



TOWNSEND WATER DEPARTMENT
540 Main Street West Townsend, Massachusetts 01474

1.5

Todd Melanson, *Chairman*

, *Vice-Chairman*

Christopher Jones, *Clerk*

David Vigeant, Superintendent

(978) 597-2212

Email water@townsendwater.org

WATER COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

June 6, 2022 – 7:00 P.M.

Water Department 540 Main Street, Meeting Room

NOTE REGARDING ACCESS AND PARTICIPATION

Governor Baker updated the State of Emergency to respond to COVID-19 on February 15, 2022 and ordered an extension of certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law M.G.L. c. 30A, s 20 put into effect on March 12, 2020, until July 15, 2022, at which time the extension will be repealed.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84448918977?pwd=U2ZUWIVsSnovblpFMFMwS2hXa3hLZz09>

Meeting ID: 844 4891 8977 Passcode: 117559 Log on Monday, June 6, 2022, at 7:00 P.M. to participate.

I. PRELIMINARIES:

- 1.1 TM called the meeting to order @ 7:08 P.M. at 540 Main Street and by Zoom.
- 1.2 TM announced that the meeting is being recorded on Zoom. (There is no recording from the meeting)
- 1.3 Roll Call showed member present. Todd Melanson (TM)-Chairman and Nathan Mattilla (NM) by Zoom. Christopher Jones (CJ) at 540 Main Street. Roll call showed citizens present: Chaz Sexton-Diranian (CSD)-Board of Selectmen, David Vigeant (DV)-Water Superintendent, Matthew Griswold, 8 Chestnut Street, and an unidentified citizen who wished to be anonymous.
- 1.4 Chairman's additions or deletions. TM wanted to reiterate to the public that the Harbor Trace well has been offline since August of 2021 and the water is safe to drink.
- 1.5 Approve Meeting Minutes of May 17, 2022. NM motioned to accept the meeting minutes of May 17, 2022. TM seconded. Unanimous vote.
- 1.6 Review correspondence. Review dig-safe procedures. DV stated he will work on the dig safe procedures for next meeting. Matthew Griswold spoke about the issues he is currently having with his water and was asking why it was brown and how to get the stains out of his laundry. TM and DV explained that with the Harbor Trace well offline we are pumping at max capacity. Now that the residents are using their irrigation systems discolored water will be most noticeable between 5 am – 9am and 5 pm -7pm. The water department is currently completing installing an additional well at the Main Street station that will hopefully elevate the discolored issue. As to the issue of his laundry, Mr. Griswold did go to the water department to get the laundry additive Red-B-Gone which should take care of the discolored laundry. The Board discussed adding an agenda item for public comment.

II. APPOINTMENTS-VOTES MAY BE TAKEN

- 2.1 None.

III. MEETING BUSINESS-VOTES MAY BE TAKEN:

- 3.1 Update/Discuss Reorganize the Board. After a lengthy discussion NM motioned to reorganize the Board as follows: Todd Melanson, Chairman-Nathan Mattilla, Vice -Chairman and Christopher Jones, Clerk. TM seconded. Unanimous vote.

3.2 Review water operator minimum requirements. DV that he would like to update the minimum requirements for a water operator from D1, T1 plus hoisting. The Board asked for something in writing to review and approve. DV stated he will have it for the next meeting.

IV. COMMISSIONERS UPDATES AND REPORTS-VOTES MAY BE TAKEN:

4.1 None.

V. LIASON UPDATES AND REPORTS-VOTES MAY BE TAKEN:

5.1 CSD asked if we were setting up a joint meeting between the Board of Water Commissioners, Board of Health and The Board of Selectmen to discuss the PFAS issue. CSD believes that the BOH does not have all the information pertaining to PFAS. TM stated that it his goal for all of the boards to work together. NM reiterated that we should have a joint meeting so all the boards that have questions will receive accurate information. CSD will work to set up the joint meeting.

