



News & Notes

A publication of the **MWRA Advisory Board**
August 2005

John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant Activated

On the evening of July 27th, John Carroll, a member of the MWRA Board of Directors appointed by the Advisory Board, officially launched the new John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant, introducing ozone-treated water into the MetroWest Tunnel for consumption throughout the Greater Boston area. To date, no major issues have arisen at the plant.

The official ceremony dedicating the plant in honor of Mr. Carroll will be held on August 18th. The Advisory Board will be providing transportation from Charlestown and Weston for the event. If you are interested in attending the dedication, please contact Mary Ann McClellan at the Advisory Board by Friday, August 12th.



*Photo
courtesy of
the Daily
Transcript*

*John Carroll at the controls of the new
John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant*

Advisory Board Launches e-interviews

The Advisory Board has added a new feature to its website entitled *e-interviews*, which will highlight individuals from throughout the MWRA-service area who have contributed to the success of the MWRA and the Advisory Board over the years. This month's *e-interview* is with John Carroll, who has served on the MWRA Board of Directors' since 1985 and is being honored by the MWRA in the naming of its new water treatment plant.

Environmental Group Appeals Reading Water Transfer Approval

After moving a step closer to becoming a partial MWRA water community last month, the Town of Reading was dealt another challenge last week, this time in the form of a lawsuit by the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF). CLF, in coordination with the Ipswich River Watershed Association, last week appealed the Water Resources Commission's approval of Reading's application for an interbasin transfer. The move spells more delays for Reading, which first began seeking to join the MWRA as a partial water community in 2001, and means the Town may need to continue its reliance on the Ipswich River for water until the dispute is resolved.

Meanwhile, legislation allowing the town to join the MWRA system was fast-tracked through both the House and Senate last month and is currently awaiting approval from Governor Romney. The legislation is a necessary step for Reading to join the MWRA.

Quincy Water Main Leak Underlines Need for Covered Storage

Last week a substantial leak was uncovered in the primary water main serving Quincy, as well as parts of Milton and Boston. The leak forced MWRA crews into overdrive, working into the midnight hours to complete repairs in time for the morning water demand. Fast-tracked repairs were necessary to avoid drawing water from the open, non-potable Blue Hills Reservoir. Had the MWRA been forced to activate the reservoir, a "boil water" order would have been issued for all affected households.

In April 2004, a similar leak occurred along the same stretch of pipe. Although MWRA crews were equally successful in making repairs in time to avoid activating the Blue Hills Reservoir, these recent events highlight the critical need for covered storage in the Quincy area. Plans to construct a drinking water storage facility at the Blue Hills Reservation are currently on hold pending the results of an appeal of the project, filed by a local conservation group. In response to last week's leak, MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey contacted General Counsel at the Executive Office of Administration and Finance to request assistance in ending the 18-month long administrative process that has beleaguered this critical project. Should the MWRA be successful in bringing covered storage to the Blue Hills Reservoir, the threat of "boil water" orders in the Greater Quincy area would be significantly reduced.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

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| August 18- | Advisory Board Field Trip
John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant, Marlborough |
| August 18- | MWRA Board of Directors' meeting
John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant (prior to Plant tour) |
| September 9- | Executive Committee Meeting
8:30 am at the Advisory Board Office |

If you have any questions regarding topics raised in this newsletter or any other MWRA issue, please contact:

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