



TOWN OF KINGSTON
BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
OPEN SESSION
WATER DEPT OFFICE - 22 ELM ST, MICHAEL J.
MACPHERSON MEETING ROOM & VIA ZOOM
JUNE 24, 2025

3:45 PM – CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Robert Erlandsen called the meeting to order at 3:45pm.

In attendance were Vice Chairman Robert Kostka, Commissioner Richard Loring Jr, Superintendent Chris Veracka, Sewer Commissioner Brian Donahoe, Sewer Superintendent David Walsh, resident Mark Guidoboni and Clerk Stacey Smith. Attending via Zoom was Kristen Berger of Resilient CE and Town Administrator Keith Hickey.

APPROVAL OF DEPARTMENT BILL SCHEDULES:

MEETING MINUTES:

VOTE TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 10, 2025 AND MAY 27, 2025

Vice Chairman Kostka made the motion to approve the minutes of May 27, 2025. Commissioner Loring seconded the motion, and it was voted unanimously (3-0-0).

Commissioner Loring made the motion to approve the minutes of June 10, 2025. Chairman Erlandsen seconded the motion, and it was voted (2-0-1). Vice Chairman Kostka abstained from the vote as he was not present at the meeting.

APPOINTMENTS:

AMENDED BRIAN DONAHOE, SEWER COMMISSIONER RE: MORATORIUM

Mr. Donahoe wanted to follow up since the last time he met with the water commissioners. He stated he has worked with the sewer department engineer, CDM and their water expert. Kirk Westphal, who worked recently on the Old Colony Planning Council Regional Water Project.

He said together they have drafted a memo that concludes that the wells have a sustained yield to provide an adequate supply of water. He continued to summarize the memo and stated that Grassy Hole and the I-86 Well have more than enough water capacity even if the Trackle Pond well is offline.

Commissioner Loring stated, except we can't pump Grassy Hole and I-86 at the same time per our permit.

Superintendent Veracka asked what memo he was referencing as he did not have a copy. Mr. Donahoe referenced the memo was sent to the Chairman and to Ms. Berger, he assumed it had been forwarded to all. Commissioner Loring stated that Mr. Donahoe was specifically asked to include both Superintendent Veracka and Ms. Smith on everything sent to the department engineer. Chairman Erlandsen stated he received the memo in an email dated June 17, 2025. Mr. Donahoe passed copies out to the Board and Superintendent Veracka.

Vice Chairman Kostka asked Ms. Berger about the memo and her thoughts. Ms. Berger stated she would like to see something in writing from Mass DEP stating a waiver of the requirement in the WMA permit could be granted in an emergency where the largest well is offline. Vice Chairman Kostka asked Ms. Berger if she was satisfied with what was presented, that we could have the capacity to replace the water from Trackle Pond in an emergency. Ms. Berger stated it wouldn't replace the full amount from Trackle Pond, but it would get the system closer to satisfying the maximum day demand. Commissioner Erlandsen asked for clarification between the authorized maximum daily rate and the maximum single-day pump rate. Ms. Berger said the max daily pump rate last year was just over 3 MG/day. Chairman Erlandsen asked without Trackle Pond, could we pump the authorized maximum daily rate if needed?

She responded without the Trackle Pond Well and pumping Grassy Hole & I-86 Wells concurrently, that would bring the system to just over 3 MG/day.

Discussion continued regarding emergency situations.

Vice Chairman Kostka stated if Trackle Pond is down for a long period of time, that's an emergency situation. Mr.

Donahoe stated that in Zone 2, you would need more than one catastrophic event before you need to worry about the Water Management Act Permit.

Commissioner Loring told Mr. Donahoe he would like to hear from Ms. Berger on this issue.

Ms. Berger stated the original wells were pump-tested and permitted and not anticipated to impact each other. Mass DEP imposed the requirement for environmental monitoring. This creates a regulatory problem for the town not knowing what the permitting repercussions are. She referenced the Water Management Act Permit renewal back in 2016 when Mass DEP was inclined to completely remove the ability to pump the wells. Ms. Berger stated, we pushed back on that as there is no science to say that pumping those wells together negatively impacts stream flows or the ponds, and we didn't want to lose that opportunity to be able to do so in the future. She would rather not wait for an emergency event to ask to pump the wells continuously. She would prefer to have Mass DEP on board with this and have them provide us with a policy and information.

Chairman Erlandsen asked Ms. Berger to draft an inquiry to Mass DEP asking for guidance and clarification on the issue of concurrently pumping Grassy Hole & I-86 in the event of an emergency.

Mr. Donahoe mentioned a benefit of the leaching fields is that the discharge is drinking water quality, approximately 350K gallons, back into Smelt Pond and the impact on the I-86 well is mitigated by this discharge. Mr. Donahoe stated based on his working relationship with Mass DEP, he asked the Board to allow him to work with Ms. Berger to draft a letter to Mass DEP. Commissioner Loring stated that we have enough faith in Ms. Berger; and she is qualified to represent KWD to Mass DEP. He added, we do not need the sewer commissioners or their engineer, CDM, to assist with any letter from our engineer. Mr. Donahoe stated he understands that but many of the people at Mass DEP used to work for him. Commissioner Loring interrupted him and stated that bothered him as well as it clouded everything. Discussion continued between the two until Chairman Erlandsen asked them both to stop.

Superintendent Veracka asked Ms. Berger, if we draw concurrently from the wells, will we need to perform groundwater monitoring or any additional evaluations? Ms. Berger stated they may ask KWD to perform environmental monitoring that is within the permit currently. Superintendent Veracka asked about the installation of gauges or test wells. Ms. Berger responded those are all a possibility. Discussion continued regarding the expenses of these additional tasks, if required. Superintendent Veracka asked if Mr. Donahoe is proposing to run the two wells concurrently in a non-emergency situation.

