



## Watertown City Council

Administration Building  
149 Main Street  
Watertown, MA 02472  
Phone: 617-972-6470

### ELECTED OFFICIALS:

Mark S. Sideris,  
Council President

Dear Secretary Card and Commissioner Rice:

Vincent J. Piccirilli, Jr.,  
Vice President &  
District C Councilor

The Watertown City Council is writing to you to express our support for the removal of the Watertown DCR Dam. We appreciate the opportunity to express our support and for your time and attention to this issue.

John M. Airasian  
Councilor At Large

Caroline Bays  
Councilor At Large

We encourage you to support the removal of the Watertown Dam and restoration of the Charles River. We were impressed by the 2021 feasibility study's findings and are excited about the prospects of further restoring Alewife, American Eel, Blueback Herring and Rainbow Smelt to the Charles River.

John G. Gannon,  
Councilor At Large

Anthony Palomba,  
Councilor At Large

In Watertown we already see the impacts of stronger storms and increased rainfall from climate change, as documented in our Resilient Watertown Climate and Energy Plan. Aging infrastructure like Watertown Dam pose a risk as we are seeing stronger and more intense storms of which this dam was not designed for.

Nicole Gardner,  
District A Councilor

Lisa J. Feltner,  
District B Councilor

Findings of the report include information that flood elevations upstream of the dam will be lowered 6ft upstream of the dam and no change in flooding is anticipated downstream.

Emily Izzo,  
District D Councilor

The Watertown Dam being in place harms the health of the Charles River. Removal of the Dam and Restoration of the River will help further progress years of cleanup of the Charles River.

The current impounded area of the river upstream of the dam has higher temperatures and lower dissolved oxygen levels. Freeing the Charles River in Watertown will lead to lower temperatures and higher dissolved oxygen levels as the water would flow more freely. Colder waterways with higher levels of dissolved oxygen are better for fish like the wild trout that the City of Watertown supports.

Not only migratory fish would benefit from removal of the Watertown Dam, other resident fish including bass, bullhead, catfish, perch, and pickerel would also have increased habitat and access to food and mates.

At a time of reckoning in the Commonwealth and our country we have learned that the construction of the Watertown Dam was opposed by the local Indigenous peoples. Today we write to start to mend these wrongs and join with those indigenous voices who have been calling for years to remove the Watertown Dam and restore the river.

Sincerely,

Mark Sideris, President  
Watertown City Council

CC:

DCR Commissioner Doug Rice  
Massachusetts Fish & Game Commissioner Ron Amidon  
Division of Marine Fisheries Commissioner Daniel McKiernan  
Watertown City Council  
Watertown Conservation Commission  
CRWA Executive Director Emily Norton

Emails:

[Bethany.card@state.ma.us](mailto:Bethany.card@state.ma.us), [Ronald.Amidon@state.ma.us](mailto:Ronald.Amidon@state.ma.us), [citycouncilors@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:citycouncilors@watertown-ma.gov),  
[dan.mckiernan@mass.gov](mailto:dan.mckiernan@mass.gov), [lschwab@watertown-ma.gov](mailto:lschwab@watertown-ma.gov), [Charles@crwa.org](mailto:Charles@crwa.org), [Enorton@crwa.org](mailto:Enorton@crwa.org)