



**LYNNFIELD CENTER WATER DISTRICT WARRANT**  
**The Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Regular Board Meeting**  
**7:00 pm January 10, 2022**

**Date, time, place:** The regular meeting of the Board was held on Monday January 10, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

**Present:** Commissioners Anders Youngren, Joseph Maney, Jack Adelson (via Zoom) Superintendent John Scenna, Treasurer Shannan Cuddy, and Clerk of the Board Christine Smallenberger

**Absent:** none

**Also attending:** Weston & Sampson: Frank Ricciardi and Blake Martin, Brian Russo and Tom Manning. Attending via zoom: Richard Nylon representing Lisa Gattineri at 163 Lowell St, Laurie, Bill O'Brien from 155 Lowell St., and Paul Marchionda from 70 Bourque Road

**Additional attachments:** Agenda, incorporated into the minutes hereto.

**Next Regular Meeting:** January 24, 2022 at 7:00 PM

**Adjourn:** 8:22 PM

The meeting was called to order at 7:04 PM.

Participants via zoom: Richard Nylon representing Lisa Gattineri at 163 Lowell St, Laurie, Bill O'Brien, and Paul Marchionda

1. New Business: n/a
2. Superintendent's Update:
  - a. AWIA submittal: The AWIA Risk and Resiliency study was completed by the required EPA deadline. This study resulted in series of action items from a housekeeping perspective. The Emergency Response Plan (ERP) that has now been updated as a result of the AWIA study is a living document and is to be updated periodically. There are some action items to be completed throughout the early part of 2022; some in the fall and some action items related to the capital projects that

will not be completed until next year. The Emergency Response Plan will continue to be worked on by LCWD staff and placed on file for use in the event of an emergency.

PFAS: Today we received the e-file results for the December samples for Glen Drive and Station 2; both results are below the maximum contaminant level (mcl). Station 2 tested at 17.3 ppt for December 2021. The state mcl is 20. This data was collected on December 20<sup>th</sup>. Glen Drive tested at 4.65 ppt. Glen Drive had been testing around 11 in previous months. Main Street had twice tested above 20 and is now below the mcl. The longer the testing period goes on, we believe we will be in a more accurate range. We will continue to post the results online. We will test again at the end of this month. The average mcl for the quarter at Main Street will still exceed the 20 mcl at just above 21. Glen Drive's average is below and only needs to be tested quarterly. Station 1 has been shut down. Mr. Manning asked at the last meeting if we exceeded the mcl would we be in violation. Chairman Maney responded yes, we are in violation but with the 3 month average it gives us an average of 21 just above the 20 mcl. Mr. Manning asked what happens now. We are awaiting confirmation from the DEP on what the appropriate steps are. Weston & Sampson (W&S) is here tonight to move forward with a goal of resolving the issue. The results we received today, chain of custody and quality control process need to be confirmed by the DEP and then we will need to send another public education notice to the public. Mr. Russo from 163 Lowell Street asked when was the first time we were notified about PFAS by any outside party. Superintendent Scenna said the DEP started talking about testing in 2020. We went to our own lab with our own samples this past fall to begin testing as required.

We looked at many ways to resolve the PFAS issue. 80% of our water is from sources that remain well below the contaminate level. Based on everything we have learned and based on an mcl that is aggressive in Massachusetts, Superintendent Scenna spoke with CDM Smith (CDM) and W&S to remedy a short-term solution. We get 20% of our water from station 2. We need station 2 water in operation to stabilize our system; we cannot lose this water source until we are in a situation where we can replace the volume produced here from another source. W&S CEO Frank Ricciardi and Blake Martin are in attendance to present a short-term solution to make PFAS almost non-detectable at station 2. It will be permitted as a pilot program. The concept will be presented to the DEP for approval and permitting. This pilot program has been approved in other regions such as Ayer, Devons and other water systems and municipalities. The vessels pass water through them, treats it through carbon and resin chambers inside the vessels and re-introduces it to the water stream. Weston & Sampson reviewed our water quality standards at this source and feels confident it will work and feels confident it will be approved by the DEP as it has been approved in other regions with positive results. We could possibly afford this through our retained earnings and the DEP has a reimbursable grant program in place

