

A Message from the Board:

The elected Board of Water Commissioners, which oversees the Water Department operations and staff, continues to take measures to ensure that our water supply is adequate to meet our fire protection and drinking water needs. Cotuit relies on a small wellfield (247 acres total) compared to most water suppliers that have 1000+ acres to locate their production wells. Cape Cod is in a state of significant drought this spring, and with the summer season of peak demand only a few months away, please be mindful of your water usage to help us to conserve our limited supply.

Last year we pumped 165 million gallons of water: + 15% more than we pumped in 2023. Demand is still down -18% from the 2022 peak, but this relatively dry winter hasn't recharged the aquifer back to where it typically stands in the early spring. In the past year, we adjusted our rates to accomplish two purposes: to ensure that everyone has affordable access to a minimum amount of drinking water, we reduced our rate by half for the first 20,000 gallons per year from \$80 to \$40. As an offset, we increased the rates by 15% for the top tiers of heavy users. Our records show that 60% of customers will experience no increase in rates, but 100% will enjoy a small reduction for the initial 20,000 gallons used. The heaviest users, and those being charged the most, seem to be those with inground irrigation systems. We have seen a marked increase in these consumers opting to provide their own on-site water supply for irrigation (114 new wells since 2019), lessening the burden on our public wells. Eighty percent of these private wells are outside of our public well recharge areas, so they are not drawing from the same water source. We have also instituted a ban on new irrigation systems connecting to our public water supply.

The new rates have not resulted in any discernible loss of revenues for the District. The Water Department operations are fully supported by water revenues and other income sources, not the District tax.

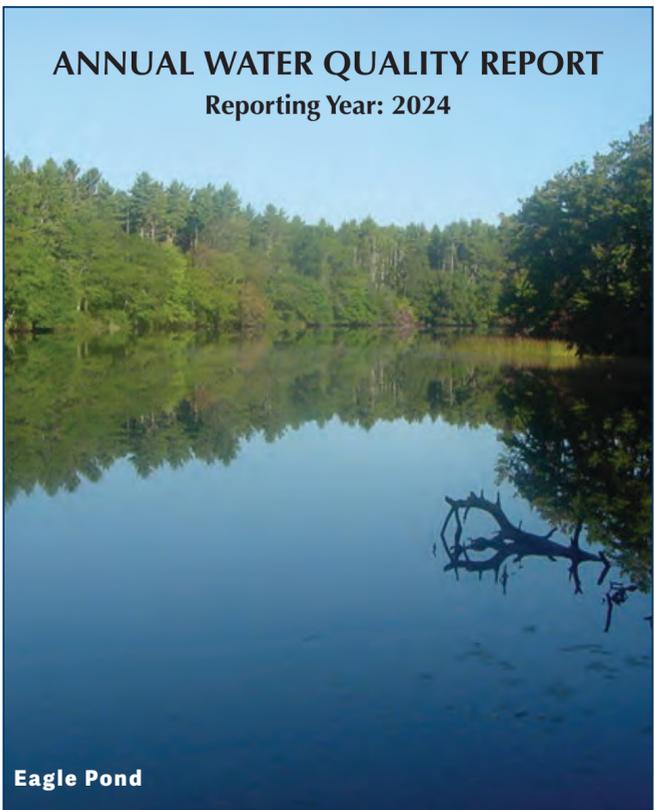
We are pleased to report that Cotuit's water quality continues to meet all state and federal regulations. The water department staff continuously tests the water for a broad range of potential contaminants that include naturally occurring substances such as iron and manganese, as well as "artificial" contaminants such as the so-called "forever" chemicals known as PFAS (Perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances). In October the board of water commissioners convened a public workshop on sodium levels and is working with state and regional experts to determine the source of rising sodium levels in every public water supply on the Cape. PFAS has been detected in Cotuit's water, but at levels below the thresholds set by the State and the Federal Environmental Protection Agency. The chemicals are ubiquitous in most drinking water supplies, including bottled water. Please be mindful of the products you use and dispose of down the drain, as many everyday household items—from microwave popcorn bags to Teflon pans—contain PFAS.