VI. SUPERINTENDENT'S UPDATES AND REPORTS-VOTES MAY BE TAKEN:

- 6.1 Update/Discuss Main Street Well. DV reported that the main line has been pressure tested and chlorinated. We are now waiting on the 3-phase power cable to come in. once in, the electrician will install, and we can begin pumping.
- 6.2 Update/Discuss 169 Main St and Greely Rd. DV reported that he ordered the materials for the project, once he receives the materials, he will call the contractor to schedule the work.
- 6.3 Update/Discuss PFAS. DV reported he is speeding up the waterline project at witches Brook 1 & 2 so the water can be blended.
- 6.4 Update/Discuss Harbor Trace Treatment Plant. Harbor Trace has a long list of tasks (attached) which will be completed within the next two weeks.
- 6.5 Update/Discuss 12 South St-Deluxe. No Update.
- 6.6 Update/Discuss Highland St. House # 44 was completed # 42 will be completed this Wednesday, the next home to completed is #50. The other homes on the other side of the road will be completed at a later date.
- 6.7 Update/Discuss generators at Main Street and Cross Street Stations. No Updates.

VII. OFFICE UPDATES AND REPORTS-VOTES MAY BE TAKEN:

- 7.1 Schedule next BOWC meeting. The next BOWC meeting is scheduled for July 11, 2022 @ 7PM
- 7.2 Review and sign May end of month reports. NM motioned to review, and sign May end of moth reports out of session. TN seconded. Unanimous vote.
- 7.3 Sign Bills Payable warrants. NM made a motion to sign bill payable warrants out of session. TN seconded. Unanimous vote.

ADJOURNMENT:

NM made a motion to adjourn the BOWC meeting at 8:21 P.M. TM seconded. Unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Brenda Boudreau

