

Dennis Water District

Board of Water Commissioners

Paul F. Prue, *Chairman*
Peter L. McDowell, *Vice Chair*
Alan Tuttle

Main-Line News

www.denniswater.org

Appointed by Water Commissioners

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

Volume 25, No. 2

August 2018

NEW WEST DENNIS TANK ON-LINE

The newly constructed one-million gallon composite style water tank went on-line June 20th following a successful inspection by the Department of Environmental Protection. Final site work was on-going at the time of this publication and the cellular carriers are in the process of relocating their antenna and equipment from the old tank to the new.

District officials are pleased to report that the \$3.6 million project will be completely funded with cash. The District voters originally authorized a \$4 million tank construction project in April of 2016. The cost was supported by a transfer of \$1 million from the District's Stabilization Fund, a transfer of \$500,000 from "Free Cash" and a transfer of \$500,000 from an account for Tank Painting and Maintenance. An authorization to borrow \$2 million was also approved to complete the funding. In April 2017, the District voters approved a transfer of an additional \$1 million of "Free Cash" to finance the project. Although the original estimated cost of the project was \$4 million, the actual costs are estimated to be approximately \$3.6 million. At the April 2018 Annual District Meeting the voters approved a transfer of \$600,000 from "Free Cash" and to rescind the \$2 million borrowing authorization. The final costs include the demolition and removal of the old 500,000 gallon elevated tank this fall.

What makes us a "District"?

Many of our customers are not aware that the Dennis Water "District" is a separate public entity from the Town of Dennis and *not* a municipal "department". The District was created by special legislation in 1945. Chapter 277 of the Acts of 1945 (a state statute) enabled the voters of the Town of Dennis to create a political subdivision for

the purpose of supplying themselves with water for the extinguishment of fires and for domestic and other purposes,

The special act, often called the "enabling act" established the District's boundaries, provided for elected officials, authority to take land or easements by eminent domain, borrow money and adopt by-laws. In many

Continued...*District*

WHAT'S HAPPENING AT DENNIS WATER DISTRICT WATCH LOCAL CHANNEL 18

If you are a subscriber to Comcast cable television, you can watch live meetings of your local Board of Water Commissioners as they consider and vote on important matters concerning policy, finances, capital planning and improvements to our public water system. Water Commissioners Paul F. Prue, Peter L. McDowell and Alan Tuttle invite you to attend their meetings at the Dennis Police Station at 6:00 PM on the fourth Thursday of every month (unless otherwise posted).



Meetings are recorded and can be viewed when they are replayed on Channel 18. Watch the rolling screen for the weekly schedule of recorded meetings, not just for Dennis Water District but, for many other Town Boards and Committees.

If you are not a subscriber to Comcast visit the Town of Dennis webpage for "Video on Demand". Meetings can be played directly on your own computer or downloaded for later viewing. There is a direct link to Commission Meetings on our website.

State Seeks Collaboration to Monitor Powerlines

The Massachusetts Department of Agricultural Resources (MDAR) has asked the Dennis Water District to participate in a monitoring study on pesticide occurrence in drinking water on Cape Cod. The Board of Water Commissioners has agreed to provide full District cooperation.

The purpose of the proposed monitoring study is to collect data on the occurrence of pesticides in the groundwater resources of drinking water supplies on Cape Cod. While data for select pesticides are available from monitoring efforts by MassDEP and some other

Continued...*Powerlines*

Water Conservation Status

There has been some media attention this summer about some parts of New England having a “small” drought. The District’s current Water Conservation Status is “*NORMAL*”. There are no restrictions on water usage this year in Dennis. The reason is that the Cape received a tremendous amount of water recharge this past fall and winter driving the water table to record levels. The District does continue to monitor these conditions. While there are no restrictions on water use, we do have an important call-to-action for our customers that use lawn irrigation systems.

There are many Cape towns that may not have a supply issue but, have a distribution issue. We experience it here in Dennis. The largest and most concentrated consumer use of water is for lawn irrigation. Trying to supply so much water in such a short amount of time is stressful on stored water and supply wells.

In the early morning hours, as irrigation timers start going on at 3:00 AM and every hour after until mid-morning there is a huge surge in consumption that is growing more difficult to meet. Maintaining enough water in the tanks is critical to providing sufficient pressure in the system for distribution and fire protection. There are two relatively simple solutions to addressing the problem. One is to drill new wells for added capacity and the other is to simply adjust the times customers irrigate their lawns. If one-half of our customers would begin irrigating late at night, say around midnight, instead of those early morning hours, it would alleviate these huge water demands that happen in such a short period of time. Changing the time that sprinklers begin drawing down the system could easily be met by our current system.

We strongly encourage customers with irrigation systems to consider re-setting their start times to help alleviate the strain on the system that happens when every system in town comes on between 3:00 and 7:00 AM. Thank you for your consideration and if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the Superintendent at dlarkowski@denniswater.org or by phone.

NOTICE

In accordance with Mass. General Law Chapter 32b, Sec. 20(d) the Other Post Employment Benefits (“OPEB”) Liability Trust Fund **DECLARATION OF TRUST** was filed with the chief executive officer (Board of Water Commissioners) and the District Clerk on July 26, 2018. Unless there is a vote taken by the voters of the District at a special meeting called for that purpose within meeting within 90 days of the date filed, the Declaration will take effect. The Declaration can be found on the website under “*Reports & Publications*”.

Powerlines...

agencies and organizations such as USGS and Silent Spring Institute, the proposed monitoring study will target additional pesticides of interest for which currently little or no data have been collected. The target pesticides for this study are selected based on current pesticide use in landscaping and rights-of-way vegetation management on Cape Cod.

Staff from the MDAR’s Division of Crop and Pest Services and the Massachusetts Pesticide Analytical Laboratory (MPAL) will undertake this monitoring program. Sample collection, handling, processing and analysis will be done according to procedures established in the Quality Management Plan. The collaboration with Cape Cod Commission staff may be sought to facilitate the sample collection from specific monitoring wells.

The pesticide analysis results will be evaluated based on comparison with established state and federal standards and benchmarks for human health and will assist with evaluation of existing regulatory measures to protect groundwater.

The District’s participation in this study will be valuable in assisting the Department efforts to ensure the protection of drinking water supplies on Cape Cod.

District...

ways, the District functions much the same way as a town. The District has an annual meeting (in April) at which time the voters set a fiscal budget, authorize capital expenditures and decide on any other District matters. The District also has the authority to set a tax rate for real and personal property. However, since 1989, with the exception of just one year, the District has set a zero tax rate.

A three-member Board of Water Commissioners are elected for individual three-year staggered terms. It used to be that the District held its own annual election but, since 2010 they appear on the Town ballot. The Board sets the rules and regulations for the District as well as the water rates and charges for services it provides to its customers.

What does it mean to be a “District”? It means that we are an independent public water supplier and not a department of the Town of Dennis. The District’s enabling act is available to review and download on the website under “Rules, Regulations and Bylaws”. If you should have any questions about the District’s organization and operations, please do not hesitate to contact the District directly by phone, email or fax.

**HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS
WASTE COLLECTION
Sat. August 4 & Sat. Sept 8
9:00 AM - 1:00 PM at Tony Kent Arena**