The board continues to collaborate with our elected state officials to amend the Fire District's enabling legislation, allowing the water department to collaborate with private property owners on improvements to protect our sole water source. As of this report, the proposed amendment has been filed in the state legislature and is awaiting committee review before proceeding to the House and Senate for a vote.

The Board of Water Commissioners extends its gratitude to the Cotuit Water Department staff for their hard work and outstanding customer service to the people of Cotuit. Despite the challenges of maintaining a full staff, they have gone above and beyond to ensure uninterrupted service and continued water quality. We sincerely appreciate their dedication.

| 2024 COTUIT WATER FACTS | | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------------|--|
| Population Supplied: | Winter: | 3,292 | |
| | Summer: | 4,936 | |
| Accounts: 2,329 | | | |
| Total Pumpage: | 165,474,000 Gallons | | |
| Largest Day: | 07/22/2024 | 1,404,000 Gallons | |
| Interconnections: 4 (No water was used from these sources in 2024) | | | |
| 3 with C-O-MM Water; 1 with Mashpee Water | | | |
| Miles of water mains: 53 | | | |
| Storage Tanks: 2 (800,000 gallon total capacity) | | | |
| No. of Hydrants: 444 | | | |
| The pH of water on Cape Cod is acidic and ranges from 4.7 to 6.5 (pH is the measure of acidity or alkalinity of a liquid). On the pH scale, the number 7 is neutral, less than 7 is acidic and more than 7 is alkaline. Due to the lower pH in our water, we add a harmless substance (hydrated lime) to the water to reduce corrosion in the distribution system and in your home. | | | |
| Fluoride is not added to the drinking water supplied by the Cotuit Water Department. Any fluoride detected in our water comes from naturally occurring sources. | | | |

| FLUSHING PROGRAM | |
|--|--|
| The water mains are flushed every Spring as part of a preventive maintenance program to ensure that the water quality is not being compromised. Flushing notices are published in the Barnstable Patriot and posted on the District website. Daily flushing locations are also posted on the District website and on Facebook. | |
| Prior to the designated flushing period, collect water for drinking, cooking or other consumption purposes. During the designated flushing period you may experience water discoloration or sediment. Using water during flushing may result in staining or sediment in laundry, ice machines, dishwasher, bath tubs or hot water tanks. | |
| FLUSH YOUR SYSTEM WITH COLD WATER BEFORE RETURNING TO NORMAL USE. | |



SUPERINTENDENT
Chris Wiseman
 P.O. Box 451 • Cotuit MA 02635
 PWS ID # 4020003

THIS REPORT CONTAINS VERY IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER. PLEASE TRANSLATE IT, OR SPEAK WITH SOMEONE WHO UNDERSTANDS IT.

