

9/14/22 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 Oxbow residences, formerly known as Alta at River's Edge. 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, preventive maintenance, and repair work that was previously done on an on-call basis by the plant contractor. This has included supporting efforts related to filter membrane replacement in FY2023, backup generator maintenance, and system control upgrades to support more efficient system operation and remote monitoring.

In FY2022, 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 \$4,200 in FY2022 compared to \$63,000 in FY2018 (the last full year before the WOM position was created).

Discharge Permit and System Usage: The WWTF operates under a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (permit # MAG 580011) issued jointly by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP). The permit was issued in 2021 and allows discharge of an annualized average limit of 52,000 gallons per day (GPD) into the Sudbury River. The Permit expires on Nov. 30, 2026. 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. All NPDES permit requirements were met during the past year.

The Town coordinated with the Alta Oxbow 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 Oxbow 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 and be in compliance with the capacity allowed under a MassDEP groundwater discharge permit previously issued to the District. SAS construction is substantially complete and it is anticipated that the Town will obtain ownership and initiate SAS operation before the end of 2022. To facilitate the new SAS connection, the Town entered into a "friendly" Administrative Consent Order (ACO) with the State on April 28, 2021. The ACO allowed the Town to construct the pipe connections between the SAS, the wastewater pump station from Alta Oxbow and the existing WWTF. The construction has been completed under a State grant and the requirements of the ACO satisfied. The Town obtained an Individual Groundwater Discharge Permit from MassDEP for SAS operation (permit # 999-1, expiring Dec. 30, 2026) which allows for an additional 37,000 gpd to be discharged from the WWMDC.

With the addition of the SAS, the full capacity of the WWTF is available. With increased business activity and Alta Oxbow joining the WWMDC, the influent rate to the plant 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. This is already reflected in the 2023 user rates.

Administration and Finances: Income for FY2022 was \$896,000. Of this amount \$265,000 was earmarked for paying off outstanding bonds. Operating income was \$435,000 and operating expenses were \$291,000, which included revenue of \$150,000 from Alta Oxbow for a privilege fee to connect to the WWTF.

The Commission’s estimated fund balance at the end of FY2022 was approximately \$1,072,000, 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 FY2023 of \$924,000, which will be funded from operating income \$432,000, betterment receipts \$261,000, retained earnings \$155,000 for membrane installation and \$25,000 to offset contingency. Funding will be offset by operating expenses \$587,000 and bond and interest payments \$337,000. The FY2023 budget assumes revenue and expenses will increase due to flows from Alta Oxbow, which began September 2022. Flows are anticipated to reach full levels by winter 2023. The FY2023 rates were set as follows:

Category	Rate / hcf	Approximate Share of Revenue
Discharge Capacity (based on user’s allocated capacity)	\$6.67 (unchanged from 2022)	~ 80% of user fees
Tier 1 (water usage up to 50% of allocated capacity)	\$5.26	~ 20% of user fees
Tier 2 (water usage in excess of 50% allocated capacity)	\$15.77	

hcf = hundred cubic feet

Commission Membership and Staffing: The WWMDC members are Michael Gitten (Chair), Doug Levine, and Darrin Bock who joined in FY2022.

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. The new Town Engineer is supporting the WWMDC and the former Town Engineer has been engaged to support the WWMDC.