

Lynnfield Center Water District's Proposal to Obtain Supplemental Water Supply from MWRA Under the Interbasin Transfer Act

WRC Draft Staff Recommendation

February 13, 2025

Facts Pertaining to the Application

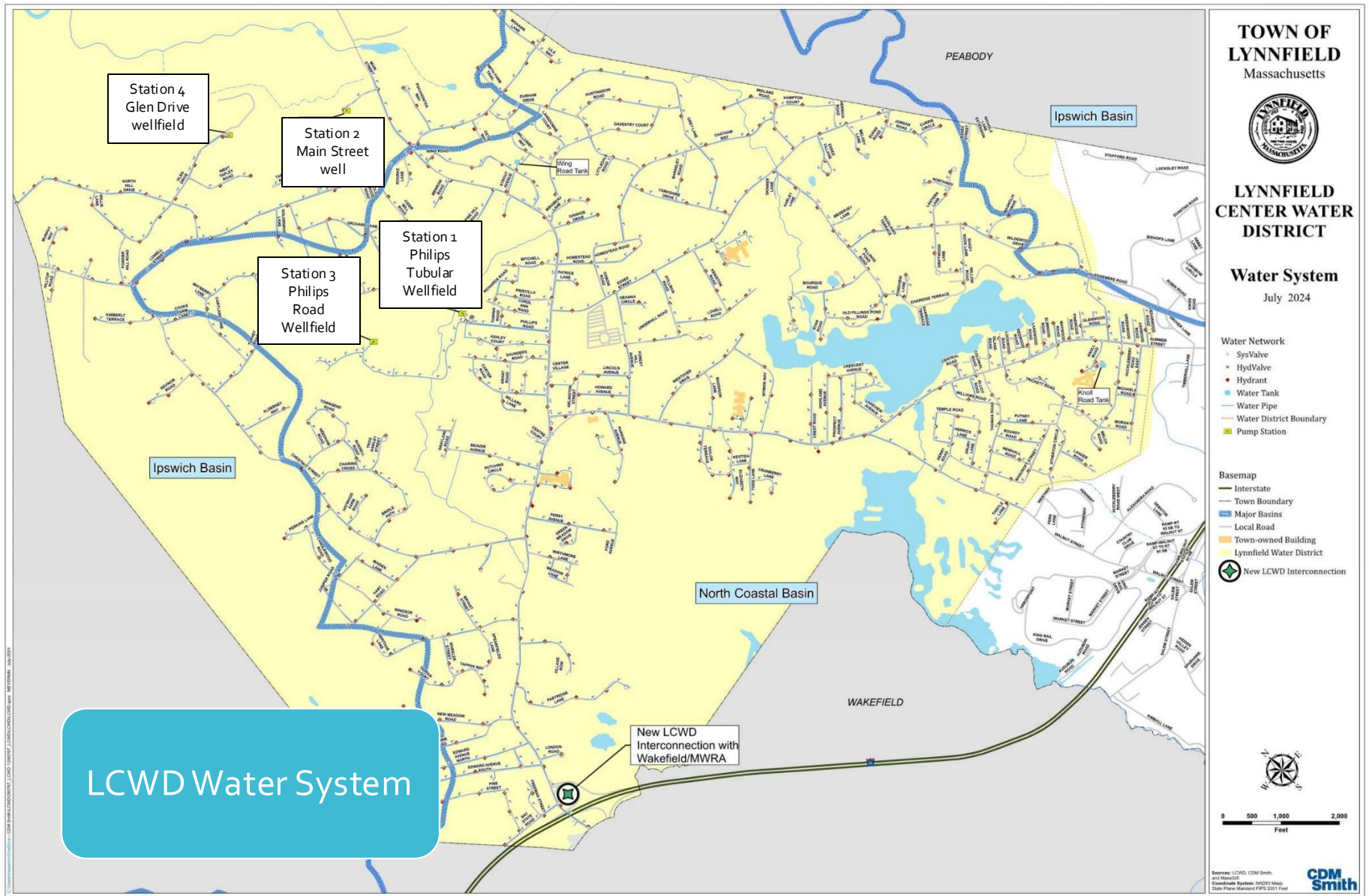
Lynnfield Center Water District's (LCWD's) water supply consists of 4 groundwater sources in the Ipswich River and North Coastal Basins

Several sources are contaminated with PFAS, manganese, iron, and nitrate

- Treatment is/will be in place for PFAS, iron, manganese
- The Phillips Road tubular wellfield is offline due to elevated levels of nitrate

LCWD is applying for admission to MWRA, which has its sources in the Chicopee River and Nashua River Basins

Maximum proposed transfer of 0.83 million gallons per day (MGD)





The Secretary's Certificate on the Single EIR was issued on November 29, 2024, stating that no further MEPA review is needed.



The WRC voted to accept LCWD's application as complete on December 12, 2024.



Public hearings were held via Zoom for the donor and receiving basins on January 14 and January 15, 2025. Written public comments were accepted until January 22, 2025.



Comments received from the Ipswich River Watershed Association at the receiving basin hearing and in writing were in favor of the project and requested a formal water conservation plan.