| 2024 Monitoring Results | | | | | | | | | |
|---|----------------------|----------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|
| Regulated Contaminants | Unit of Measure | Date Collected | MCL MRDL | MCLG MRDLG | Highest Detection | Range of Detection | Violation | Possible Sources of Contamination | |
| Microbiological Contaminants | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Coliform | Positive or Negative | 2024 | TT | 0 | 0 | NA | NO | Naturally present in the environment | |
| E. coli | Positive or Negative | 2024 | - | 0 | 0 | NA | NO | Human and Animal fecal waste | |
| Inorganic Contaminants | | | | | | | | | |
| Nitrate | ppm | 2024 | 10 | 10 | 2.4 | 1.6-2.4 | NO | Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage, erosion of natural deposits | |
| Nitrite | ppm | 2023 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | NO | | |
| Barium | ppm | 2024 | 2 | 2 | 0.062 | .018-.062 | NO | Erosion of natural deposits | |
| Disinfection By-Products | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Haloacetic Acids (HAA5) | ppb | 2024 | 60 | NA | 1.18 | 0-1.18 | NO | By product of drinking water disinfection | |
| Total Trihalomethane (TTHM) | ppb | 2024 | 80 | NA | 6.3 | 4.1 - 6.3 | NO | By product of drinking water disinfection | |
| Radioactive Contaminants | | | | | | | | | |
| Gross Alpha Activity | pCi/L | 2021 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NO | Erosion of natural deposits | |
| Combined Radium | pCi/L | 2021 | 5 | 0 | 1.1 | .22-1.1 | NO | Decay of natural and manmade deposits | |
| | | | Action Level | | 90th Percentile | # of sites above AL | | | |
| Lead & Copper | | | | | | | | | |
| Lead (20 sample sites) | ppb | 2022 | 15 | 15 | 0.0014 | 0 | NO | Corrosion of household plumbing | |
| Copper (20 sample sites) | ppm | 2022 | 1.3 | 1.3 | 0.25 | 0 | NO | Corrosion of household plumbing | |
| | | | MCL | Highest Detection | | Range of Detection | Violation | | |
| PFAS | | | | | | | | | |
| Perfluorooctane sulfonic Acid (PFOS6) | ppt | 2024 | 20 | 2.17 | | 0-2.17 | NO | Discharge and emissions from industrial and manufacturing sources associated with the production or use of these PFAS, including production of moisture and oil resistant coatings on fabrics and other materials. Additional sources include the use and disposal of products containing these PFAS, such as fire-fighting foam. | |
| Non-Regulated Substances | | | | | | | | | |
| Chloroform | ppb | 2024 | 70 | 0 | 0 | 0 | NO | Naturally occurring sources | |
| Manganese | ppb | 2024 | 300 | 50 | 47.6 | 12-79 | NO | Erosion of natural deposits | |
| Sodium | ppm | 2024 | 20 | 0 | 23.21 | 14-37 | NO | Naturally occurring salt deposits; storm water runoff | |
| Sulfate | ppm | 2024 | 0 | 250 | 776 | 7.2-9.1 | NO | Naturally occurring sources | |
| | | | Unit of Measure | Date Collected | ORSG | Highest Detection | Range of Detection | Violation | Possible Sources of Contamination |
| Perfluorobutranche sulfonic Acid (PFBS) | ppt | 2024 | NA | 2.09 | | 1.23-2.09 | NO | Man-made chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant. | |
| Perfluorohexanoic acid (PFHxA) | ppt | 2024 | NA | 2.37 | | 0-2.37 | NO | Man-made chemical; used in products to make them stain, grease, heat and water resistant. | |

Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, bacteria may be present.

Chloroform - is a trihalomethane (THM). The maximum THM level allowed in drinking water is 100 ppb. Levels of chloroform below 60 ppb are generally considered not to be a health risk. Testing is done annually.

Sodium - sensitive individuals, such as those experiencing hypertension, kidney failure, or congestive heart failure, should be aware of the sodium levels in drinking water where exposures are being carefully controlled.

MassDEP has reduced the monitoring requirement for certain contaminants to less often than once per year because the source is not at risk of contamination. The last sample collected for these contaminants were taken on the date noted in the table and were found to meet all applicable EPA and MassDEP standards.

Lead in Drinking Water

"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. Cotuit Water is responsible for providing high quality drinking water, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components. When 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 or at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>."

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs and wells. As water travels over the surface of the land or through the ground, it can acquire naturally occurring minerals, in some cases, radioactive material, and substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity.

Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

- **Microbial contaminants**, such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.
- **Inorganic contaminants**, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from stormwater runoff, industrial or domestic wastewater discharge, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.
- **Pesticides and herbicides**, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm water runoff, and residential uses.
- **Organic chemical contaminants**, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, or septic systems.
- **Radioactive contaminants**, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

To ensure that tap water is safe to drink, the DEP & EPA prescribes regulations limiting the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Mass Dept. of Health regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water, which must provide the same protection for public health.

Drinking water, including bottled water may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information can be obtained by calling the EPA's Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1-800-426-4791

SPECIAL HEALTH INFORMATION

Based on studies of laboratory animals, people exposed to elevated levels of PFBS for several years could experience effects on the liver, thyroid, blood and kidneys. Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be at particular risk from infections. These people should seek advice from their health care providers. EPA/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1-800-426-4791.

Terms & Abbreviations

ppm - Parts per million - or milligrams per liter (mg/l)

ppb - Parts per billion - or micrograms per liter (ug/l)

ppt - Parts per trillion - or nanograms per liter (ng/l).

AL - Action Level - the concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements which a water system must follow.

