

Wayland Wastewater Management District Commission

The Wayland Wastewater Management District Commission (WWMDC) operates a sewer system that serves business and residential properties along Route 20 from Route 27 to the Town Center development. 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. In FY2019, the WWMDC also agreed to share resources with the Wayland School Department, which sought assistance in overseeing the wastewater treatment plant at Wayland High School.

Managerial Oversight of the WWMDC and High School Wastewater System: On October 1, 2018, Richard Pezzolesi (Pezz) started work as the WWMDC's Wastewater Operations Manager (WOM). In this role, he is responsible for overseeing the contractor that manages day to day operations of the WWMDC's Wastewater Treatment Facility (WWTF), and performs preventive maintenance and repair work that previously was done on an ad hoc basis by Whitewater. Additionally, he manages emergency response to alarm calls, and will look for opportunities to increase plant efficiency and effectiveness, and to optimize the cost of maintaining and operating the system.

In the last nine months of the fiscal year, Pezz identified a number of cost saving opportunities in plant repairs and operations. These include repairing a fire alarm panel for \$500 instead of the \$16,100 quoted by the fire alarm maintenance company, activating remote SCADA monitoring to allow more effective emergency response, and putting in place operational practices that reduce the volume (and cost) of sludge that has to be hauled away. Additionally he has performed a comprehensive assessment of the condition of the WWTF and how it is routinely operated; preventive repairs and changes in operational practices, potentially saving tens of thousands of dollars in avoided costs down the road. In the time Pezz has overseen the plant (October 2018-June 2019), the charges for Whitewater non-basic services fell to \$15,700 from \$57,100 for the same period in FY2018.

The WOM is also tasked with overseeing the operation of the High School Wastewater Plant (WHS-WWTP); in late 2018, however, due to the level of challenges in running the WHS-WWTP it was decided that the WOM's first efforts would focus on the WWMDC facility.

Operation of the WWTF: In November 2018, the WWTF had two significant inflow situations. One originated in the basement of the Public Safety building. It was remediated in short order, and plant settings were adjusted to be able to handle the increased flow. The second source of inflow was though damaged pavement surrounding a privately owned pumping station. The owners were notified, and repairs were scheduled for early in FY2020.

Discharge Permits and System Usage: The WWTF continues to operate under permits issued jointly by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the State Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). The permits allow discharge of an annualized average limit of 52,000 gallons per day (GPD) into the Sudbury River. An application for renewal submitted on time in June 2013 seeks an increase in discharge capacity to 80,000 GPD. As of the end of FY2019, the renewal application remains pending with the EPA.

The Town Engineer met with representatives of the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection to explore lifting the Administrative Consent Order under which the WWMDC currently operates. At this time, no change is anticipated.

During FY2019, the WWMDC met with representatives of the owner of the Town Center development to explore the possibility of building a leaching field on private property to which the WWMDC could discharge processed wastewater. An engineer hired by the Town Center development concluded that the plan was not feasible.

The WWMDC performed a comprehensive review of all assigned discharge capacity (including non-connected users and vacant property) to evaluate potential for assigning additional design flow to users. After extensive discussion, the board concluded that there is an actual discharge of approximately 26,000 GPD with an additional 6,000 GPD of unconnected, potential use. The WWMDC has determined that 10,000 GPD of Title V design flow is available for new/or expanded discharge from users. This would result in an approximate total permitted design flow of 37,000 GPD.

In FY2019, the average discharge from the plant was approximately 25,386 GPD, up about 7.3% from 23,661 GPD in FY2018. This change is attributable to net changes in customer discharge and inflow events.

Administration and Finances: Income for FY2019 was \$697,708. Of this amount \$420,207 was earmarked for paying off outstanding bonds (\$415,326 betterment principal and interest payments, \$4,880 for privilege fees for increased design flow allocations). Operating income was \$263,080, and operating expenses were \$305,794. A share of current year operating expenses was paid out of retained earnings from the prior fiscal year.

The Commission’s undesignated fund balance at the end of FY2019 was \$1,321,062, including money collected in prior years for bond payments.

The WWMDC developed a budget for FY2020 of \$787,940. This includes \$339,653 operating income and expenses, and \$448,287 bond and interest payments. The FY20 Wastewater Rates were set as follows:

WWMDC FY20 Rates – Billed Quarterly			
Category	Cost	Units	Allocation
Base	\$6.05	\$/ccf	80% of Charges
Tier 1	\$4.54	\$/ccf	20% of Charges
Tier 2	\$13.62	\$/ccf	

Tiers are calculated based upon specific design flow allocation assigned to each user. Tier 1 is charged for usage up to one half of the design flow allocation in Hundred Cubic Feet (ccf). Tier 2 is for usage in excess of one half of the of the design flow allocation. Values are rounded to the nearest ccf.

Commission Membership and Staffing: The Wastewater Management District Commission members for FY2019 were Fred Knight, Chair, Rick Greene, and Uday Virkud. Fred Knight’s term expired at the end of FY2019, at which time; he chose not to seek reappointment after 12 years of service. Jane Capasso continued as the WWMDC’s part-time Account Specialist, working on administrative issues, communicating with other town departments, and managing the Board’s financial reporting.

In FY2019, the WWMDC partnered with the Board of Public Works to explore options for the future oversight of the WWMDC. Options discussed included maintaining the status quo, having the Board of Public Works take over responsibility for the WWMDC, or creating a new board to oversee both the Water Department and Wastewater enterprise funds. As of the end of FY2019, the short-term and long-term approach to WWMDC governance had yet to be determined.



View from the WWTF Outfall