

SOUTH DEERFIELD WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT

95 SUNDERLAND ROAD
P.O. BOX 51
SOUTH DEERFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS 01373
(413) 665-3540 FAX (413) 665-5565

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS - ANNUAL REPORT ANNUAL DISTRICT MEETING – APRIL 27, 2022

FY2022 saw another busy and productive year for the South Deerfield Water Supply District. The District had many accomplishments while providing our community with a reliable supply of safe drinking water.

Staffing levels at the South Deerfield Water Supply District remained mostly unchanged throughout this past year with Dan Dion serving as our Water Superintendent. In April 2022 we did have (1) Full-Time Water Operator leave the District to pursue employment opportunities in another industry. The District has begun the process of filling this open position and hopes to be back to full staffing levels well before the end of FY2022. Our team was able to successfully manage operations during another year impacted by the global COVID-19 pandemic and the Board of Water Commissioners would again like to extend our appreciation to our staff for their efforts and dedication throughout this past year.

Accomplishments in FY2022 at the South Deerfield Water Supply District were again numerous - including the completion of a chemical feed upgrade at our Treatment Plant as required by the Dept. of Environmental Protection, completion of upgrades to our Ridge Road Tank which is now fully integrated with our SCADA System, we also finally reached an agreement with the MA Attorney General's Office to resolve some past issues involving prior employees no longer associated with the District - we feel that the agreement reach minimized the overall cost to the District and was equitable for all side and would like to pass along our appreciation to all parties involved in this matter. A major accomplishment over this past year was also the beginning of a full Water Main Replacement Project of Eastern Avenue and Graves Street - we expect this project to be fully completed by early FY2023 and would like to thank the residents in that area impacted by the construction process. This Water Main Replacement Project was planned to coincide with the Town of Deerfield's planned repaving - substantially lowering the overall cost of this project for the District. The District, along with the help of our Forester, completed a full Timber Management Plan this past year. The completion of



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this Plan will make possible future grant opportunities. The Timer Management Plan was completed through a grant, at no overall cost to the District. The District also successfully completed our DEP required Sanitary Survey this past year.

In FY2022 the South Deerfield Water Supply District also launched (for the first time) a new website - www.SouthDeerfieldWater.com to better serve and communicate with our community. We have begun the process to include on-line bill payment through our new website and hope to have that fully functional by the end of FY2022. We were able to create and launch our new website fully in-house, with substantial cost savings to the District.

This year we also continued our Emergency Mutual Aid Agreement with the Town of Amherst and the Amherst Department of Public Works to allow for emergency backup staffing and response if needed by either community.

With all these projects completed this year and with our ever-expanding day-to-day operation requirements, the quality and safety of our water remains our number one focus. We continue to make improvements to both our filtration system and distribution system, as well throughout our watershed and our reservoirs. The Board of Water Commissioners remains very pleased with the progress and improvements throughout the District over the recent years.

Included with this report and presented at the Annual District Meeting for the voter's consideration is our Omnibus Budget and many articles related to spending. Once again, our Commissioners have worked tirelessly to ensure fiscal responsibility and long-term planning. The FY2023 Budget, beginning July 1, 2022, represents a lower budget overall, while still planning for continued improvements, capital expenses, long-term planning and savings, as well as making a large principal payment on outstanding debt incurred for the Water Main Replacement Project of Eastern Avenue and Graves Street. We have also been able to reduce the tax rates again this year and been able to maintain our current, low, water rates – with no increases.

As always, the South Deerfield Water Supply District looks forward to continuing our excellent working relationship with our area partners and wishes to extend our appreciation to the Town of Deerfield, the Deerfield Police Department, the Deerfield Highway Department, the Deerfield Fire/Water District, The South Deerfield Fire District, H.C. Kocot & Son's Inc., Howard Labs, the Town of Amherst, E.J. Prescott, Charette Services, Stiles Co., Inc., Milton CAT, Attorney John Connor of Stobierski & Connor, our State and Federal partners, and our many other vendors and most importantly the members of the District for your ongoing support.



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The Board of Water Commissioners looks forward to this upcoming fiscal year and we've planned for another aggressive agenda of projects – including; the implementation of the new chemical feed at our Treatment Plant, the launch of a new online bill payment system through our new website, the completion of the Water Main Replacement Project of Eastern Avenue and Graves Street, the completion of a detailed Rate Study and Capital Improvement Plan & Asset Management Plan as required in our most recent Sanitary Survey, the hiring process for the replacement of (1) Full-Time vacant position and seasonal help, continued capital improvements, continued emergency planning, and much more.

The Board of Water Commissioners and the South Deerfield Water Supply District team look forward to continuing to serve our community in this upcoming year.

Respectfully Submitted,

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
SOUTH DEERFIELD WATER SUPPLY DISTRICT

Shawn W. Bowman
Gary J. Stokarski
R. David Wells