Office Manager

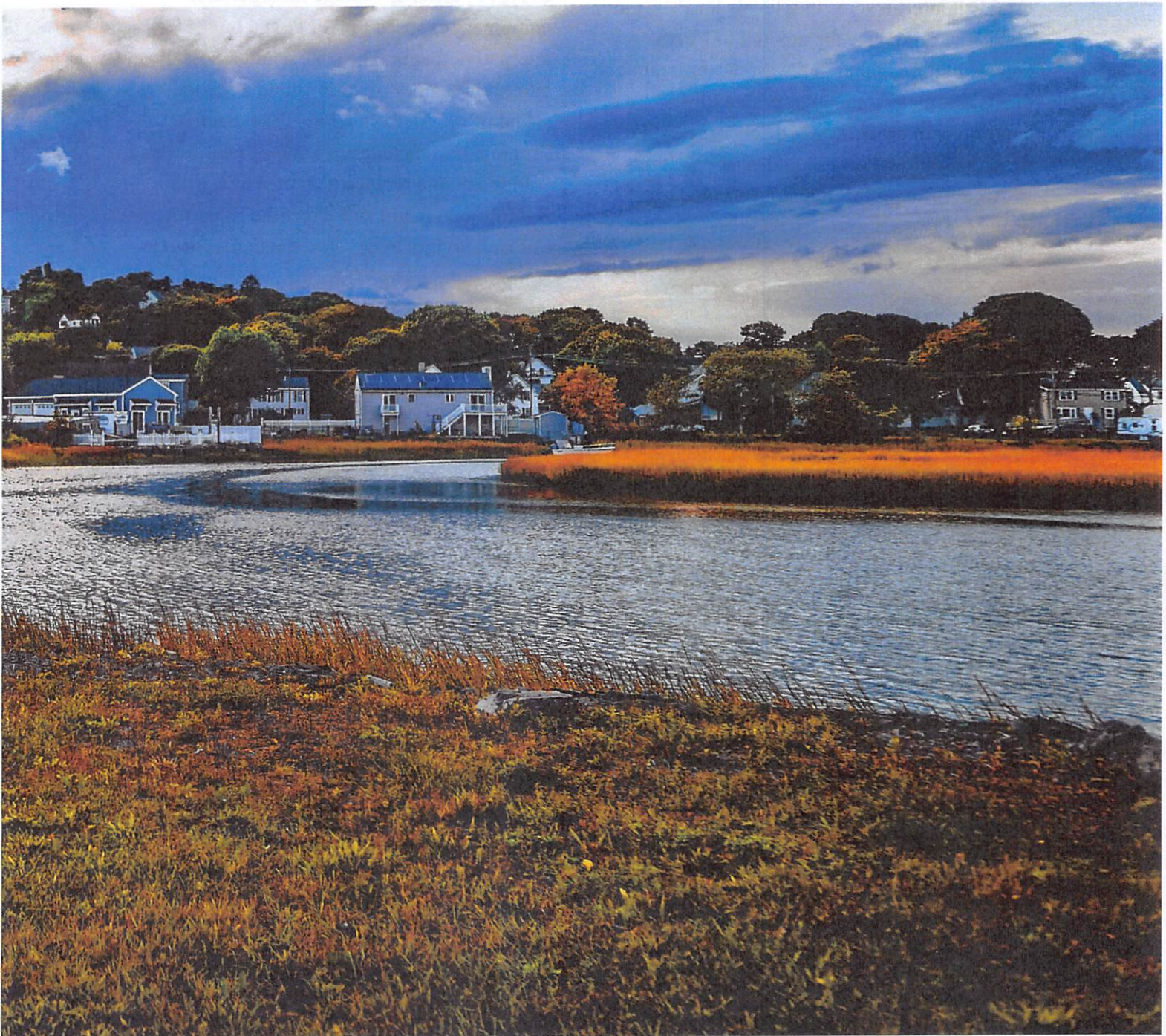
Townsend Water Department

6.3 + 6.4

PFAS in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts

FINAL REPORT OF THE PFAS INTERAGENCY TASK FORCE

APRIL 2022



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

the next two years and will consider establishing standards for additional PFAS. MassDEP is evaluating additional avenues of PFAS exposure and is encouraged to develop standards in those areas.

MassDEP requires wastewater treatment plants to screen for 16 PFAS and is conducting technical work and stakeholder engagement to establish interim screening levels for PFAS in residuals. To reduce the amount of PFAS entering groundwater and wastewater treatment plants, the state could incorporate PFAS conditions in groundwater discharge permits for industrial wastewater and establish limits to PFAS in effluent for industrial surface water discharge permits.

ENCOURAGE PRIVATE WELL PFAS TESTING AND REMEDIATION

Residents who rely on private wells for drinking water are uniquely vulnerable to PFAS contamination in groundwater. Homeowners may have limited resources to conduct regular PFAS testing and install treatment systems. As a result, they may experience extended exposure to PFAS. Homeowners may also be reluctant to test their wells for PFAS due to liability concerns. The state could identify strategies to reduce the cost of testing and municipalities could institute a PFAS testing requirement for PFAS during the transfer of property with a private well and with new well permits. The state could develop a loan program to support private well PFAS remediation.

SUPPORT FIREFIGHTERS AND LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Due to the use of PFAS in aqueous film-forming foams (AFFF) and firefighter personal protective equipment, also known as turnout gear, firefighters can experience elevated exposure to PFAS. Local fire departments currently lack the funds to collect and dispose of AFFF, clean up storage facilities and equipment exposed to AFFF, and buy safer alternative foams. The state could assess the current inventory of AFFF, fund a second round of MassDEP's AFFF Take-Back Program that includes cleanup of facilities and equipment and replacement of AFFF with fluorine free foam, and direct the Department of Fire Services to develop standards for equipment cleanup. The state could prohibit the use of AFFF for firefighting training and maintenance, support efforts to reduce the use of AFFF in emergency responses, and require fire departments to notify MassDEP of releases of AFFF.

