

# GET TO KNOW YOUR DRINKING WATER



Massachusetts Water Resources Authority  
2019 Drinking Water Test Results

This report contains very important information about your drinking water. Please translate it, or speak with someone who understands it.

Si usted desea obtener una copia de este reporte en español, llámenos al teléfono 617-788-1190.

La relazione contiene importanti informazioni sulla qualità dell'acqua della Comunità. Tra-durlo o parlarne con un amico che lo comprenda.

O relatório contém informações importantes sobre a qualidade da água da comunidade. Traduza-o ou peça a alguém que o ajude a entendê-lo melhor.

Sprawozdanie zawiera ważne informacje na temat jakości wody w Twojej miejscowości. Poproś kogoś o przeliterowanie go lub porozmawiaj z osobą która je dobrze rozumie.

يحتوي هذا التقرير على معلومات هامة عن نوعية ماء الشرب في منطقتك. يرجى ترجمته أو ابحث الشخصير مع صديق لك يفهم هذه المعلومات جيداً.

H xarotivén anavoxeta porovoutatí stonótines plitrokovoties gia to potimo vapo stas. Proxarotíw vax to metatpovotete n va to stólatovotete me xarotíon pou to xarotíovótavetí avotíktos.

Im Bericht steht wichtige Information über die Qualität des Wassers Ihrer Gemeinschaft. Der Bericht soll übersetzt werden, oder sprechen Sie mit einem Freund, der ihn gut versteht.

这份报告中有重要的信息，讲到关于您所在社区的水的品质。请您找人翻译一下，或者请能看得懂这份报告的朋友给您解释一下。

この資料には、あなたの飲料水についての大切な情報がかかれてあります。内容をよく理解するために、日本語に翻訳して読むか説明を受けてください。

इस रिपोर्ट में "पाने के पानी" के विषय पर बहुत जरूरी जानकारी दी गई है। कृपया इसका अनुवाद करें, या किसी जानकार से इस बारे में पूछें।

របាយការណ៍នេះមានព័ត៌មានសំខាន់ៗស្តីពីគុណភាពទឹកស្រប។ ប្រសិនបើអ្នកមិនយល់ពីរបាយការណ៍នេះទេ ។

이 보고서는 귀하의 거주하는 지역의 수질에 관한 중요한 정보가 들어 있습니다. 이것을 번역하거나 충분히 이해하시는 친구와 상의하십시오.

Bản báo cáo có ghi những chi tiết quan trọng về phẩm chất nước trong cộng đồng quý vị. Hãy nhờ người thông dịch, hoặc hỏi một người bạn biết rõ về vấn đề này.

Ce rapport contient des informations importantes à propos de votre eau potable. Demander à quelqu'un de traduire ces informations pour vous ou discuter avec une personne qui comprend ces informations.



Massachusetts Water Resources Authority And Your Local Water Department

## Where To Go For Further Information

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA)	<a href="http://www.mwra.com">www.mwra.com</a>	617-242-5323
Massachusetts Dept. of Environmental Protection	<a href="http://www.mass.gov/dep">www.mass.gov/dep</a>	617-292-5500
Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health (DPH)	<a href="http://www.mass.gov/dph">www.mass.gov/dph</a>	617-624-6000
Department of Conservation and Recreation	<a href="http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply">www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply</a>	617-626-1250
US Centers for Disease Control & Prevention (CDC)	<a href="http://www.cdc.gov">www.cdc.gov</a>	800-232-4636
List of State Certified Water Quality Testing Labs	<a href="http://www.mwra.com/testinglabs.html">www.mwra.com/testinglabs.html</a>	617-242-5323
Source Water Assessment and Protection Reports	<a href="http://www.mwra.com/sourcewater.html">www.mwra.com/sourcewater.html</a>	617-242-5323
Information on Water Conservation	<a href="http://www.mwra.com/conservation.html">www.mwra.com/conservation.html</a>	617-242-SAVE

## Public Meetings

MWRA Board of Directors	<a href="http://www.mwra.com/boardofdirectors.html">www.mwra.com/boardofdirectors.html</a>	617-788-1117
MWRA Advisory Board	<a href="http://www.mwraadvisoryboard.com">www.mwraadvisoryboard.com</a>	617-788-2050
Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee	<a href="http://www.mwra.com/wscac.html">www.mwra.com/wscac.html</a>	413-213-0454

For A Larger Print Version, Call 617-242-5323.