More Facts

Criteria of the Act

Criteria	Application Meets?
Criterion #1: MEPA Compliance	Yes
Criterion #2: Viable In-Basin Sources	Yes
Criterion #3: Water Conservation	Yes, with conditions
Criterion #4: Forestry Management	Not Applicable
Criterion #5: Reasonable Instream Flow	Yes
Criterion #6: Groundwater/Pumping Test	Not Applicable
Criterion #7: Cumulative Impacts	Yes

Criterion 2: Viable In- Basin Sources



Water quality issues



2 of 4 existing sources in the stressed Ipswich River Basin



Alternatives reviewed: new source(s) in LCWD territory, municipal interconnection, connection to MWRA



Recommended alternative: interconnection to MWRA through Wakefield

Criterion 3: Water Conservation

Meets many elements of the updated Performance Standards for water conservation including:

- Rgpcd, pricing, billing, leak detection, metering, source protection

While LCWD does not have a formal water conservation plan, documentation provided adequately outlines its water conservation program.

Conditions to fully meet all elements of the updated Performance Standards:

- UAW, drought plan updates, public and ICI outreach/education, water loss control program

Over the last 5 years (2019-2023), rgpcd averaged 62.6 and UAW averaged 12.2%. In 2023, rgpcd was 56 and UAW was 21%.

Criterion 5:
Reasonable
Instream
Flow
&
Criterion 7:
Cumulative
Impacts

Criterion 5 evaluates whether reasonable instream flow in the river from which the water is transferred is maintained

Criterion 7 evaluates cumulative impacts of all past, authorized or proposed transfers on streamflows, groundwater, lakes, ponds, reservoirs or other impoundments in the donor basin and relevant sub-basins

Criterion 5: Reasonable Instream Flow & Criterion 7: Cumulative Impacts



Reviewed the 0.83 MGD maximum day transfer



Also reviewed cumulative impacts of LCWD plus prior MWRA approvals (e.g., Bedford, Stoughton, Reading, Wilmington, Ashland, Burlington)



No change in reservoir operations due to proposed LCWD transfer; downstream flows will continue to meet all applicable regulatory requirements



No impacts to other resources listed in the regulations (e.g., fisheries, endangered species, hydropower)



LCWD must commit in writing to abide by any required conditions. Conditions include:



Documentation of water bank program and outdoor water use restriction bylaw



Additional rebate and water conservation resources, ICI outreach to encourage conservation



Continue annual M36 audits, use results to inform water loss control program to achieve $\leq 10\%$ UAW

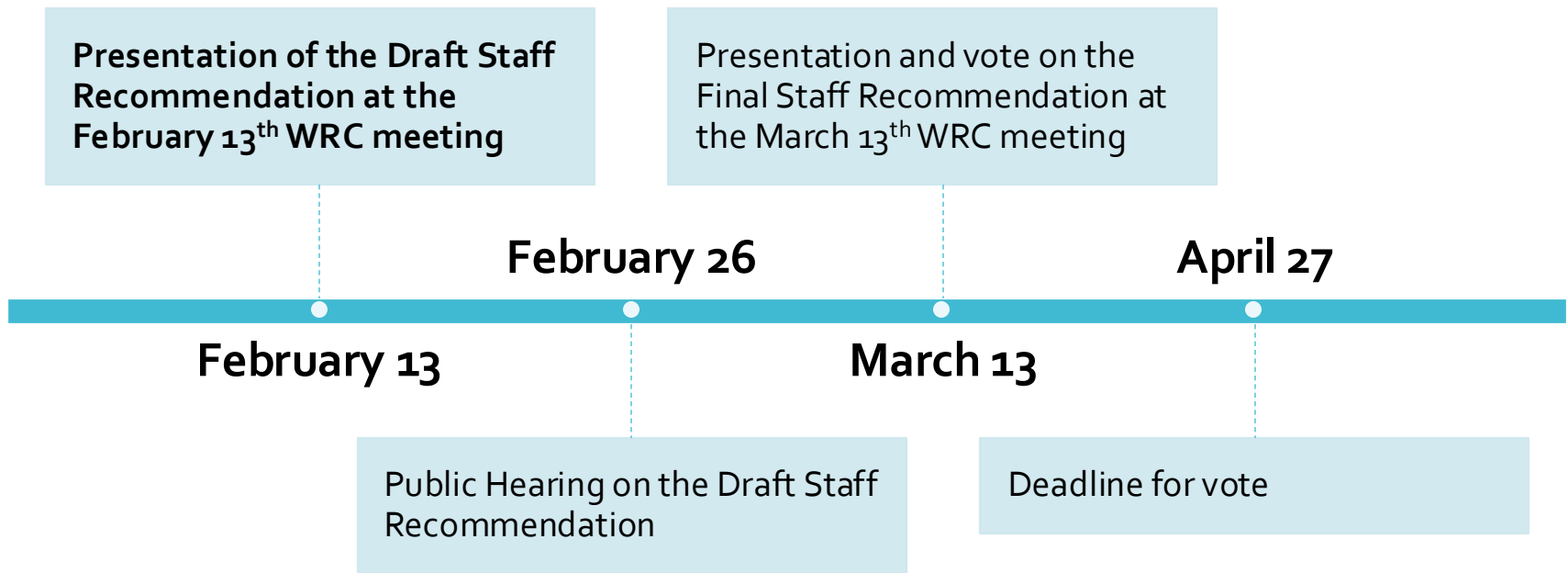


Continue annual master meter calibration services



Revise DMP to define triggers and match state DMP guidelines

Conditions of the Approval



Next Steps