Mr. Donahoe stated, no. It may never happen. It's only intended in an emergency. Discussion continued regarding the various emergency situations that could occur. Ms. Berger stated the Grassy Hole/I-86 Treatment Facility was designed to accommodate running both wells, if needed, but never tested at startup to do so.

Mr. Donahoe stated the bottom line is the sewer department is looking at a revenue shortfall and is holding a public hearing this Thursday to consider and vote on rate increases. They are looking for a resolution.

Mr. Donahoe left the meeting at 4:10pm. Town Administrator Keith Hickey logged off the meeting.

KRISTEN BERGER, RESILIENT CE RE: ENGINEERING UPDATES

MAIN STREET WATER MAIN PROJECT UPDATE

Ms. Berger stated she had no updates on this project closeout since the last meeting.

NEW WELL PROJECT UPDATE - KLEINFELDER

Ms. Berger stated Kleinfelder is currently working on the DEP WS17 permit application. This is the request for the official site examination for the new well. A draft report on the test well is expected this week. She reviewed much of the information discussed at the last meeting, regarding test well 18-4, for Vice Chairman Kostka's benefit.

She stated Kleinfelder will be looking to go before the Conservation Commission to seek route in concept approval for the access road layout into the new well site. Ms. Berger stated the Conservation Commission meets next on July 9, 2025.

Once the route in concept is approved, the surveyor will be sent back out to the site to measure tree diameters, and

then they can move forward with the access road design. A Notice of Intent will then need to be submitted to Conservation to do the work.

Ms. Berger stated regarding funding, the project evaluation form for the SRF program is due on July 25, 2025. Kleinfelder will require information from the board to create the most competitive packet. Vice Chairman Kostka asked to have Kleinfelder attend our next meeting on July 8, 2025.

Chairman Erlandsen stated that, related to the road layout, he was made aware of a property owner in town who might like to donate a parcel of land to the town. It may or may not be helpful in gaining access to the new well site. Superintendent Veracka asked for clarification on whether this was a donation of property or an easement or a potential offer to purchase the property. Commissioner Loring stated his concern was, if this was a donation, that the land go directly to KWD and not the town. His reasoning is that any land donation to the town would be under conservation and would be subject to conservation restrictions which may require special legislation to remove. Chairman Erlandsen asked Superintendent Veracka to follow up with the property owner. Superintendent Veracka stated he did not initiate any of this. This matter was brought before the board by a resident.

Chairman Erlandsen asked Mark Guidoboni, who brought this matter to the board, if he could give any further information on the parcel of land. Mr. Guidoboni stated it's a 20-foot-wide parcel of land (Lot 102-2) right of way across the power lines.

Discussion continued regarding the property history and location.

WATER SUPERINTENDENT DEPARTMENTAL UPDATE:

SHUT OFF UPDATE

Superintendent Veracka stated there was a water leak emergency today on Second Brook Street. He wanted to express his gratitude for the work of the crew in the extreme heat. He stated their hard work should be noted.

Superintendent Veracka stated at the last meeting there was a shut-off to a property for non-payment. The property's delinquent balance has been paid in full, with penalties, and KWD was able to confirm a plumbing leak exists. He added, we will follow up with the homeowner on the repair to prevent further excessive use.

CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT UPDATE

The annual consumer confidence (water quality) reports have been printed and sent to all residents.

QUARTERLY SAMPLE UPDATE

Superintendent Veracka stated the quarterly samples have been completed and sent to Mass DEP according to schedule.

CHEMICAL COOPERATIVE CONTRACTS IN PROCESS OF BEING SIGNED BY ALL PARTIES

Superintendent Veracka stated town counsel is reviewing some documents requested by a new vendor and two of the three contracts should be completed this week.

BACKFLOW INSPECTION CONTRACT - WESTON & SAMPSON

Superintendent Veracka stated he has been in discussion with Weston & Sampson since the last meeting, regarding confirming the rates for Year 1 and Year 2 backflow inspections. Those rates will stay the same and the only increase will take place in Year 3. Commissioner Loring made the motion to accept the 3-year contract with Weston & Sampson to conduct backflow testing and reporting. Vice Chairman Kostka seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

Superintendent Veracka stated he has been working with the infrared company to schedule the paving work. The company has been set back due to weather. They are scheduled to be in Kingston on Thursday, June 26th.

NEW BUSINESS:

ABATEMENT REQUEST RE: 1 CHILTON AVE DUE TO LEAKING SHOWER VALVE BEHIND WALL

Ms. Smith presented the request for abatement on 1 Chilton Ave. The homeowner was made aware of a leak behind an upstairs shower wall after the June bills were sent out. She is requesting relief on both the March and June bills. A brief discussion ensued about whether the repair had been made as no proof of repair was submitted. The consensus of the Board was to ask the homeowner to resubmit the request with proof of repair for reconsideration.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NONE

WATER CORRESPONDENCE FROM LAST MEETING:

NONE

BUSINESS OF WATER QUALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE:

NONE

NEXT REGULAR MEETING:

JULY 8, 2025 AT 3:45PM

ADJOURNMENT OF OPEN SESSION:

Vice Chairman Kostka made the motion to adjourn. Commissioner Loring seconded the motion, and it was voted on unanimously (3-0-0).

The meeting adjourned at 4:33pm.

ZOOM INFORMATION

TOPIC: BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS

TIME: THIS IS A RECURRING MEETING MEET ANYTIME

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

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Respectfully submitted,



Stacey L. Smith
Clerk