

Nantucket Water Commission
Minutes of Wednesday, January 29, 2025

A meeting was held by the Nantucket Water Commission on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, in the conference room at the Wannacomet Water Company facilities at 1 Milestone Road, Nantucket, Massachusetts.

Commissioners Present: Commissioners Allen Reinhard, Curtis Barnes, Nelson Eldridge and John Pearl and Rob Benchley were present. *Commissioners Absent:* None. *Staff & Guests:* Mark Willett – Director and Linda Roberts Project Coordinator. *Public:* Meg Miller Ruley.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:** Commissioner Reinhard as Chair, recognized a quorum was present and called the meeting to order at 9:00 AM.
2. **Acceptance of Agenda:** Director Willett requested this meeting to act on our emergency for protecting our wells and public drinking supply from PFAS. The agenda was accepted by unanimous consent as presented.
3. **Public Comment:** Meg Miller Ruley was present as a resident, real estate broker and actively involved citizen. Ms. Miller attends the Town's PFAS meetings and is in regular contact with Mass DEP staff regarding the monitoring wells and investigations of Tom's Way and other areas on the island. She has received a good deal of information through the town and the state through the FOIA (Freedom of Information Act). It is unfortunate that it takes a formal request to get answers to what she is asking for. Thus far the results don't look like its fire foam although there are traces present there are other PFAS components. Director Willett and Operations Manager Rob West have shot measurements and followed the ground water flow which pushes to our direction. The bottom line is to find out what the source is. PFAS numbers in that area are all over, some with no detection and others with some of the highest in the state. Commissioner Reinhard commented on how much we have all learned about PFAS and our focus is on remediation and a work in process. Ms. Miller thanked the commission for their work and she hoped that her efforts are considered constructive and not destructive as we all work together. The commission thanked Ms. Miller for attending, doing her due diligence and encouraged her to continue her efforts.
4. **Director's Review and Updates:**
 - a. **Water Quality, Mass DEP:** Director Willett has reviewed the process of eliminating PFAS with other Directors on the Cape and concluded an ionic filtration system is the best way to remove it. To begin this process the Director has been communicating with the Town's finance director. As the finance director has been on vacation Director Willett used the towns long contract format for a contract to start February 1, 2025, with TRC Environmental Corporations for their environmental consulting services which will include assisting in the permitting process and working with all parties: (MassDEP and ECT2 and Wannacomet Water) to develop and design, construction, testing and monitoring of the system. The Director explained that the demand is so great and to acquire the materials and have the system up and running before the summer season the Commission had to act now. The design proposal is estimated to be a maximum of \$25,000 and next month we will have a contract to present for the purchase of the system which will be \$1,320,200. While we do not have available funds in our budget to do this the plan is to move forward like Nantucket Airport had to by overspending the budget and then moving funds from our \$9.1 million dollars in retained earnings to cover it. Director Willett explained the procurement process and the need for a waiver from the State for DCAMM procedures. (DCAMM acronym for Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance). Director Willett has met with and written to the Mass Department of Revenue and Attorney General with input from Mass DEP to verify the emergency action.

The Director had a meeting with the Mass DEP, engineers from TRC and ECT2 to discuss purchasing the system to remove PFAS from the water. The cost of purchasing a system over leasing a system to remove PFAS from drinking water will be \$660,100 to treat well 15 alone and \$1,320,200 to purchase a system to treat both wells 15 and 16. The purchase price is slightly more than leasing for 36 months. After discussion and review of reverse osmosis systems and ionic exchange systems it was determined that an ionic exchange was best. The system will be placed on a concrete pad and have four exchange filters using two at a time then switching out. The exchange filters are good for ten years. The Director will request an exchange half-way through their life expectancy of every five to six years. The filters cost \$300,000 each. A local trucking contractor will send trucks to Portland Maine to pick up the materials and we will use island businesses to excavate and pour the pad. We will do a lot in house piping and other work which should save a few hundred thousand dollars.

5. **Discussion, amendment, and execution of any personnel or vendor contracts:** A motion was made by Commissioner Barnes, seconded by Commissioner Eldridge and unanimously voted to accept, approve and sign the contract for engineering services with TCR Engineering company. Commissioner Barnes left the meeting for another commitment. After further review and discussion as noted above in (4a) the motion was made by Commissioner Eldridge, seconded by Commissioner Pearl and unanimously voted to authorize the Director to work with ECT's attorney and others to write the contract for purchasing the \$1,320,200 treatment system with ECT2. The chair had each member vote by roll call: Commissioner Benchley, Commissioner Pearl, Commissioner Eldridge and Chair Reinhard all stated "I" to affirmatively vote approval. An additional motion was made by Commissioner Pearl, seconded by Commissioner Benchley and unanimously voted to declare this as a state of emergency and to follow the emergency procedures as laid out by the Massachusetts Procurement Officer.
6. **Commissioner's Comments and Reserved for Unforeseen Items for Discussion not anticipated by the Chair.** None.
7. **Adjournment:** As there were no further comments Commissioner Reinhard adjourned the meeting at 9:47 AM.

Approved:  Date: Feb. 13, 2025

The meeting packet included 1/29/25 Agenda, contract for engineering services with TCR Engineering and information and estimates for treatment systems from the mondo board.