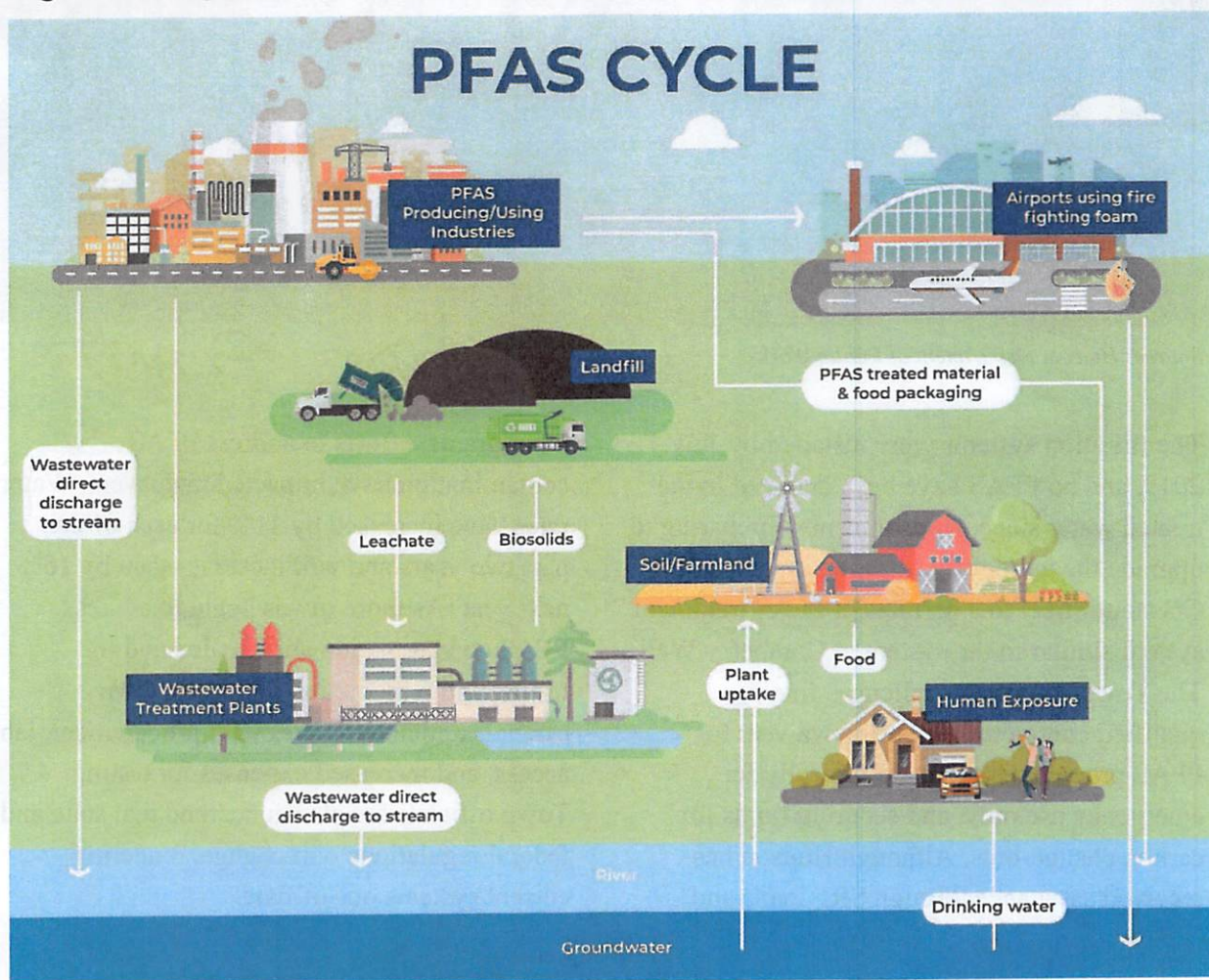
Only textiles containing PFAS can meet the current standards for firefighter turnout gear, which can lead to elevated PFAS exposure among firefighters. Manufacturers have developed low-PFAS turnout gear that does not contain PFAS in the outer shell but still contains PFAS in the moisture barrier. The state could take steps to protect firefighters from PFAS exposure by requiring manufacturers to disclose the inclusion of PFAS in turnout gear, supporting efforts to review turnout gear standards, identifying

