

Posted on: December 1, 2016 - 12:43pm

****Please note that this update contains new information and does not repeat information already provided in previous updates****

The Drought Management Crisis Team met on Tuesday, November 29th

Water Supply

- Supply: The Water Department continues to supply all of the Town's water exclusively from the wells. No water has been taken from the reservoir since August.

Reservoir level: As a result of the rain over the past couple of days, the Reservoir level has increased to 53% full. This is very encouraging but still well below last year when we had a full reservoir going into December.

- Forecast: NECN meteorologist Tim Kelley provided this weather outlook: "Final rainfall for November is in. The first of two batches of rain brought us 0.7 inches on the 29th and an additional 0.5" on the 30th, with rain continuing through midnight amounting to 0.8" by early morning December 1st. So our November monthly total is close to 2.5 inches. That leaves us about 3/4 of an inch shy of normal November rainfall, as a few storms just missed us out to sea the last couple weeks. But we are now in a stormy pattern, and rain (eventually snow) is expected to continue once or twice a week into Christmas. It looks mostly dry though the weekend with cooling air. The next system will come close on Monday probably missing out to sea, but we will keep an eye on it. The real threat is for Wednesday and Thursday, December 7-8. There will likely be a major storm coming out of the Deep South, very similar to the one that caused fatal tornadoes the night of November 29th. Much colder air will come in on the backside next weekend, with the potential for rain and/or snow again about five days later. The ground is wet, the reservoir is rising, we continue to see a slow and steady improvement in our drought situation.

Water Usage

- Scituate residents and businesses continue to reduce water usage! In October Total Scituate water usage was averaged 63 gallons per person per day. November's average dropped 3.5% to 61 gallons. Great progress! (Note: as you would expect, there was a slight increase in water use during the holiday week.)
- Violations: There were no water ban violations in November.
- Flushing Water Lines: The Water Department will continue to do targeted flushing of water lines to get ready for winter. You may see water running down the street, but Department personnel will be carefully monitoring the flows to ensure only the minimum amount is used in this required work.

- Water Main Work: Water main replacement work that was suspended on Barker Road, 1st, 2nd, and 3rd Avenues will resume. You may see some limited running of water in the street as the contractor and the Water Department chlorinate and flush these new pipes.

Water Ban Change

- As a direct result of conservation efforts by Scituate residents and businesses the Water Department has been able to supply needs from the wells. This conservation, plus a shift in weather pattern, has enabled the Reservoir to recover to over 50% full. Provided the Department can continue to supply the Town's water needs exclusively from the wells, the ban on outdoor water use is being lifted. We will continue to closely monitor water use, Reservoir level and rainfall to ensure that this is a prudent change.

Future Resiliency

- Expansion of the Reservoir: We still are waiting to hear if we will receive a grant from the Commonwealth to continue the work to raise the Reservoir height.
- Capital Budgets: Capital requests for money to refurbish several wells, divert Well 17 directly to the Reservoir, and establish a new well on the Town owned "Dolan Property" have been submitted and being reviewed by Town committees.

Outreach and Education

- Rain Barrels: Rain barrels will be available for purchase at the Transfer Station next spring.
- Faucet Aerators: Consider adding faucet aerators on all of your sinks to reduce water consumption and save some money.
- Schools - Water Conservation Education: Samantha Woods of the North and South Rivers Watershed Associations sent along this update: "I wanted to share with you some other activities that Scituate Schools have been doing as a result of our outreach to the schools to promote water conservation ----"

Kathy Elich: "I have to say the posters were a good idea - kids actually read them and in some cases had discussions with a class mate on the way to class. The lesson was on water quality and water conservation. They researched conservation techniques/ideas and made a list of the 10 best. They compared those to the ones on the town website and came up with their 10 best ideas and made the posters based on those."

See Posters Below

Shower Conservation

How much water is used in a 10 minute shower?

The national average is 21 gallons in 10 minutes.

↳ Our average we gathered from our own showers is twenty gallons.

The lower results could be due to the different types of shower heads.

In an average home showers are typically the second largest water user after toilets and dish washers.

SOLUTIONS

- Cut water shower time!
- Use a water saving shower head
- Put a bucket in the shower
- Turn the water off while soaping up
- Use a bucket to catch water while soaping up

Average Annual Water Use!

30% Toilet
19% Shower
12% Dishwasher
10% Washing Machine
9% Drinking Water

USE RAIN NOT YOUR DRAIN!

• BY using rainwater for toilet flushing, laundry and garden use alone, it can reduce mains water reticement in a household by 70%!

• Rainwater can be used for drinking (after filtering), watering plants, washing cars, toilets and even laundry!

John O.B. Alston, Leighton, Warwick

Save Water Put in a Big load!

- The average family runs one load of laundry a day
- A washing machine uses 40 gallons of water per load
- $365 \times 40 = 14,600$ gallons per family a year

John O.B. Alston, Leighton, Warwick

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CATCH IT!

WHILE WAITING FOR YOUR SHOWER TO HEAT UP PLACE A BUCKET UNDER THE SHOWER

• It can take up to 9 minutes for water to heat up

• 2,900 gallons heated with waste

• 25-57 gallons used

• Save 2 more gallons to reach your supply of 16 gallons per person per day

Average Water usage with techniques vs. national techniques

Technique	Water Usage (Gallons)
Without	16
With	11

Don't Forget A Filter!

In this town many people criticize what is known as "Scituate Water" which is water that comes out of a faucet from the well and it is not clear up!

Can take any where from 10 weeks to 4 months to clear water once.

Dirty water can come out of a faucet anywhere from once a week to **three times a day!**

For some people it never happens until government intervention.

YEP!
NO!

Watering your lawn uses 62 gallons of water for every 1000 feet!

Scituate's Reservoir can currently provide only 66 gallons per person per day...

DO THE MATH!
A YELLOW LAWN IS A GORGEOUS LAWN!

The message was brought to you by: Cate Moss, Mallon Parker, K. Dwyer, and Alina Moore

Water Fountain Conservation Techniques

When you drink, how much water is not consumed?

- drinking for 15 seconds
- 200 mL - 276 mL don't get into your mouth

Solutions?

- USE the water bottle filter fountains because you can reuse a water bottle and not buy any water to waste in the process.
- compared to the loss of water from a drinking fountain, drinking water used at the water bottle filter is from the tap when you are ready your water bottle.
- you only use 20 mL - 45 mL from the runoff.

Scituate statistics: There is a population of more than 11,000 and 100 (at a whole) conserve 1.5 million gallons of water each day.

The amount of water used per person daily is an average of 65 gallons per day.

SWIMMING POOLS

- Average swimming pool: 10,000-20,000 gallons of water
- A pool in Scituate, MA, loses less than .25" of water to evaporation, meaning pools aren't losing too much water.
 - ↳ limit the amount of times you visit your pool
- hoses let out an average of 540 gallons per hour.
 - ↳ average amount of water per person is 65 gallons daily in Scituate
 - ↳ the total population uses 1.5 million gallons daily
- If it would take 364 Rain Quarts (117,000) to fill a 20,000 gallon pool
- If you had a Rain Quarts example of 117,000 in your pool in one year you could fill your pool about a half a million times.