



Chelmsford Water District

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CHELMSFORD WATER DISTRICT REGULAR COMMISSIONERS' MEETING July 25, 2023

PRESENT:

Commissioners

Ronald W. Wetmore

John G. Harrington

Richard Romano

Representative

James Arciero

Representative

Rodney Elliott

Representative

Simon Cataldo

Environmental Compliance

Todd Melanson

Town Selectperson

Pat Wojtas

Resident

Marc Gibbs

Recording Secretary

Michaela Thompson

Commissioner Wetmore called the Regular Meeting of the Commissioners to order at 10:25am with all reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Legislative PFAS Update:

Environmental Compliance Manager Todd Melanson began the meeting welcoming State Representatives James Arciero, Rodney Elliott and Simon Cataldo. He provided a summary outlining his concerns and stated that he wanted to provide updated information regarding PFAS regulations and legislative changes.

Mr. Melanson stated that his concerns regarding the EPA Rule on PFAS are 1) The timetable of compliance implementation is too short and 2) Drinking water seems to be the sole focus of the EPA. However, the default assumption in the rule making process is that a person's exposure due to drinking is 20% while 80% is comprised of all other potential exposure pathways. A diagram in the handout listed all the items in one's household with potential exposure. Additional exposure has also been found in rainwater with a recent study from the National Atmospheric Deposition Program recording the highest total concentration at 5.5 ppt (ug/L) in a single sample from Massachusetts.

He also voiced his concerns over several components of the regulations including staffing of regulators for data review and permitting just for PFAS remediation, laboratory results extending from two to six weeks – making monthly compliance difficult, and the life expectancy of media due to low levels (4ppt for PFAO and PFOS).

Financial concerns include issues with Clean Water Trust Loans. Recent communication from the Clean Water Trust seems to imply that water utilities with SRF loans may have funds from 3rd party lawsuits garnished. Clarification on these new amendments to the financing agreements is forthcoming.

Mr. Melanson emphasized that what seems to be surprisingly overlooked is that none of the money provided takes into account the overall operational costs of PFAS treatment – only the building of the remediation treatments.

Commissioner Romano stated he's concerned that the District is investing more than other communities with, for example, extensive sampling necessary for the lawsuit but is not receiving funds being distributed, as these funds get disbursed only to the Town.

Commissioner Ron Wetmore explained to the Representatives that the wording in any proposed legislation needs to state "Towns **AND** Districts". Otherwise, government funding goes only to the Town and leaves the District financially burdened with the enormous cost of this mandatory PFAS treatment.

Representative Arciero stated that other Districts are facing the exact same problems but believes there are strength in numbers going forward. He suggested that communication continue with another meeting in the fall after the legislative sessions reconvenes.

Next Meeting Scheduled:

Commissioners Regular Meeting – August 16, 2023 at 1:00pm

Motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Romano. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Harrington. The Commissioners voted as follows: Mr. Romano, Aye. Mr. Wetmore, Aye, and Mr. Harrington, Aye. Motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 11:40am

Respectfully submitted,

Michaela A. Thompson
Recording Secretary