MCL - Maximum Contaminant Level - The highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology. MCL's are set at very stringent levels.

MCLG - Maximum Contaminant Level Goal - The level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

MRDL - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

MRDLG - Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Unregulated Contaminants - Unregulated contaminants are substances without MCLs for which EPA requires monitoring. For some of these substances, the Massachusetts Office of Research and Standards (ORS) has developed state guidelines or secondary MCLs.

(ORS) Massachusetts Office of Research and Standard Guidelines - This is the concentration of a chemical in drinking water, at or below which, adverse health effects are unlikely to occur after chronic (lifetime) exposure, with a margin of safety. If exceeded it serves as an indicator of the potential need for further action.

SMCL - Secondary maximum contaminant level. These standards are developed to protect the aesthetic qualities of drinking water and are not health based.

pCi/L - PicoCuries per liter - Measure of radioactivity of water.

90th percentile - out of every 10 homes tested, 9 were at or below this level.

TT - Treatment Technique - A required process intended to reduce the level of a contaminant in drinking water.

Source Water Assessment and Protection (SWAP)

What is a SWAP?
 The Source Water Assessment Protection (SWAP) program assesses the susceptibility of public water supplies to potential contamination by microbiological pathogens and chemicals.

What Is My System's Ranking?
 A susceptibility ranking of high, was assigned to this system using the information collected during the assessment by the DEP. A source's susceptibility to contamination does not imply poor water quality. Actual water quality is best reflected by the results of regular water tests. To learn more about your water quality, refer to this report.

Where Can I See The SWAP Report?
 The complete SWAP report is available at the Water Department Office and Board of Health. For more information, call Superintendent Chris Wiseman at 508-428-2687.

Residents Can Help Protect Sources By:

- practicing good septic system maintenance
- taking hazardous household chemicals to hazardous materials collection days at the Barnstable Transfer Station.
- limiting pesticide and fertilizer use, etc.

| SYSTEM MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENTS |
|---|
| ✦ Annual leak detection program was completed. |
| ✦ Performed gate exercise program to ensure proper functionality. |
| ✦ Performed annual water main flushing to remove naturally occurring debris and settlement. |
| ✦ Lewis Pond Road water main replaced. |

MEETING SCHEDULE

The Board of Water Commissioners meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 5:45 P.M. at Freedom Hall or via Zoom. Meetings are subject to change and are posted at the Town Hall, Freedom Hall and the District website (www.cotuitfiredistrict.org).

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
 David Churbuck, Chairman
 Mark Robinson, Commissioner
 Scott Horsley, Commissioner

IRRIGATION REGULATIONS

To protect and conserve the public drinking water supply the Board of Water Commissioners (BOWC) have instituted the following policies:

- Effective 8/30/2021, the BOWC shall no longer allow any new automatic inground irrigation systems to be connected to the public water supply system.
- Existing customers with irrigation systems are encouraged to install private onsite irrigation wells.
- Monitoring and maintenance of irrigation system including smart sensors, sprinkler heads and water lines to mitigate the loss of water. Systems are subject to inspection by the Water Department.
- The BOWC reserves the right to institute and enforce reductions, restrictions or bans on all outside use in accordance with the District Bylaws and associated State Laws.
- The full policy can be found on the district website www.cotuitfiredistrict.org/waterdepartment/. Violations of this policy are subject to penalties and fines.

CROSS CONNECTION

Cross connection is the interconnection of a potable (drinkable) water line with non-potable piece of equipment or piping. Examples of non-potable equipment may include fire protections systems, lawn irrigation systems, air conditioning or cooling systems as well as high pressure boilers.

Through the implementation of our cross connection program, commercial businesses have been surveyed and proper backflow devices have been installed. These devices are tested as regulated.

Check valves have been installed as part of meter installations in residential homes since the late 70's. The department highly recommends using a licensed plumber, as they are knowledgeable with check valve operation.

WHERE DOES COTUIT'S WATER COME FROM?
 The Cotuit Water Department draws water from five groundwater wells located on 244 acres of District-owned land. Three stations are on Sampsons Mill Road, one is on Main Street and one is on Rte. 28.

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