EXPOSURE PATHWAYS

EPA's definition of an exposure pathway is how a "stressor" comes into contact with a "receptor." Such stressors include chemicals that may have an adverse effect on receptors, i.e., humans and the environment. Within this framework, exposure pathways can have the following components:

1. Source: the space and time at which the stressor enters the environment.
2. Media: the method by which the stressor travels from the source into the environment.
3. Exposure: where the receptor and media meet.
4. Exposure route: how stressors enter the bodies of receptors.
5. Receptors: any part of the ecosystem that is exposed to the stressor.

Figure 1. Some pathways for environmental PFAS contamination and human exposure to PFAS



Source: [Walnut Valley Water District](#)

The new water filtration system at Chestnut Street Water Filtration Plant in Hudson



Source: Hudson Department of Public Works

INSIDE PLANT

The filtration systems were installed by July 2019, and no PFAS have been detected in the treated water since. Hudson is now preparing to upgrade the temporary filtration system at Chestnut Street to a permanent PFAS treatment system similar to the system at Cranberry Well. The Town has faced challenges finding qualified contractors, securing waivers for PFAS procurement that are typically for emergency use only, and securing funds for carbon change-outs. Although Hudson has received assistance through SRF loans and

other grants, efforts to address PFAS contamination have impacted ratepayers. Water rates have increased by 21% for each of the past two years and will increase again by 16% next year. As more towns begin to address PFAS contamination and the demand for testing and remediation increases, town officials anticipate issues with procurement, lab access, and increased expenses for testing. Town officials are also concerned that state and federal regulations will change, rendering current systems out-of-date.

Firefighting Foam and Turnout Gear

Many states have passed laws to minimize the release of AFFF into the environment.

Washington, Maryland, Michigan, and New Hampshire have enacted laws that prohibit the use of firefighting foam containing PFAS for testing and training purposes. Michigan requires fire departments to report the use of firefighting foam containing PFAS to the state's pollution emergency alert system. State lawmakers are also addressing disposal of AFFF. Michigan requires the Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy to establish a collection program for firefighting foam containing PFAS. The program must accept and properly dispose of firefighting foam containing PFAS free of charge. New York passed a law in 2020 to suspend incineration of firefighting foam containing PFAS in the City of Cohoes, where DOD contracted with a local facility to incinerate AFFF.

California and Washington require sellers of personal protective equipment to provide written notice to purchasers if the equipment contains intentionally added PFAS. In 2022, Washington designated firefighting personal protective equipment as a priority consumer product for the purposes of regulation under the Safer Products for Washington program. A group of Massachusetts firefighters recently filed suit in the United States District Court for the District of Massachusetts seeking relief as a result of PFAS exposures from AFFF and their turnout gear.¹⁰⁸

Landfills, Wastewater, and Biosolids

The disposal of products containing PFAS and PFAS precursors in landfills serves as a potential pathway for PFAS to enter waste streams, drinking water supplies, and the environment. PFAS have been detected in wastewater influent and effluent. To address this issue, Rhode Island proposed legislation to direct the Department of Environmental Management to adopt standards for monitoring PFAS in groundwater and leachate around landfills. Minnesota appropriated \$500,000 in fiscal year 2022 to implement an initiative to identify and reduce sources of PFAS that enter municipal WWTPs.

In 2019, Maine Department of Environmental Protection announced new testing requirements for land application of biosolids for three PFAS: PFOS, PFOA, and PFBS. Maine passed a law in 2021 that requires PFAS testing for soil and groundwater where sewer sludge has been used as fertilizer. On January 1, 2022, Maine established a "Land Contamination Monitoring Fund" that includes an annual \$10 per ton handling fee for all biosolids land applied in the state. Other states are also establishing PFAS thresholds for biosolids.