to address PFAS. We will submit the project and any other programs put in place for reimbursement. We will need the program to be funded upfront. W&S has a lot to offer the district in this area of PFAS. Blake Martin has installed 20 PFAS treatment centers. The DEP has agreed to allow full scale pilots with a system modification permit. There are 2 permit applications to the state. W&S will source refurbished filters that will be sandblasted and re-painted with food grade paint and PVC piping. These are not only more cost effective but also more readily available, reducing lead times. The first filter is filled with granular activated carbon charcoal filter and has PFAS removable capabilities which can also remove other impurities such as iron and manganese. The second filter is an ion exchange media which targets PFAS that is designed with 5 minutes of contact time in each filter and should leave non-detected PFAS concentration traces. This would need to be sampled once a month. The process is simple to operate. This will only treat station 2 water. CDM will continue looking at long-term options to pipe Main Street (station 2) to Glen Drive. One option is connecting the 2 stations to treat for PFAS at Glen Drive but there is a cost associated. Another option may be to shut down station 2 and supplement additional water with Wakefield. We will have to show the DEP how we are going to monitor and operate the PFAS treatment additions at station 2 during the day and after hours otherwise the DEP won't issue the permit. The expenditures allowed to be reimbursed need to be expended before February 1, 2022 to be considered by the grant. The grant maximum is \$200,000. Superintendent Scenna is not certain how much of the project will be expended by this date. The recommendation is to get the pilot plan to the DEP with the permit applications before the February 5<sup>th</sup> deadline. Mr. Russo asked if any of the grant funding could go to looking for the source where PFAS is coming from. As Tom Manning brought up, Bostik is one of the biggest PFAS producers and can we see what their PFAS levels are. The grant is focused on treatment, but the district would be open to joining the Town in that conversation regarding Bostik should the Town decide to look into this further. Blake Martin said the state committed to all drinking water suppliers when they set the mcl, that if you violate the mcl, the bureau waste cleanup will help you to start developing a plan and even add monies to look at potential contributors. This could be another potential source in the future if there was any exposure in the long-term. Mr. Russo asked is it possible for radium or sanitizers to be bells and whistles and look at the water testing samples to make sure those are accounted for as well. Carbon design is a great filter for removing a lot of other things such as radiological and iron and manganese and is what is used in the bottled water industry. There will be a beneficial water quality improvement, if any to be had, with the carbon filter involved. CDM will remain involved in the process to make

sure there are no impacts to the system. There is a lot of checks and balances with this approach with the proposal W&S has put forth.

The board will sign a contract to allow W&S to design the proposed system and submit a permit application to the DEP to review. We will check procurement for the ability to procure construction and materials sooner. We are trying to condense the timeline as much as possible. We will have access through the Town of Lynnfield's contracts to pour the slab and the site work can be done through Pyburn. There are a lot of things we can do while W&S is doing their work in order to expedite the process.

Motion: a motion was made to accept the Weston & Sampson proposal for the pilot remediation program.

Seconded: the motion was seconded, and the motion was passed with Commissioner Youngren, Commissioner Adelson and Commissioner Maney saying aye by a unanimous vote.

Mr. Manning asked does the MWRA measure for the same things? The MWRA has the same requirements as the district and is regulated by the DEP with the same mcl's. Mr. Manning wants to stress it is important to know we don't have any lingering items we don't measure. The district doesn't have any other source to supplement station 2. We need every drop of water, especially in the summer. We aren't in a position to lose the water station 2 provides. We need to meet average day demands and peak demands in the summer as well as fire suppression. We can't absorb those peaks in demand right now without station 2 in place. This program gives us the comfort to continue to use station 2, puts us back into regulation and allows us to sit back and look at the long-term solutions. Mr. Manning asked how does Lynnfield, in total, stack up against MWRA as far as quality. PFAS is the only mcl issue that we are facing. Mr. Manning asked what about everything else. The district's consumer confidence report (CCR) contains all our information and the MWRA's CCR is on their website for anyone interested in doing a side-by-side comparison. Mr. Russo asked about the changes in the lead and copper rule and asked if the district is using any bronze fixtures and lead and copper in the water. The district's operators are well aware of the lead and copper rule and are careful of what they use. We sample every year and haven't had any issues. CDM doesn't want any impacts on lead and copper through the installation of the Weston & Sampson PFAS treatment system and we are committed to taking this into consideration in construction of the system and in our day-to-day operations.

We may have to upfront some of the costs to get reimbursed. Superintendent Scenna applied for a grant with the water management act, and today received a rejection letter. We are looking to get feedback from the state as to why we were rejected. We don't know if the MVP grant awarded to the town impacted this denial. Superintendent Scenna reached out to Rep. Brad Jones today to get more information. The intent of the application was to use any funds received to offset costs associated with the Wakefield pipe improvements and the interconnection vault. The grant program was put in place to protect watersheds and Superintendent Scenna felt that this was a good choice since bringing in water from an MWRA, non groundwater source achieves this goal. Unfortunately, the DEP did not agree with this round of awards.

Long term options: is the same options we discussed. We won't know when the PFAS levels will increase but now is best time to address a solution. We are not sure if piping over Main Street is feasible; we quickly estimated over a million dollars for horizontal directional drilling without understanding and figuring in any other conditions that the conservation permitting process would create. CDM was looking at an above ground water line, but winters and cold temperatures a problem with this approach. This is another level of oversight the operators will have to do on a day-to-day basis.

Resident impacts & potential rebate programs: Sooner rather than later we need to make available some type of relief for those in that particular area of the system that get most or all of their water directly from station 2 and whom can identify with the health conditions outlined by the DEP. Superintendent Scenna will have a program to present to the board by the next meeting. The Board did not feel that a whole house filter program was the right thing as a resolution is in sight and impacts are only on some use, not all water used. A water delivery service could be considered for the people in the area affected by station 2. The district wants to do something for those that have a serious need and have directed Superintendent Scenna to have a recommendation in place for a program by the next meeting.

