchase land for water shed protection, have established drought management plans, promote useful conservation tips, and conduct free Household Hazardous Waste Collection Days while continuing to meet consumer demand and maintain their water production and distribution infrastructure at the lowest possible cost to ratepayers and taxpayers.

Please take the time to understand what is at stake with the proposed withdrawal reduction. Updates on the permitting process appears frequently on the Board's monthly meeting agenda. The Board's meeting schedule is posted on the District's website as well as the link to replay of previous meetings. Please visit: [www.denniswater.org](http://www.denniswater.org). For questions and comments please contact Superintendent David Larkowski at [dlarkowski@denniswater.org](mailto:dlarkowski@denniswater.org).

# PROJECT UPDATES

The voters of the District have been funding appropriation requests over several years in support of three major multi-year projects that have been important initiatives for improvements and maintenance of the water system infrastructure.

**TRANSMISSION MAIN:** The Board of Water Commissioners took a phased-in approach to implement a significant improvement to the distribution system by planning for the installation of a water main from the vicinity of Eagle Pond Rehabilitation to Depot Street. This project involved obtaining several easements across public and private properties, gaining funding approval of \$735,000 and installing approximately two miles of 12" ductile iron pipe. The last easement for installing the final 1,400' from Great Western Road to Center Street was recently signed by the owner and installation and tie-in is anticipated for this fall. This project has been undertaken entirely by District personnel which has saved the ratepayers hundreds of thousands of dollars in costs.

**ADDITIONAL IRON & MANGANESE REMOVAL:** For three years the District has funded a project with the goal of bringing the water produced by two wells, #5 and #20, to a treatment plant for the removal of iron and manganese. Currently, nearly two-thirds of the iron and manganese that comes from District supply wells is removed. The installation of mains bringing raw water to the treatment plants was recently completed with the exception of minor finish work. An additional 1.2 million gallons per day can now enter the distribution system with 99% of the iron and manganese being removed.

**WATER TANK MAINTENANCE:** An extensive maintenance project is planned for Spring 2016 on the elevated tank in West Dennis. The last major maintenance project was in 2001 when the interior and exterior of the tank were sand blasted and repainted. Inspection of the tank showed that while the majority of surface areas are still providing acceptable levels of protection, there are various elements of the exterior exhibiting degradation and corrosion activity. It was recommended that repairs be made as soon as possible. The scope of work will require a total containment system due to the close proximity of homes and businesses to the tank. Since the cost of the containment is necessary for the repairs, it was further decided to undertake a total blasting and recoating of the exterior. The completion date for the tank to be back in service is June 1<sup>st</sup>.



*Looking skyward to underbelly of West Dennis Elevated Tank.*

## Town of Dennis @ Tony Kent Arena HHW COLLECTION DAY Saturday, September 12 9 AM to 1 PM



**PAINTS, POLISHES & STAINS:** Alkyd-Based Paint & Stain • Marine Paints & Sealers • Metal & Furniture Polish • Oil-Based Paint & Stain • Paint Thinner & Remover • Solvent-Based Wood Finish • Wood Preservatives • Auto Paint (no latex)

**YARD CHEMICALS:** Driveway Sealer with Solvent • Fertilizers with Weed Killer • Rodent Poison • Weed Killer • Insecticides • Pesticides

**CLEANERS & CHEMICALS:** Pool Cleaners & Chemicals Solvents • Photo & Hobby Chemicals • Oven Cleaner • Drain Cleaner • Spot Remover • Acids • Degreasers • Disinfectants

**AUTO FLUIDS:** Car Cleaner with Solvent • Brake & Power Steering Fluid • Bug & Tar Remover • Camp Fuel • Radiator Flush • Car Polish • Gasoline

**PLEASE:** Do not bring Latex Paint and other water based products for collection.

**FORBIDDEN:** Medical or bio-hazardous materials, syringes, explosives, ammunition, fireworks or flares.

For a detailed list of items or any questions visit [www.capecodextension.org](http://www.capecodextension.org) or call: 508-375-6699.