

Wayland Wastewater Management District Commission

The Wayland Wastewater Management District Commission (WWMDC) operates a sanitary sewer system that serves business, residential and municipal properties along Route 20 from Route 27 to the Town Center development and the Alta at River's Edge residences. Wastewater discharged into the system flows to a treatment plant located on Town-owned property within the Town Center development. The treated wastewater is discharged to the Sudbury River. Since FY2019 the WWMDC has been sharing resources with the Wayland School Department for oversight of the wastewater treatment plant at Wayland High School.

Managerial Oversight of the WWMDC and High School Wastewater System: The position of Wastewater Operations Manager (WOM) was created and filled in October 2018. The WOM is responsible for and manages emergency response to alarm calls and overseeing scheduled contract work pertaining to the Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF). He also performs periodic operational work as well as preventive maintenance and repair work that was previously done on an on-call basis by the plant contractor. Additionally, the WOM seeks to optimize the cost of maintaining and operating the system.

In FY2021, the work completed by the WOM continued to support plant reliability. Billing from our outside contractor, Whitewater, for plant emergencies and non-contract repairs remained low at \$1,000 in FY2021 compared to \$63,000 in FY2018 (the last full year before the WOM position was created).

Current operating practices continue to reduce the cost of sludge transport and disposal. In FY2018 these costs were \$24,000 and in FY2021 they were reduced to approximately \$14,000.

Discharge Permit and System Usage: The WWTF operates under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit issued jointly by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The permit allows discharge of an annualized average limit of 52,000 gallons per day (GPD) into the Sudbury River. During the past fiscal year, average flow was approximately 18,000 GPD. This was depressed from 24,000 GPD that was the average flow before the COVID-19 related business downturns.

The Town coordinated with the River's Edge project to create a relationship whereby the Town would own and operate the new Subsurface Absorption System "SAS" (commonly referred to as a leaching field) at the Alta at River's Edge site while treating the wastewater generated by the new project. The ownership of the leaching field allows the District to optimize the treatment plant capacity without changing the NPDES permit. To facilitate the new SAS connection, the Town entered into a "friendly" Administrative Consent Order (ACO) with the State on April 28, 2021. The Town has applied for an Individual Groundwater Discharge Permit from MassDEP. This permit will replace a similar permit that was previously issued to River's Edge. The ACO allows the Town to construct the pipe connections between the SAS, the wastewater pump station from River's Edge and the existing WWTF. The groundwater permit is expected to be finalized in the fall of 2021.

Furthermore, the EPA in conjunction with the MassDEP will be renewing the existing NPDES permit in the form of a general permit. This reissuance will negate the need for Wayland to continue to seek approval of an expansion to the NPDES capacity or to apply for an individual permit. The permit is expected to be in place during the 2022 fiscal year and will not materially alter system operation. With the addition of the SAS, the full capacity of the WWTF will be available. With the increased business activity and Alta at River's Edge joining the WWMDC, the annual GPD is anticipated to be 45,000 GPD. Increased flows will allow the costs of the wastewater treatment facility to be spread out to more users, stabilizing and reducing projected rate increases over the next several years.

Administration and Finances: Income for FY2021 was \$627,000. Of this amount \$422,000 was earmarked for paying off outstanding bonds. The bonds were refinanced in 2021 leading to a reduction in 2022 and future bond payments.

Operating income was \$255,000 and operating expenses were \$266,000, which required a small amount of retained earnings to be expended to meet expenses.

The Commission's estimated fund balance at the end of FY2021 was approximately \$1,300,000, which is largely money collected in prior year's betterment prepayments and will be used for future bond payments.

The WWMDC developed a budget for FY2022 of \$683,000. This includes \$357,000 operating income and expenses, and \$326,000 bond and interest payments. It assumes that flows at Alta at River's Edge start during FY2022. The FY2022 rates were set as follows:

WWMDC FY2022 Rates			
Category	Rate	Units	Approximate Share of Revenue
Discharge Capacity (based on user's allocated capacity)	\$6.67	\$/ccf	~ 80% of user fees
Tier 1 (water usage up to 50% of allocated capacity)	\$5.01	\$/ccf	~ 20% of user fees
Tier 2 (water usage in excess of 50% allocated capacity)	\$15.02	\$/ccf	

Commission Membership and Staffing: The WWMDC began FY2021 with two members: Rick Greene, Chair and Michael Gitten. Doug Levine joined October 2020 and Rick Green resigned December 2020. Michael Gitten was subsequently selected as Chair and Seth Roman joined February 2021 as the third member.

The Commission's Account Specialist continues to work on administrative issues, communicating with other Town departments, and managing the Board's financial reporting. The Town Engineer provided technical support and direction. He stepped down from this position in June 2021 and remains to help support the WWMDC.