Municipal and Homeowner Liability

Under Chapter 21E and the MCP, MassDEP regulates the unpermitted release and cleanup of oil and hazardous material contamination. Homeowners are required to notify MassDEP if PFAS6 is detected in groundwater on their property at concentrations equal to or greater than 20 ppt. Financial and legal obligations for PFAS assessment and cleanup are dependent upon whether PFAS was released on the property or if PFAS migrated to the property from elsewhere. If MassDEP determines PFAS was released on the property, homeowners may be responsible for addressing contamination on their property and other impacted properties. If PFAS migrated to the property from elsewhere, homeowners are eligible for Downgradient Property Status, with limited obligations under Chapter 21E and the MCP.

Although MassDEP has discretionary authority with respect to the issuance of Notices of Responsibility, homeowners and municipalities can still be considered “responsible parties” for PFAS contamination under Chapter 21E and the MCP. In the case where a municipal fire department releases AFFF on a private property during an emergency response and that property is determined to be the source of PFAS contamination, homeowners could be responsible for the cleanup and any costs incurred, and could file suit against the municipality for releasing AFFF on their property.

COORDINATION

Due to the scope and complexity of PFAS contamination, it has been challenging to create and execute a coordinated response among local communities, state and federal agencies, PWSs, businesses, advocacy organizations, and experts in the field. Municipalities and PWSs have expressed a need for clear and consistent guidance from the state regarding standards and regulations for PFAS in drinking water, groundwater, soil, wastewater, and other media. Many municipalities and PWSs are grappling with PFAS contamination for the first time due to new state standards for PFAS introduced in the past three years. Some towns have sought guidance from other towns on short-term and long-term PFAS remediation strategies and best practices.

ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Sources of Contamination

A major barrier to prohibiting and restricting the production and use of PFAS in Massachusetts is the lack of access to information on who is using PFAS and in what quantities. Efforts to detect PFAS in Massachusetts have generally focused on exposure pathways in environmental media, such as drinking water, groundwater, surface water, fish, wastewater, biosolids, and soil. EPA has been compiling a list of known or potential sources of PFAS contamination, but this information was not released publicly until PEER sued EPA for access to the agency’s list of facilities.¹³²

RECOMMENDATIONS

Throughout 2021, the PFAS Interagency Task Force held nine public hearings and heard testimony from researchers, advocacy groups, community members, municipal officials, state agencies, public water systems, legislators, and other stakeholders on the issues surrounding PFAS. After careful consideration of the extent of PFAS contamination in the state, evidence of the health and environmental impacts associated with PFAS exposure, and the distinct challenges of addressing PFAS, the PFAS Interagency Task Force proposes the following set of recommendations for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to protect residents and the environment from PFAS contamination.

FUND PFAS DETECTION AND REMEDIATION

1. Fund MassDEP and DPH to conduct PFAS testing in drinking water, groundwater, surface water, wastewater, residuals, soil, air, fish tissue, and additional environmental media that may be exposure pathways for PFAS.
2. Fund MassDEP to conduct PFAS testing and investigations in locations with known or suspected PFAS releases to identify sources of contamination.
3. Fund MassDEP and DPH to provide PFAS-related technical assistance to municipalities and public water systems.
4. Appropriate additional funding to the Clean Water Trust for PFAS remediation projects.
5. Establish a PFAS Remediation Fund that provides grants to municipalities, public water systems, and homeowners for capital and ongoing costs for PFAS remediation.

