



NEWS & NOTES

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METRO MAYORS ENDORSE AB'S EXPANDED BOTTLE BILL

At a meeting this month, the Metro Mayors Coalition signed on to support an Advisory Board legislative initiative: H.3125, *An Act to Expand the Bottle Bill*. The Metro Mayors Coalition is a working group of the municipal leaders from thirteen urban core communities of Greater Boston who are committed to finding regional solutions to common problems. The bill, H.3125, would expand the state's existing Bottle Bill (created in 1981) to include a deposit on bottled water. The legislation directs unclaimed deposits into a "Water and Wastewater Infrastructure" account. This dedicated fund would be used by municipalities, water districts, and the MWRA to be used for water and sewer infrastructure repairs and projects. The bill will be heard before the Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy next month. The Advisory Board is urging all communities to sign on to the Resolution in support of the bill. The Resolution can be found on the Advisory Board website:

http://www.mwraadvisoryboard.com/Government_Affairs/Legislation/Bottle_Bill_Resolution.pdf

EPA NIXES MONEY FOR COMMUNITIES

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently nixed a program that would have provided \$10 million in water meter modernization grants for MWRA communities. The program was included in the Department of Environmental Protection's (DEP) Intended Use Plan under Green Projects. Several communities were planning to utilize the funds to mitigate the significant cost of meter modernization. The Advisory Board has requested that DEP pursue a complete explanation and explore opportunities to resubmit the request in another category. The Advisory Board will convene an Operations Committee meeting this fall to discuss ways to expand the Water Pipeline Loan Program to include projects such as meters and tanks.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

OCTOBER 7: BOTTLE BILL HEARING / STATE HOUSE, BOSTON
OCTOBER 9: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / 8:30 AM – BOSTON
OCTOBER 14: MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS / 1 PM - QUABBIN
OCTOBER 15: MWRA ADVISORY BOARD / 11:30 AM – CANTON

ADVISORY BOARD MAKES SUGGESTIONS TO COMBAT INVASIVE SPECIES

At the September meeting, the MWRA Advisory Board approved a ten-point plan to protect drinking water for the 2.5 million users in Greater Boston. The Advisory Board voted, with Mr. J.R. Greene (Gubernatorial Appointee from the Quabbin & Ware Watersheds) opposed, to adopt the ten point plan to address the threat of Invasive Species, specifically the Zebra Mussel, in the Quabbin Reservoir.

The approved plan emphasizes the importance of protecting the water supply and includes developing a testing and monitoring program in the MWRA reservoirs to test for invasive species, restricting private boats, and protecting ratepayers from costs associated with decontamination procedures. The Advisory Board strongly urges the MWRA to enter a Memorandum of Agreement with the Commonwealth, ensuring that in the event of invasive zebra mussels infiltrating the Quabbin, the Commonwealth will assume all costs and liabilities related to their removal.

Visit the MWRA Advisory Board website to read a copy of the approved version of the White Paper and the recommendations.

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