This report is required under the Federal Safe Drinking Water Act. MWRA PWS ID# 6000000





## MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Kathleen A. Theoharides,  
Chair

John J. Carroll,  
Vice Chair

Andrew M. Pappastergion,  
Secretary

Christopher Cook

Kevin L. Cotter

Paul E. Flanagan

Joseph C. Foti

Brian Peña

Henry F. Vitale

John J. Walsh

Jennifer L. Wolowicz

For more information on  
MWRA and its Board of  
Directors, visit  
[www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com).

Dear Customer,

I am pleased to share with you the results of our water quality testing for 2019. The hundreds of thousands of tests we take every year ensure your water is safe and of the highest quality, and every federal and state drinking water standard was met.

Of course, the coronavirus is first and foremost in everyone's mind this year. While this report looks back on water quality results from 2019, I want to assure you that your drinking water does not contain or carry the virus and that your water quality remains excellent. The dedicated women and men who run this critical water system have been hard at work throughout the pandemic – protecting the watersheds, running the treatment plants, taking samples every day and performing maintenance.

Lead in drinking water also remains an important issue and we continue to make progress on reducing the risk by treating the water to make it less corrosive, and working with our member communities to identify and remove lead service lines. More information can be found on pages 4 and 5 of this report.

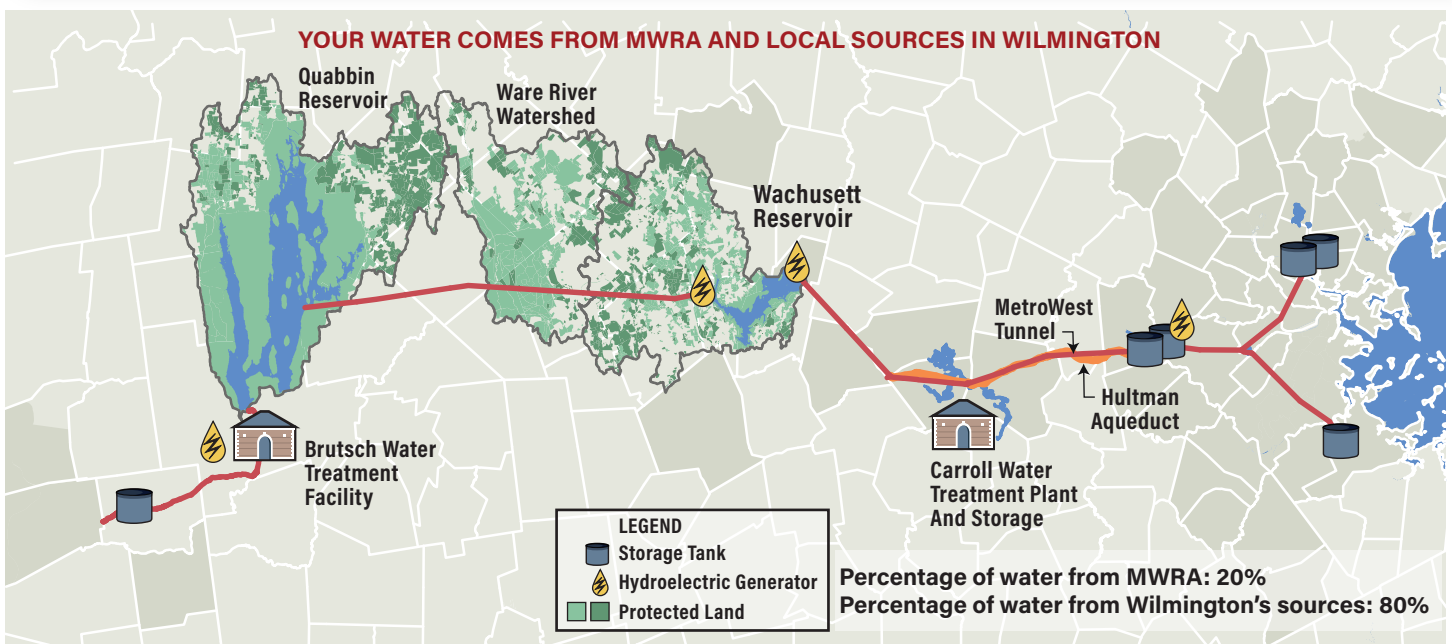
May 2020 also marked the 10th anniversary of the large water main break we had in Weston. Since that time, we have continued work on projects that allow us to re-route the water in the event of a break so that service will not be interrupted. We have begun the initial design phase for two new water tunnels that will allow us to inspect and make repairs to the existing tunnel system, although construction of this project is still several years away.

