



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

100 CAMBRIDGE STREET, BOSTON MA 02114

Report of the Findings, Justifications, and Decision of the Water Resources Commission

The Town of Plainville's Lake Mirimichi Wellfield

April 10, 2025 Amendment to the March 11, 2004

Decision Under the Interbasin Transfer Act

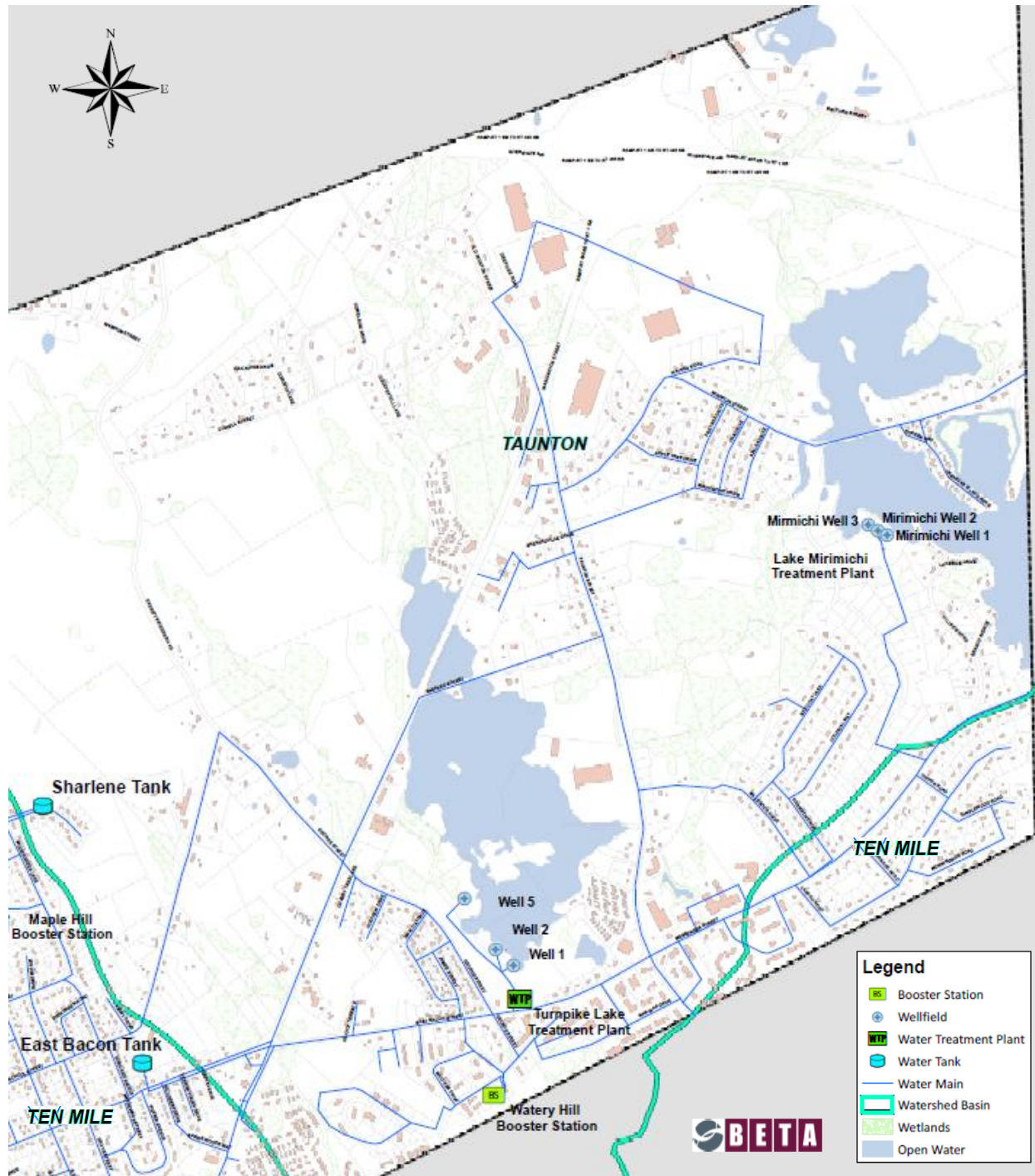
MGL Chapter 21 Sections 8B - 8D

Background

In March 2004, the Town of Plainville (Town) received approval under the Interbasin Transfer Act (ITA) to transfer wastewater from the Taunton River Basin to the Ten Mile River Basin. This approval was documented in the March 11, 2004, Massachusetts Water Resources Commission (WRC) Decision for Plainville's Lake Mirimichi wellfield. The Town received approval to pump up to 0.4 million gallons per day (MGD) of water from the Lake Mirimichi wellfield in the Taunton River Basin section of Plainville, to be used within Plainville and discharged as wastewater to the North Attleborough Wastewater Treatment Plant in the Ten Mile River Basin.

