

Groton Water Commission
Regular Meeting of the
Board of Water Commissioners
Tuesday, November 6th, 2025
Virtual Meeting via Zoom

Minutes

Present are Chairman Jack McCaffrey, Vice Chairman Greg Fishbone, Member James Gmeiner, Superintendent Tom Orcutt, Business Manager Lauren Croy, Tyler Schmidt and Hanna Schenkel from Apex Companies.

Mr. McCaffrey called the meeting to order at 7:34pm. He stated that the meeting is being recorded and everyone introduced themselves.

Operational Updates (Superintendent)

Mr. Schmidt was working with Blueleaf Water is a pilot agency to figure out what the issue is at the iron manganese filtration. An experienced scientist at Blueleaf met at the facility and spoke with Mr. Maloney and Ms. Schenkel about the issue and operational parameters. Mr. Schmidt received the scope of work today and it was reviewed internally.

Mr. Schmidt said the scientist that reviewed the issue has 35 years of experience and has seen this a few times before and was able to fix it twice of three times. He thinks we can get this media back for filters 1 and 2 back via a few processes. He also thinks adjusting the pH location may solve the issue and would be the easiest fix.

The first step would involve bench scale testing, the second step will be getting the media back, and the third and final step long term pilot to prevent in the future

Mr. McCaffrey asked if Blueleaf did the initial piloting and Mr. Schmidt said they did a two-week pilot which wouldn't have caught this type of issue. Mr. McCaffrey asked if we need to pre pH and post pH and Mr. Schmidt said he would recommend splitting it up. Mr. Orcutt asked what we are aiming for if we make the pre pH adjustments and Mr. Schmidt would like to get close to 7.

The least desirable option would be to add permanganate to the treatment plant because it would need DEP approval for the addition of the storage and chemical change. Mr. Orcutt asked how often would we need to be adding and Mr. Schmidt said we won't know the specific yet.

Mr. Gmeiner asked if changing the pH will affect the piloting and Mr. Schmidt said the feed for the pilot will be before the chemical addition.

Mr. Orcutt asked if the operators can assist with this. Mr. Schmidt said the operators could help when they start to feel comfortable.

Mr. Orcutt said the pilot would be a full calendar year and Blueleaf would be out there once a week to check it and grab samples and additional investigating.

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Mr. McCaffrey asked if Blueleaf will need get media from the filters. Mr. Schmidt said he does want some of filter one (which is having the issues) and raw media to compare it to. Mr. Orcutt thinks we have extra raw filter on hand.

Mr. McCaffrey asked if changing pH would disadvantage the warranty if legal action was taken. Mr. Schmidt assumed the warranty is over since it's been past two years now. They did recommend keeping the pH low and Mr. Schmidt thinks that could be what is hurting us.

Mr. Orcutt and Mr. McCaffrey would change the pH and try that route first. Mr. Gmeiner and Mr. Fishbone understand it is necessary to fix this issue.

Mr. Orcutt asked about doing a permanganate dosage now and not do any adjustment pH. Mr. Schmidt said that would require a facility modification with DEP. Mr. Schmidt said even a single dosage we would have to confirm with DEP and that it can be difficult to work with in the long run and wouldn't be a first choice.

Mr. Schmidt is working on their price proposal. The secondary piloting will depend on the first phase. Bench scale testing will be priced out first. Mr. Schmidt said we could do phased pricing or all at once. Mr. Orcutt is fine with phasing it in.

Mr. Schmidt thought the rental cost was high so will also price out the purchase price. Mr. Orcutt would have to look at the numbers.

Mrs. Crory asked if we can get a price range for phase 2 as she is prepping the FY27 Budget and may need to plan for increased costs.

Mr. Schmidt will get the Phase I pricing to Mr. Orcutt next week and Mr. Orcutt can present it the commissioners.

Other Business

The next meetings are November 12th and November 18th.

Mr. McCaffrey made a motion to adjourn at 8:07pm, Mr. Fishbone seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lauren Crory