I hope you will take a few moments to read through this important report and get to know your water. We have great confidence in the water we deliver to your home and we want you to share that confidence. Please contact us if you have any questions about this report or any of MWRA's programs.

Sincerely,

Frederick A. Laskey

Executive Director





# YOUR DRINKING WATER



## FIND OUT ABOUT

# HOW WE PROVIDE SAFE DRINKING WATER



### COVID CONCERNS

Your water does not contain the coronavirus. Our well-protected watersheds and effective disinfection mean that you don't need to buy bottled water. Despite the emergency, we continue to run the system and monitor water quality.



Quabbin  
Reservoir  
Forest

**DID YOU KNOW?** Your water is monitored by a state-of-the-art system in real time —24 hours a day, seven days a week, before and after treatment—to make sure it is free of contaminants. This allows MWRA to rapidly respond to any changes in water quality.

MWRA maintains state-of-the-art treatment procedures to make sure your water is safe, fresh, and tastes great. Part of the reason that the water tastes so good is MWRA's advanced water treatment at the John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant in Marlborough. First, your water is treated with ozone—produced by pure oxygen. Ozone disinfects the water, killing bacteria, viruses and other organisms. It also improves water clarity and makes the water taste better. Next, we use ultraviolet light (UV) disinfection, further improving the quality of the water. UV light is essentially a more powerful form of the natural disinfection from sunlight, and further ensures that any pathogens in the water from our reservoirs are rendered harmless.

In addition, fluoride is added to promote dental health, and the water chemistry is adjusted

to reduce corrosion of home plumbing. Last, we add mono-chloramine (combining chlorine and ammonia), a mild and long-lasting disinfectant to provide continuing protection of the water as it travels through miles of pipelines to your home. **Your local water may have different treatment. Please see page 7.**

### Providing Reliable Service

MWRA is committed to providing a reliable supply of safe water to our customer communities. We plan for emergencies, train our staff on how to respond, and regularly drill to be sure we are prepared. During the coronavirus pandemic, MWRA activated its long-standing pandemic response plan to focus our staff resources on essential work, and protect the health of our staff so that we could continue to provide you water meeting all drinking water safety standards.

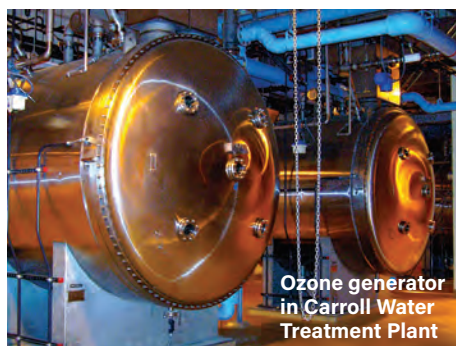
### Ensuring Redundancy

Redundant pipelines and tunnels allow inspection and maintenance of key facilities while ensuring uninterrupted service. We recently completed a second pipe to the north in Stoneham, Reading and Woburn, providing service to six communities, as well as the Wachusett Aqueduct Pumping Station in Marlborough, which now provides a second way to get water to the treatment

plant. We are also nearing completion of a redundant pipeline south of Boston. Design is underway to repair and improve the Weston Aqueduct Supply Main 3 in Weston, Waltham, Belmont, Arlington and Medford. And planning for two new tunnels north and south of Boston that will provide redundancy for the entire region is now well underway.

### On-going Pipeline Rehabilitation

MWRA continues to rehabilitate and replace pipelines throughout the distribution system to improve both reliability and water quality. MWRA also provides zero-interest loans to customer communities for local pipeline projects. In 2019, \$26.7 million was loaned to communities for 21 projects for the replacement or rehabilitation of older unlined pipes or replacement of lead service lines.