SUPPORT ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITIES

6. Appropriate funding to the Clean Water Trust to increase the loan forgiveness percentage for PFAS remediation projects that are eligible for the Disadvantaged Communities program.
7. Direct DPH to conduct outreach with community stakeholders to ensure affected residents have information in accessible language regarding their exposure to PFAS through drinking water, fish, and other sources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

PHASE OUT PFAS IN CONSUMER PRODUCTS

8. Prohibit the sale of consumer products with intentionally added PFAS by 2030. Identify priority consumer products with intentionally added PFAS for an earlier phase-out, including textiles, food packaging, and children's products. Allow DPH to grant temporary exemptions to consumer products for which PFAS alternatives do not currently exist and that DPH and MassDEP have determined to be environmentally preferable products or essential to the health and safety of the Commonwealth.
9. Require manufacturers of consumer products containing intentionally added PFAS for sale in Massachusetts to notify the state using the Interstate Chemicals Clearinghouse beginning in 2025.
10. Require manufacturers of consumer products containing intentionally added PFAS for sale in Massachusetts to add labels indicating these products contain PFAS.
11. Fund TURI to provide research grants to identify and develop safer alternatives to PFAS in consumer products that receive exemptions from DPH and in firefighter turnout gear.

EXPAND PFAS REGULATION

12. Define PFAS as "fluorinated organic chemicals containing at least one fully fluorinated carbon atom" for the regulation of PFAS in consumer products.
13. Encourage MassDEP to establish standards for PFAS in drinking water and groundwater beyond PFAS6 as part of its upcoming review cycle.
14. Direct MassDEP to evaluate the appropriateness of incorporating PFAS conditions in groundwater discharge permits for industrial wastewater.
15. Direct MassDEP to evaluate the appropriateness of establishing pre-treatment requirements and limits for PFAS in effluent for industrial surface water discharge permits.

ENCOURAGE PRIVATE WELL PFAS TESTING AND REMEDIATION

16. Create a funding program for communities to receive and distribute loans for private well PFAS remediation.
17. Identify strategies to lower the cost of PFAS testing for private well owners.
18. Encourage municipalities to require PFAS testing during transfer of property with private wells and with new well permits.

RECOMMENDATIONS

SUPPORT FIREFIGHTERS AND LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENTS

19. Fund a second round of the AFFF Take-Back Program to collect and dispose of AFFF, clean up and decontaminate storage facilities and equipment exposed to AFFF, and purchase fluorine free foam for fire departments.
20. Prohibit the use of AFFF for firefighting training and maintenance.
21. Support efforts to reduce the use of AFFF in emergency responses and require fire departments to notify MassDEP of releases of AFFF. Explore alternative practices to minimize potential environmental impacts where such use is federally required.
22. Require manufacturers of firefighter turnout gear to provide written notice of the inclusion of PFAS in turnout gear to the purchaser at time of sale.
23. Review standards for turnout gear, support efforts to identify and develop turnout gear that is completely free from PFAS, and ban the sale of turnout gear with PFAS once there are viable alternatives in the marketplace.
24. Increase funding for DFS and MFA to conduct cancer awareness trainings and refer firefighters to screenings for cancers associated with PFAS exposure.
25. Direct the Massachusetts Cancer Registry to retroactively standardize “firefighter” as an occupation and to collect information on occupational exposure to PFAS.

ADDRESS PFAS CONTAMINATION ACCOUNTABILITY

26. Identify a path for adopting reasonable limitations for liability claims against homeowners and municipalities for PFAS contamination.
27. Continue evaluating potential claims against PFAS manufacturers to seek remediation costs and other damages for PFAS contamination.
28. Direct MassDEP to work with DOD to implement their 2021 guidance to sample public and private drinking water wells and to initiate removal actions to address exceedances of the state MCL.

ENHANCE PUBLIC AWARENESS OF PFAS

29. Direct MassDEP and DPH to build upon existing efforts to jointly conduct public education and awareness campaigns around PFAS contamination, health impacts, and state efforts to address PFAS.
30. Direct DPH to build upon existing efforts to provide guidance to health care providers and local governments on how to communicate the health impacts of PFAS, exposure pathways, and safe drinking water levels to patients and the public.

