



**AQUARION**  
*Water Company*

*Stewards of the Environment™*

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**Aquarion Initiatives Extend Hingham's Water Supply Through 2030**

HINGHAM, MA. – Through the efficient management and operations of its water supplies, aggressive leak detection program, and water conservation efforts, Aquarion's current water supply is adequate through at least 2030, based on input from the Towns' planners regarding development.

At a meeting with the Town of Hingham's Water Supply Committee on June 4, officials from Aquarion Water Company reported that they ended the year with an average annual daily withdrawal of 3.16 millions of gallons per day (MGD), which is 0.02 MGD less than last year, and the lowest annual average since 2012.

According to a Weir River Watershed Association study, Aquarion's withdrawals from the watershed have effectively been reduced by 11.5% since 2000, all while Aquarion's service population and commercial development has grown.

Aquarion also presented its plan to continue the company's long-standing tradition of planning for and implementing a balanced mix of investment in water supply, efficient operations and management, and progressive water conservation programs to extend the water supply beyond 2030.

To help increase capacity, Aquarion officials announced they have completed the first phase of a study to evaluate a unique approach to increase the company's available groundwater withdrawals, while also augmenting flow to the Weir River. The concept is called "flood skimming" and involves diverting excess water from Accord Brook and storing it in Aquarion's resource area at Fulling Mill Pond. This stored water would then be managed and released during periods of low stream flow in the summer to augment the flow of the Weir River.

“It’s a win-win scenario in that it sets aside more water for peak demand months and it benefits the environment,” said Steve Olson, Director of Operations in Massachusetts for Aquarion.

Aquarion is working closely with the Weir River Watershed Association and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) to evaluate whether this solution can provide both a benefit to the environment, in terms of healthy stream flows, while also allowing for increased withdrawals from existing water supply sources located in the Weir River Watershed.

“Our consulting engineers have estimated there is sufficient storage capacity to reduce periods of low stream flow, while also enhancing our groundwater withdrawals,” said Olson.

Olson told the Committee that of all the options examined, including everything from drilling exploratory test wells outside of the Weir River watershed, to regional connections with the City of Brockton’s desalinization facility or the MWRA are being looked at. Thus far, the Fulling Mill resource area alternative has proven to be most promising.

Regarding the option to interconnect the system with the MWRA, Olson noted that an MWRA connection would cost in excess of \$10 million, which would have a significant impact on customers’ rates. In addition, water from either the MWRA or Aquarion would require supplemental treatment to make the water chemistry compatible in a combined system.

***About Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts:***

Aquarion Water Company of Massachusetts is the public water supply company for more than 50,000 people in the towns of Hingham, Hull, North Cohasset, Millbury, and Oxford. Aquarion Water Company is the largest investor-owned water utility in New England, and it has been in the public water supply business since 1857. Across its operations, Aquarion strives to act as a responsible steward of the environment and to assist the communities it serves in promoting sustainable practices. Aquarion Water Company is a wholly-owned subsidiary of [Eversource](#).

For more information on Aquarion Water Company and its subsidiaries, please visit [www.aquarionwater.com](http://www.aquarionwater.com) or [www.facebook.com/HinghamWaterFacts](https://www.facebook.com/HinghamWaterFacts).

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