Ozone generator  
in Carroll Water  
Treatment Plant

### FACTS ABOUT SODIUM

Sodium in water contributes only a small fraction of a person's overall sodium intake (less than 5%). MWRA tests for sodium monthly and the highest level found was 40.7 mg/L (about 10 mg per 8 oz. glass). This would be considered Very Low Sodium by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

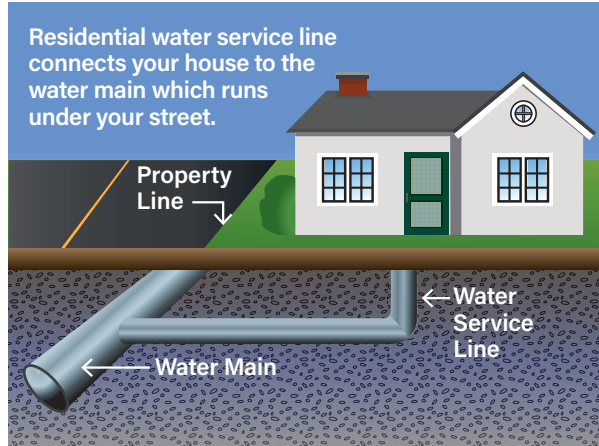


# FIND OUT ABOUT

# LEAD IN YOUR DRINKING WATER

## News on Lead in Tap Water

Lead in tap water continues to be in the news and you may have some concerns about the safety of your tap water. MWRA's water system has been below the Lead Action Level for 15 years. Of over 2,700 samples taken in the last 6 years, 98% were below this 15 ppb level.



## What You Need to Know—Lead in Your Tap Water

MWRA water is lead-free when it leaves our reservoirs. And MWRA and local pipes that carry the water to your community are made mostly of iron and steel, and don't add lead to the water. Lead can enter your tap water through pipes in your home, your service line (the line that connects your home to the water main) if it is made of lead, lead solder used in plumbing, or from some brass

fixtures. Corrosion or wearing away of lead-based materials can add lead to tap water, especially if water sits for a long time in the pipes before it is used.

MWRA's corrosion control program helps limit the amount of lead in your water. In 1996, MWRA began adding sodium carbonate and carbon dioxide to adjust the water's pH and buffering capacity. This change makes the water less corrosive and reduces leaching of lead into drinking water. Lead levels found in sample tests of tap water have dropped by about 90% since this treatment change. Learn more about lead in drinking water at [www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com).

## MWRA Meets Lead Standard in 2019

Under EPA rules, MWRA and your local water department must test tap water each year in a sample of homes likely to have high lead levels—those with lead

solder or lead service lines. The EPA rule requires that 9 out of 10, or 90% of the sampled homes must have lead levels below the Action Level of 15 ppb in their drinking water.

All sampling rounds over the past 15 years have been below the EPA Action Level. Results for the 451 samples taken in September 2019 are shown in the table. Nine out of ten homes were below 8 ppb—well below the Action Level of 15 ppb.

Your community letter on page 7 will provide you with local results and more information.

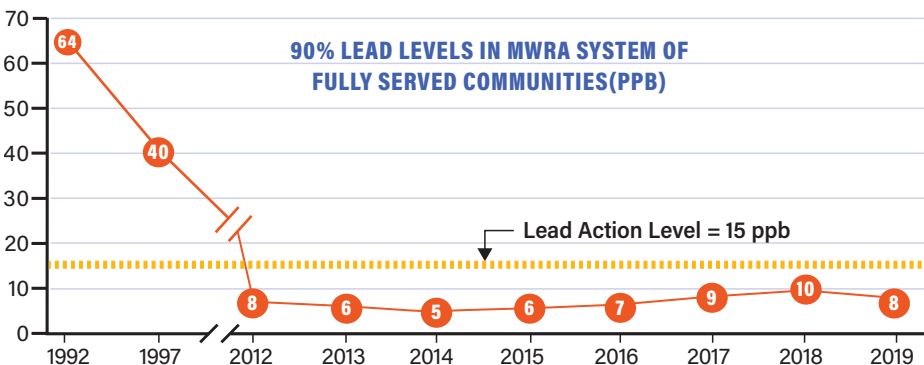


## Important Information from EPA about Lead

If present, elevated levels of lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. MWRA is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. If your water has been sitting for several hours, you can minimize the potential for lead exposure by flushing your tap for 30 seconds to 2 minutes before using water for drinking or cooking. If you are concerned about lead in your water, you may wish to have your water tested. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791 or [www.epa.gov/safewater/lead](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead).