The Town is currently proposing a project in the vicinity of Turnpike Lake, also in the Taunton River Basin, that includes the development of a new water supply well, relocation of an existing water supply well, and construction of a new water treatment plant (WTP) that has a maximum capacity of 1.5 MGD. The existing Turnpike Lake WTP's maximum hydraulic capacity is estimated to be approximately 1 MGD, based on documented peak flows. However, the existing WTP was constructed in 1990, and the ITA regulations (313 CMR 4.00) define the present rate of interbasin transfer as "The Hydraulic Capacity of a Transfer Facility or Transfer System which was authorized, constructed or useable without additional installation of facilities or changes in any authority or operating rule prior to March 8, 1984." Two wells with capacities of 460 gallons per minute (GPM) and 525 GPM were constructed in 1967 and 1973, respectively, prior to the effective date of the ITA, which equals a total maximum capacity of 1.418 MGD. This volume represents the present rate of interbasin transfer as of 1984. The proposed WTP's hydraulic capacity of 1.5 MGD represents the new proposed rate of interbasin transfer, resulting in a 0.082 MGD increase over the present rate of 1.418 MGD for the Turnpike Lake site. Figure 1 shows a map of the relevant areas of Plainville's water supply system in the Taunton River Basin. There is a water treatment plant and associated wells located on the southwestern side of Turnpike Lake. Lake Mirimichi, with its water treatment plant and associated wells, is located to the northeast of Turnpike Lake.

Figure 1: Town of Plainville's Water Supply System Map



Town of Plainville's ITA Amendment Request

On February 26, 2025, WRC staff received a request from the Town to amend the 2004 WRC Decision for the Lake Mirimichi wellfield. Plainville is proposing to relinquish a portion of the previously approved interbasin transfer volume of 0.4 MGD of wastewater from the Taunton River Basin to the Ten Mile River Basin. Specifically, the Town is proposing to relinquish 0.1 MGD of the 0.4 MGD Lake Mirimichi approval and reallocate the 0.1 MGD volume to the wells and WTP at Turnpike Lake. This action does not increase the overall rate of interbasin transfer but requires an amendment of the existing approval. Table 1 provides a summary of the current and proposed interbasin transfer volumes.

Table 1: Summary of the current and proposed interbasin transfer volumes by well site

Interbasin Transfer Volume by Site	Current	Proposed
Turnpike Lake wells' approved ITA volume	1.418	1.518
Lake Mirimichi wells' approved ITA volume	0.4	0.3
Total rate of interbasin transfer	1.818	1.818

**all volumes in million gallons per day (MGD)*

The WRC acknowledges that the Lake Mirimichi wells are not currently in use, due to subpar performance and water quality. However, as long as these wells remain available for use (i.e., have not been decommissioned), the Conditions related to their use that were described in the 2004 WRC Decision are still applicable. Conditions that are not specific to the use of the Lake Mirimichi wells, such as the water conservation Conditions, also remain in force.

WRC staff will work with staff from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection's Water Management Act (WMA) Program to reflect the reduction of the Lake Mirimichi wellfield's maximum daily capacity in Plainville's WMA permit.

WRC Decision

After review and consideration of the request to amend the 2004 WRC Decision, on April 10, 2025 **the WRC approved Plainville's request to relinquish a portion of its previously approved wastewater interbasin transfer from the Lake Mirimichi wellfield, by the amount of 0.1 MGD, for a modified approved transfer rate of 0.3 MGD. The 0.1 MGD transfer volume will be reallocated to the Turnpike Lake wells and treatment plant.** This action does not cause an increase in the overall rate of interbasin transfer. Any future increase in the rate of interbasin transfer will require WRC review and approval. Accordingly, the Town of Plainville should consult with WRC staff in the event the Town seeks additional volume or water supply sources, or changes the capacity of its water supply system or the ability to transfer water or wastewater out of the town and basin.