6.3
46.4

David Vigeant

From: Danielle Teixeira <DTeixeira@tighebond.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 2, 2022 11:59 AM
To: David Vigeant
Cc: Louis A. Soracco
Subject: Harbor Trace PFAS Project Update

Hi David,

Below is a status update on the Harbor Trace PFAS project:

Work Completed:

- ECT2 completed the bench scale testing yesterday (GAC ran to 70,000 BV and IX ran to 212,000 BV)
 - o We should be receiving results within the next few weeks
- Submitted the NHESP Request Form
 - o Received response that the site is located within Priority Habitat 2035 and Estimated Habitat 1300 for the threatened Blanding's Turtle
- Preparation of the Environmental Notification Form
- Preliminary site plan design

Upcoming Work:

- June 2, 2022: Meeting with MEPA and EEA Environmental Justice (EJ) Office to discuss project
- June 2, 2022: GPR completing survey at Main Street
- June 3, 2022: Submit Mass Historical Commission Project Notification Form
- June 6, 2022: Rock Probes (Emery, S Row Rd, Ash St, S Harbor Rd, Harbor Trace Rd)
- June 13, 2022: Soil Borings at the proposed building
- Week of June 13th schedule meeting with architect and Water Dept
- Continue to work on the Environmental Notification Form
- Civil/Architectural/Structural/Process Design

Please let us know if you have questions. We'll be reaching out to schedule a meeting with you, Tighe & Bond, and the architect to go over design items the week of June 13th.

Thanks,
Danielle

Danielle Teixeira, PE *(she/her/hers)*

Project Manager

Tighe&Bond

o. 508.471.9636 | m. 617.763.9726

120 Front Street, Suite 700, Worcester, MA 01608

w: tighebond.com | halvorsondesign.com



FISCAL YEAR 22 SUMMARY
TOWNSEND WATER DEPARTMENT - ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE
May 31, 2022

UNCOLLECTED FROM JUNE 30, 2021

68,102.18

CHARGED	07/01/21 05/31/22	5/31/2022	Previous Balance	Total
USER CHARGES		325.01	1,206,945.63	1,207,270.64
FEES		300.00	4,750.00	5,050.00
SERVICE CHARGES		250.00	30,842.28	31,092.28
BACKFLOW		0.00	11,165.00	11,165.00
SUBTOTAL		875.01		
TOTAL CHARGES				1,254,577.92
				1,322,680.10

RECEIVED	07/01/20 05/31/22	5/31/2022		
USER CHARGES		40,588.80	1,102,789.14	1,143,377.94
FEES		487.50	4,520.28	5,007.78
SERVICE CHARGES		329.57	29,348.54	29,678.11
LATE CHARGES		21.76	983.91	1,005.67
BACKFLOW		495.22	10,242.77	10,737.99
SUBTOTAL		41,922.85		
TOTAL RECEIPTS				1,189,807.49

SENT TO LIEN		22,337.31
LIENS COLLECTED		
ABATEMENTS		1,016.34
ADJUSTMENTS		-193.36
AJD TO MASTER		
UNCOLLECTED		109,712.32
		1,322,680.10

OUTSTANDING:		
USER CHARGES	106,898.34	
FEES	175.00	
SERVICE CHARGES	2,061.96	
LATE CHARGES	137.24	
BACKFLOW	439.78	
TOTAL OUTSTANDING	109,712.32	

**TOWN OF TOWNSEND
WATER DEPARTMENT**

NO. 22-12

6/30/2022

SCHEDULE OF BILLS RECEIVABLE

To the Accountant: **Town Accountant**

The following bills, amounting in the aggregate to

TWO THOUSAND FIVE HUNDRED SEVENTY SIX AND 25/100 DOLLARS *****

are herewith committed for collection.

<u>DATE</u>	<u>USER CHARGES</u>	<u>FEE CHARGES</u>	<u>SERVICE CHARGES</u>	<u>BACK FLOW</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
06/30/22	1,826.25	750.00	-	-	2,576.25

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

Todd Melanson, Chairman

Nathan Mattila, Vice-Chairman

Christopher Jones, Clerk