### 3. Special District Meeting

We have thoroughly reviewed our charter (enabling act) and by-laws, especially as they pertain to elections. This was a fiscal year twenty-two (FY22) goal set by the Board. One of the items at the Special District Meeting will be to recommend changes to the charter in this regard and some other items that are outdated in the 1939 document. The Special District Meeting will take place at 6:30 pm on February 14, 2022. The Special District Meeting will also address funding appropriations for the PFAS projects, engineering completed for PFAS to-date, salary upgrades, fund the MOU shared services agreement

relative to sharing the superintendent position, and SCADA tower repairs. We also have a backlog with the meter program and hope to add a 5<sup>th</sup> operator to join the district prior to the start of the new fiscal year in July of 2022. The warrant was opened by vote of the Commissioners and will close at the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Motion: a motion was made to have a Special District Meeting on February 24, 2022 at 6:30 pm prior to the regularly scheduled board meeting and open the warrant.

Seconded: the motion was seconded, and the motion was passed with Commissioner Youngren, Commissioner Adelson and Commissioner Maney saying aye by a unanimous vote.

4. Update on capital improvement plan: Glen Drive design plan will be at the milestone 30% stage by the end of this week. There is a workshop on the 27<sup>th</sup>; Commissioner Youngren will be the technical liaison and plans to attend and represent the Board. The Operators will take part in this workshop. The Knoll Road tank should be full by end of this week or next (week of 1/24). We will shut down Glen Drive for the pilot service with greensand filter to define the type of filter to be put in the system once the tank is tested, in full operation and the vendor can be scheduled to mobilize. We will put out a press release for those that may be affected in the area of the shut-down.

MWRA connection: Wakefield's plans are ready to go to MASSDOT. The Wakefield DPW director and Superintendent Scenna will both approach MASSDOT to get the permit expedited for work to begin in March. This will happen once LCWD has their own permit request in place with MassDOT for the interconnection vault. We are targeting the end of January for submission of the vault to MASSDOT. We are scheduled to meet with the Water Resource Commission (WRC) and the MWRA regarding the interbasin permit in a few weeks to present all of the work we have already done and see if we can skip a few steps.

5. Continued business

- a. Proposed charter changes, vote and next steps: KP LAW drafted changes that will be sent to the board for review. The changes addressed all concerns from prior discussions.
- b. FY23 budget forecasting & Modeling: administration, operations; treatment; debt, indirect & insurance: The superintendent and treasurer will meet to look at projections. Once we have the estimated budget, we will forward to our rate consultant, Dave Fox, to make rates that will collect revenue that matches the proposed budget. The rates need to be set prior to March 1<sup>st</sup>. The actual budget presentation will be on February 14<sup>th</sup> if not sooner. We will vote a rate that will support the budget with the first debt payment for the capital program included. We will borrow again for the balance of the project but that won't be part of the operating budget until FY24. Inflation is hitting all commodities and we need to see where that trends and how it affects the budget. At the request of the Board, Superintendent confirmed we can obtain GIC health insurance through a memorandum of understanding with the Town of Lynnfield that will require public votes by our board and Lynnfield's selectboard. There are five conditions he outlined with the Town Administrator and staff that the MOU needs to address. They include LCWD making monthly payments which should be in place by the first of each month for the next month. We would be purchasing GIC as a new "department" in town and would need to cover the town's administrative costs. OPEB would remain with the district. The term of the MOU would be the same length as town employee's insurance agreement. The town recently renewed their GIC contract for 3 years, this is year 1 of 3. If we were to craft an agreement through the town it would be a 2-year maximum. Any additional benefits we may offer such as FSA, life insurance, dental, HRA, would stay on our ledger and management. The town would just be selling us health insurance and we would pay the town a month in advance similar to how we do MIIA now for BCBS plans. Insurance costs would remain a line item in our budget. Superintendent Scenna will send an email for it to be on record.

6. New business (look ahead)

- a. Budget presentation, hearing & volumetric rate vote, Monday, February 28, 2022: We project big-ticket items coming up. The warrant will close on January 24, 2022, and the Special District Meeting will be held on February 14, 2022. We will have a budget presentation on February 14<sup>th</sup> and at the February 28<sup>th</sup> meeting the board will approve the new rates and budget. We will focus on the Annual District Meeting in March.

7. Other board items:

Superintendent Scenna sent the board an email with all the minutes to date but hasn't completed his review. The board will hold approving the minutes until the superintendent reviews the minutes.

Payment plans will be ready to review at the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Cubic feet meters: We received the calculation spreadsheet today from Dave Fox/Raftelis. We will meet with Dave to review the calculation; this should be completed by the next meeting with the financial impact. The goal is to have it all cleaned up prior to the March billing. The next step is determining how to handle the customers with potential cubic feet meters that haven't responded to the request for an appointment. Superintendent Scenna said that soon enough the COVID pandemic should be back under control, and he hopes to become much more aggressive in this area and in other meter replacement situations that require house appointments to update accounts.

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting at 8:22 pm.

Respectfully submitted,