



WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2025
7:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, Corey Godfrey, Dave Boccuti, and Mike Geis

Chairperson: Dave Boccuti

Clerk: Ron Parenti

Others in Attendance: Alissa Nicol (Select Board Liaison), Evan White, YuTao Wang, Kim Kastens, and John Petersen

1. Opening

WRAC vice-chair Dave Boccuti opened the meeting at 7:05 PM.

2. Regular Business

- A. Public Remarks/Comments – None
- B. Review of WRAC Meeting Minutes from 11 September 2025 – A motion to approve the minutes for 11 September 2025 was made by Barry Rosen and seconded by Ron Parenti. The motion to accept the minutes was approved unanimously by the members in attendance, Barry Rosen, Ron Parenti, Corey Godfrey, Dave Boccuti, and Mike Geis.
- C. Review of the Latest Stormwater Report Revisions – Parenti informed the members that he had updated the reference numbers and checked all of the hyperlinks associated with those references. He noted that several of the links were no longer valid and needed to be replaced by different links that provide the same information. It was further noted that links included in the document may fail following the distribution of the Stormwater Report.

Parenti also showed Committee members a chart containing a proposed addition to the Stormwater Report recommendations section. He noted that while the report includes text and a decision flowchart that outlines the steps that must be taken by the Town to change the manner in which the stormwater infrastructure is managed and funded, the current version does not include a clear statement of WRAC's advice to the Select Board regarding those decisions. He proposed that the report include a position statement that encourages the Select Board to take the following actions

- Question the recommendation of Woodard & Curran to spend \$11M over the next decade and instead explore a strategy that addresses high-priority repairs that are reevaluated annually.
- Establish a management mechanism that treats the stormwater system as a utility, either by creating a Stormwater Utility or forming a Stormwater Advisory Committee.



- Create a sustainable funding approach based on assessed fees or a designated funding line in the Annual Budget.

Following a discussion of this proposal, Committee members agreed that recommendations of this type should be included in the report, but that the specific wording would need to be discussed and approved at the next meeting. Alissa Nicol stated that the Select Board would welcome this type of input from the Committee, and encouraged the members to include their recommendations in the report.

A suggestion to include author biographies was discussed, and members agreed to consider the addition of a short biography section at the end of the report. Members were encouraged to summarize their educational background and work experience in a one- or two-line statement, and were asked to that information to the Committee clerk.

- D. Review of the Stormwater Report Decision Flowchart – Parenti reported that the suggested wording changes to the decision logic flowchart have been performed and that the revised chart can be found in version 14.3 of the Stormwater Report. Dave Boccuti suggested an additional modification to the flowchart step currently entitled ‘Stabilization Options’. The Committee agreed that ‘Stormwater Funding Options’ was a more descriptive title.

Rosen noted that while the flowchart suggests that a major modification of the stormwater funding and management structure could be accomplished in a single Town Meeting vote, voter approval at multiple Town Meetings would probably be needed to implement changes to the management approach, funding methodology, and fee structure. He suggested that the chart be modified to indicate the likelihood that the approval process would require several iterations. Parenti agreed that the flowchart, as currently structured, did not capture the full complexity of the approval process, but argued that the chart is only intended to outline the general flow of the decision steps that need to be completed by the Select Board. Following a discussion of this point, the Committee agreed that the chart should not be modified, but the text describing the chart could be changed to more accurately describe the complexity of the voter approval process.

- E. Progress on Legal Review of Report Sections 5 and 6 – Barry Rosen reported that he submitted Sections 5 and 6 from the Stormwater Report v14 to the Town Manager’s office for review on 23 September, and that he has been communicating with the Assistant Town Manager, Thomas Begin. Begin has promised to submit the material to Town Counsel, Nina Pickering-Cook, for review. She is currently contracted to work one day per month at her office at Town Hall. Rosen stated that it is difficult to predict when an opinion would be returned by Pickering-Cook, but in view of the fact that the document has already been reviewed by Begin he does not expect that major wording changes will be requested by Town Counsel. The status of this review will be discussed again at the next WRAC meeting.
- F. Overview of the Water District’s Capability to Process NLCD and GIS Data – At a previous meeting questions were raised about the possibility of combining Geographic Information Systems (GIS) data and National Land Cover Database (NLCD) data to



generate an estimate of the fractional impervious surface area for Acton properties. To address this question, Corey Godfrey prepared a presentation that described the properties of these data bases and the analysis capabilities available to the Acton Water District. Godfrey explained that the impervious area estimates in the NLCD database derive from spectral analyses of imagery collected by the Landsat satellites. This information can be overlaid onto high-resolution parcel maps available in the GIS database; however, the resolution of the NLCD data is currently 30m. Rough estimates of the fractional impervious area within a parcel can be made through a weighted average of the NLCD pixels that contain the parcel. Godfrey stated that he has experience in using the software required to perform this type of analysis. Evan White, who is the Town's new Assistant DPW Director/Town Engineer, then spoke to describe his experience with the MassGIS database in Ashland. He indicated that this high-resolution imagery has been used by that town to compute stormwater fees based on fractional impervious area for industrial properties. Ashland's website includes an impervious area map, which can be found at <https://www.ashlandmass.com/677/Ashland-Impervious-Area-Map>. Ashland's residential property owners are currently charged \$8.75/quarter for each parcel.

G. Any Other New Business – None.

3. **Adjournment**

Committee members agreed to hold their next meeting on 6 November 2025 at 7pm. A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barry Rosen and seconded by Corey Godfrey. This motion was approved unanimously by the five members in attendance at 8:20 pm. All documents referenced during this meeting can be found on DocuShare at <https://doc.actonma.gov/dsweb/View/Collection-19611>.