



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
June 12, 2025
7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, Matt Mostoller, Mike Geis, Joe Robb, and Dave Boccuti

Chairperson: Joe Robb

Clerk: Ron Parenti

Others in Attendance: YuTao Wang, Corey Godfrey, Brewster Conant Jr., Kim Kastens, John Petersen, and Michael Watkins

1. Opening

WRAC chair Joe Robb opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

2. Regular Business

- A. Public Remarks/Comments – Matt Mostoller informed the Committee that Corey Godfrey’s appointment to the WRAC as the Water District representative will be on the Select Board consent agenda for June 16. This will be the last meeting that Mostoller will be attending as a member of WRAC.
- B. Review of WRAC Meeting Minutes from 22 May 2025 – A motion to approve the minutes for 22 May 2025 was made by Matt Mostoller and seconded by Mike Geis. The motion to accept the minutes was approved unanimously by roll call vote.
- C. Review of WRAC Meeting Minutes from 29 May 2025 – A motion to approve the minutes for 29 May 2025 was made by Mike Geis and seconded by Joe Robb. The motion to accept the minutes was approved unanimously by roll call vote.
- D. Review of Stormwater Outreach Event – The Outreach Event was attended by approximately 20 Acton residents. Some Committee members expressed disappointment at this turnout, but others noted that it was comparable to the audience size for other public forums. The meeting attendees showed a strong interest in the maintenance of the stormwater system, and they asked a number of detailed questions about the options for financing the upgrades recommended by Woodard & Curran. The possibility of holding another briefing at the Acton Senior Center was discussed, but it was noted that a second briefing may be unnecessary given the strong response to the on-line survey.
- E. Discussion of Stormwater Survey Results – Parenti provided a summary of the survey results obtained during the Outreach Event and the on-line survey. The primary results from the in-person meeting are summarized below:
 - Most of the Outreach Event attendees are older than 65, are home owners, and have been Acton residents for more than 20 years.



- With regard to the question of stormwater funding, the survey offered the choice of the Town's current plan to borrow approximately \$1M per year for the next decade, a second option that limited borrowing this decade to a total of \$5M, and a third option to form a stormwater utility that would finance improvements through fees based on impervious ground area within each parcel. No one indicated a preference for the current funding plan. There was an even split between preferences for the limited borrowing and the fee-based stormwater utility options.
- A sizable majority indicated that they viewed stormwater upgrades to be a serious issue that the Town needs to address.
- When asked about moving funds from other projects to finance stormwater upgrades there were a variety of responses, but most felt that the construction of new sidewalks should be assigned a lower budgetary priority than spending for stormwater improvements.
- When asked about aspects of the discussion that needed further explanation, a majority of respondents asked for additional information about the predicted cost increase to taxpayers to fund the recommended stormwater improvements.

The on-line survey included the same set of questions presented at the in-person meeting, and a total of 68 internet responses have been received thus far. Overall, the responses and the demographics of the respondents were much more diverse than those received at the in-person event. Some of the more significant differences are noted below.

- The age spread of the respondents was larger, with a majority being younger than 65. Most are home owners, but a significant fraction indicated that they live in an apartment or condominium.
- About half of the respondents favored the creation of a stormwater utility. The remaining fraction was almost evenly split between the current annual borrowing strategy and borrowing that would be limited to \$5M.
- Moving money from allocations intended for new sidewalks and efforts to convert from fossil fuels was were favored methods to appropriate money for stormwater improvements.

The details of the Outreach Event and on-line surveys will be separately reviewed in the Stormwater Feasibility Report. It is anticipated that these data will have a strong influence on the content of WRAC's final recommendations to the Select Board. Parenti asked if comments made by FinCom members during the outreach dry run should be included in the report, but the Committee decided that their comments should not be included.

- F. Discussion of Progress on Stormwater Feasibility Report – Since the beginning of 2025 WRAC's efforts have been primarily focused on preparations for the Stormwater Outreach Event, which was held on 29 May. Members are now returning to the task of writing the Stormwater Feasibility Report, which is approximately 80% complete.



Committee members reviewed each of the sections that are currently incomplete, and reached the following decisions.

Section 3.1 – Federal and State Regulations – A first draft of the subsection dealing with state and federal regulations has not been submitted, but the Committee discussed the need to separate this part of the report from the subsection dealing with local regulations. It was decided that Section 3 should be streamlined, and have a single author who would address the applicable federal, state, and local regulations.

Section 6 – Required Legal Enabling Actions – The Committee had initially assumed that this section would be written by a Town staff member with legal expertise, but to date no one has been assigned to write this part of the report. Following a discussion on the purpose of this section it was decided that the intent was not to generate a legal document, but rather to outline the steps that needed to be taken if the Town decides to form a stormwater utility and an enterprise fund. It was noted that the required legal actions have already been defined by several other towns, including Concord. Barry Rosen agreed to assemble the existing information and write the first draft of this section.

Section 7 – Summary of the Outreach Event and On-Line Surveys – The Committee decided to leave the on-line surveys active for another two weeks, after which time Parenti would summarize those results along with those from the Outreach Event. He will write first draft of this section, after which Mike Geis would assume responsibility for the next revision.

Report Editing – Joe Robb expressed the opinion that the report needs to have an editor, who would ensure that the document exhibits a uniform style and has the appearance of being written by a single author. Dave Boccuti indicated that he has extensive experience in report writing, and volunteered to serve as the report editor.

G. *Any Other New Business* – None.

3. **Adjournment**

Committee members agreed to hold their next meeting on 10 July 2025 at 7pm. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barry Rosen and seconded by Matt Mostoller. This motion was unanimously approved by roll call vote at 8:40 pm. All documents referenced during this meeting can be found on DocuShare at <https://doc.acton-ma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-19305>.

Meeting Chat File

20:13:26 From Kim Kastens to Host and panelists:

Here is the link to the public hearing notice for Concord's Stormwater Enterprise Rate setting. The notice includes details of the proposed rate structure:

https://concordma.gov/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_05142025-12895