LEAD AND COPPER RESULTS-2019	90% Value	Target Action Level	Ideal Goal (MCLG)	#Homes Above AL #Homes Tested
Lead (ppb)	7.97	15	0	16/451
Copper (ppm)	0.116	1.3	1.3	0/451

**KEY: AL=Action Level** - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.



## WHAT IS AN ACTION LEVEL?

An Action Level is the amount of lead that requires actions to reduce exposure. If your drinking water sample is above the Lead Action Level, you might need to take additional steps. If more than 10% of your community's samples were over the Lead Action Level, your water department is taking action. See page 7.

# REDUCING YOUR LEAD RISK



## WHY IS LEAD IN DRINKING WATER IMPORTANT?

Lead poisoning typically comes from exposure to lead paint dust or chips. But lead in drinking water also can contribute to total lead exposure. Depending on the kind of plumbing in your home, or the connection to the water main, lead levels in water can be elevated. To lower your family's risk for lead exposure, review the steps on this page.

### Remove Your Lead Pipe - Reduce Lead in Your Water

Lead can come from many sources in the home. A service line connects your building's plumbing to the water main in your street. In some older buildings, it is made of lead and can add significant amounts of lead to your drinking water. Removing and replacing it completely can eliminate the main source of lead in your drinking water. Preventing lead exposure is particularly important if a pregnant woman or child lives in the home or apartment.

#### Water Service Lines - Old And New

You can identify lead service line by carefully scratching with a key.



New Copper Service Line

### Do I Have a Lead Service Line?

Identifying and removing a lead service line can significantly reduce any lead in your drinking water.

One way to find out if you have a lead service line: Scratch the pipe near your water meter with a key. Lead pipes will show a dull grey or silver color, while copper pipes will not. To find out more about your service line contact your local water department. For more information go to [www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com).

### MWRA Program to Replace Lead Service Lines

MWRA and its Advisory Board approved \$100 million in zero-interest loans to member communities to fully replace lead service lines. Each community can develop its own local plan, and many communities have already moved forward. To find out more, please read your community letter on page 7 or contact your local water department.

### How Do I Test My Tap Water for Lead?

Go to the list of certified laboratories and sampling instructions available on the lead testing page at [www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com). You may also call MWRA at 617-242-5323 for additional information. Some communities have testing services available for their residents.

### Free Lead Testing For Schools

The plumbing in some schools can contain lead. To help communities identify problems with lead in school drinking water, MWRA provides free testing for schools and childcare centers. Water samples are tested at our laboratory and the results are provided to the local school, health and water departments. For more information, go to [www.mwra.com](http://www.mwra.com). We have completed over 38,000 tests from 478 schools across 44 communities. Most of the results are available on the DEP website at [www.mass.gov/dep](http://www.mass.gov/dep) (search for lead in schools). Results may also be available from your local school department.



### Reduce Exposure to Lead in Your Home

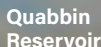

Lead can enter your drinking water through pipes in your home, or your

lead service line (that connects your home to the water main). Take these steps to reduce lead in your drinking water.

- Let the water run before using it: fresh water is better than stale. To save water, fill a pitcher with fresh water and place in the refrigerator for future use.
- Run each faucet used for drinking or cooking until after the water becomes cold anytime your water has not been used for more than six hours.
- Never use hot water from the faucet for drinking or cooking, especially when making baby formula or other food for infants or young children.
- Check your plumbing fixtures to make sure they are lead-free. Read the labels closely.
- Contact your local water department to find out if you have a lead service line—and find out how to replace it.
- Remove loose lead solder and debris. Every few months remove the aerator from each faucet in your home and flush the pipes for 3 to 5 minutes.
- Be careful of places where you may find lead in or near your home. Paint, soil, dust and pottery may contain lead. Call the Massachusetts Department of Public Health at 1-800-532-9571 or 1-800-424-LEAD for information on health and lead.

