



Water Management Act Stakeholder Meeting

**February 25, 2021
1- 3 pm**

Agenda

Item 1: Welcome and Introductions

Item 2: WMA Permit Renewals Update

Item 3: 2021 Registration Renewal Update

- Alternative Restriction Criteria
- Drought Management Plan Elements

Item 4: Next Steps



WMA Stakeholders

- **AIM** (Sheree Gaus)
- **RPA** (Martin Pillsbury)
- **MMA** (Ariela Lovett)
- **Watershed Organization** (Ian Cooke)
- **Water Works** (Eric Hooper)
- **Agricultural Association** (Brian Wick)
- **Environmental Organization** (Julia Blatt)
- **Well Driller Assoc.** (Roger Skillings)
- **Consumer Organization** (TBD)
- **2 Public Members** (Wayne Castonguay & Jennifer Pederson)



WMA Permit Renewals

- 8 of 26 Basins with permits have renewal process underway
 - 8 basins represent 154 of the 344 permits
- In 2021 the Buzzards Bay and Islands Basins begin review process (42 additional permits)
 - Additional basins will begin the review process in our central and western regions
- Overall renewal volumes appear to be trending slightly lower than the prior allocations
- Range of Direct and Indirect mitigation activities have been credited.



2021 Registration Renewal



Registration Renewals

- WMA (M.G.L. c. 21G, Section 5) states:
 - *“the registrant shall be entitled, upon the filing of a renewal registration statement, to continue existing withdrawals specified in the registration statement for a period of ten years.”*
- **Renewal requests** are filed 6 months prior to the Registration Statement expiration date on forms provided by DEP
- **Registration Statements**
 - will expire on December 31, 2021
 - cannot exceed 10 years





Registration Renewal Proposal

- During drought- condition nonessential water use
 - Align registrations with Drought Management Plan using drought status

State Drought Plan	Nonessential Outdoor Water-Use Restrictions
Level 1-Mild	1 day per week watering, before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m.
Level 2-Significant	Hand-held hoses or watering cans only, before 9 a.m. or after 5 p.m.
Level 3-Critical	Ban on all nonessential outdoor water use
Level 4- Emergency	Ban on all nonessential outdoor water use

Alternative Restrictions Criteria

- Registered only systems supplied entirely by surface water reservoirs
- Multiple years of Reservoir Storage
 - Useable Reservoir Storage greater than 3 times the registered volume plus any required releases
 - Useable Reservoir Storage applies only to active water supply reservoirs that do not need further MassDEP approval for use



Drought Management Plan Elements

Must present an approved plan that demonstrates systems can meet the following criteria:

- Drought stages determined by:
 - actual or modeled historical levels to set triggers shall include the drought of record;
 - days of supply remaining and seasonal levels of demand;
 - predicted drawdown and refill probabilities using appropriate models; or
 - a functionally equivalent method.
- Menu of actions triggered at each drought stage including restrictions;
- Protocols for communicating drought stages & actions to public, and officials;
- A strategy for establishing local enforcement authority & penalties for violations;
- A system to monitor and document water use reductions





Golf Conditions

87 Registered
vs.
62 permitted

Registered Golf Courses would be required to implement Seasonal Demand Management Plan with graduated reductions in nonessential irrigation based on drought levels.

**Irrigation can be reduced either by reducing irrigation times, or by irrigating fewer acres
Watering allowed up to designated percent**

MA Drought Level	Tees & Greens	Fairways	Roughs	Landscape & Ornamentals
Normal	100% Essential Use	100%	100%	100%
Level 1 (Mild)		80%†	50%†	Courses whose core business includes a special event venue may continue to irrigate gardens, flowers and ornamental plants by means of hand-held hose or drip irrigation
Level 2 (Significant)		60%†	0%	
Level 3 (Critical)		40%†		
Level 4 (Emergency) **		TBD	0%	0%

† Irrigation use shall not occur between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., except that hand-watering of hot spots may occur at any time

** Additional actions to be determined by the Governor's Emergency Proclamation.



Next Steps for Registration Renewals (and Regulation Change Steps)

- **January - February 2021 - Convene Advisory/Stakeholder Group**
- **March - June 2021**
 - Internal development and review
 - Initial presentation to Water Resources Commission
 - Draft regulations released
 - Public comment and Public hearing Process
 - **Distribute Registration Renewal Request forms**
 - **June 1, 2021 – MassDEP sends a renewal reminder notice to all Registrants**
 - **June 30, 2021 – Last day for Registrants to file Renewal Request forms**
- **July - August 2021**
 - Prepare response to comments and revise draft regulations accordingly
 - Water Resources Commission approval
- **September - October 2021 - Promulgate final regulations**
- **November - December 2021 – Prepare & issue Registration Renewals**

Questions and Comments