# MWRA'S WATER QUALITY PROGRAM

**r**







## Wilmington DPW - Water & Sewer Division

121 Glen Road  
Wilmington, Massachusetts 01887

Public Water Supply  
#3342000

Office of the Director  
115 Andover Street  
Wilmington, MA 01887

Telephone (978) 658-4711  
Fax (978) 694-2003  
TTY (978) 694-1417

**Wilmington Water Supply:** The Wilmington distribution system consists of over 138 miles of water main, 1250 public fire hydrants and three water storage tanks and provides drinking water to 99 percent of all residents and businesses in the Town. The Town has four active wells that serve as the primary supply of water for the system: Brown's Crossing, Barrow's, Shawsheen Avenue, and Salem Street. After being treated at one of the two water treatment plants, water is pumped to three storage tanks and to the homes and businesses throughout Wilmington. In times of high demand, MWRA (Massachusetts Water Resource Authority) water is used to supplement the Town's supply. On an annual basis, Town wells supply about 80 percent of water and MWRA provides about 20 percent.

**How Is My Water Treated?** The water is first aerated to improve taste and treated to remove iron and manganese. Alum is added to allow particles to clump together and settle out, and then the water is filtered through granulated activated carbon (GAC) beds. The water is disinfected with chlorine which is then converted to chloramine to keep the water safe within the distribution system, without increasing disinfection byproducts. More detailed information on our sources, treatment, and characteristics of the water you receive is available at <https://bit.ly/wqr2019wilmington>.

**What is in My Water?** Only the following regulated contaminants were detected in 2019. For more detailed information about our water quality test results, check the link above.

	MCL	MCLG	Average Detected	Range	Violation	Source
Haloacetic Acids-5	60 ppb	NS	23.4 ppb	0-80 ppb	No	Byproduct of disinfection
Total Trihalomethanes	80 ppb	NS	44.2 ppb	0-88 ppb	No	Byproducts of disinfection
Nitrate	10 ppm	10 ppm	0.76 ppm	0.1-0.76 ppm	No	Fertilizer runoff, septic tanks, natural deposits
Nitrite	1 ppm	1 ppm	0.095 ppm	0-0.095 ppm	No	Fertilizer runoff, septic tanks, natural deposits
Barium	2 ppm	2 ppm	0.026 ppm	0.026 ppm	No	Common mineral in nature
Sodium	NS	20 ppm	69.9 ppm	69.9 ppm	No	Common mineral in nature
Monochloramine	4 ppm	4 ppm	1.86 ppm	0.3-2.6 ppm	No	Erosion of natural deposits

**Lead and Copper Sampling:** To comply with the EPA Lead and Copper Rule, the Wilmington Water Division completed its latest round of lead and copper sampling in June of 2019. Wilmington remains in compliance as the 90th percentile sample results, 3.6 ppb for lead and 78.8 ppb for copper, are below the EPA action levels of 15 ppb for lead and 1300 ppb for copper. No sites were above the action level.

**PFAS testing:** Wilmington conducted voluntary testing for PFAS compounds during 2019. There is no current federal or state standard, and Massachusetts is proposing a standard of 20 parts per trillion (ppt) for a group of six of the PFAS compounds. We found only one, PFOA, and the highest result was 3.3 ppt, which is well below the proposed state standard of 20 ppt.

**Mandatory Outdoor Water Restrictions:** NO Outdoor Watering between the hours of 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM.

**Sprinkler Systems:** Both above ground or installed underground, can be used once per week, subject to the restrictions above.  
VIOLATION OF THESE WATER USE RESTRICTIONS WILL RESULT IN A MINIMUM \$50.00 PER DAY FINE!

**Water & Sewer Commission Meetings:** The Commission meets the 3rd Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m. at the Town Hall, unless otherwise posted. Please call in advance if you want to discuss a specific issue, and we will include your topic on our agenda.

If you would like to see a copy of our Source Water Assessment & Protection Program (SWAP) Report, it is available at the Wilmington Water Division and online at [www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/3342000.pdf](http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/drinking/3342000.pdf). For more detailed information, call us at (978) 658-4711 or go to [www.wilmingtonma.gov/water-sewer-division](http://www.wilmingtonma.gov/water-sewer-division).

Joseph Lobao, Utility & Business Manager  
Department of Public Works



