

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING  
MAY 12, 2000**

**MINUTES APPROVED AT THE SEPTEMBER 15, 2000 MEETING**

Present: Guy Carbone, BELMONT; John Sullivan, BOSTON; Ed Sullivan, CANTON; Peter Hersey, MELROSE; Katherine Haynes Dunphy, MILTON; Stanley Stanzin, NEEDHAM; Bernard Cooper, NORWOOD; Joe Foti, SOMERVILLE; Walter Woods, WELLESLEY.

Also in attendance: John Carroll, MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS; Joseph Favaloro, Cornelia Potter, Nathalie Grady and Mary Ann McClellan, MWRA ADVISORY BOARD.

**I. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

The meeting, held at the Advisory Board office, was called to order by Chairman Joe Foti at 8:40 a.m. A Motion was made **TO APPROVE THE APRIL 21, 2000 MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING**. It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

**II. ACTION ITEM: Emergency Water Supply Agreement with Town of Stoughton**

Joe Favaloro reported that Phil Farrington, Stoughton Town Manager, and Lawrence Barrett, Superintendent of Public Works, attended the Operations Committee meeting to request an extension of Stoughton's Emergency Water Supply Agreement. Based on MWRA Policy #OP.09, for Emergency Water Withdrawals, if Stoughton seeks water next year, they will be paying the full entrance fee in addition to payment for the water. At that point, they would have to make a decision on whether to become an MWRA member community. The Agreement will be a supplement to their overall water supply.

John Sullivan asked if consumption was expected to increase because people are willing to pay. Ed Sullivan stated that at meetings of the South System Supplementary Water Committee, Stoughton spoke of a maximum of not more than one million gallons. Walter Woods stated that an increase could be expected because Stoughton is on a water ban. He stated that towns usually get permissive when water is coming in.

Mr. Favaloro stated that MWRA consumption was down to 213 million gallons per day (mgd). When Cambridge comes off the system, it will be reduced by another 13 mgd. When the MetroWest Tunnel opens, the Hultman Aqueduct will be shut down. There is approximately 3 to 5 mgd of leakage going through the Hultman.

Katherine Haynes Dunphy asked if the Authority was confident that the distribution system to bring the water through West Roxbury into the southern extra high section has adequate pump capacity. Ed Sullivan replied that Stoughton is going to build their own dedicated pipeline from the MWRA pipe on Neponset Valley Parkway, up Dedham and Pleasant Streets (in Canton). Stoughton is paying all construction costs.

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A Motion was made **TO APPROVE THE EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF STOUGHTON**. It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

**III. ACTION ITEM:** Wastewater System Expansion Request – New England Center for Children

Mr. Favaloro stated that the Operations Committee recommended approval of a request from the New England Center for Children for wastewater system expansion.

Mr. Woods expressed concern regarding wet weather conditions, since the numbers are based on a dry day. Mr. Favaloro stated that wet weather was the reason for the four to one reduction.

Mr. Woods asked who will see that Framingham realizes a four to one reduction of flow. Mr. Favaloro stated that normally, the Superintendent of Public Works in Framingham will devise a list of projects to be completed and the Center will provide the money for those projects. The Superintendent will then state that those projects were accomplished.

The Massachusetts Highway Department required an eight-inch line, a larger line than is necessary. The Operations Committee set a maximum amount of flow going through that line at 6,000 gallons. Mr. Favaloro noted that the Center's average daily flow is 5,862 gallons. The Center expressed concern that the sciences are not that precise and that they would be in violation at 6,001 gallons. Mr. Favaloro suggested a 10% addition to the 5,862 gallons to provide a greater comfort factor, while remaining in the range set by the Operations Committee. John Sullivan stated that he would like the 6,000 gallon number to remain since the Operations Committee chose it.

A Motion was made **TO ACCEPT A WASTEWATER SYSTEM EXPANSION REQUEST FROM THE NEW ENGLAND CENTER FOR CHILDREN**. It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

**IV. ACTION ITEM:** Advisory Board's Comments and Recommendations to the MWRA's FY00-02 CIP Contingency Budget Amendment

Mr. Favaloro noted that the main reason for the Contingency Budget Amendment was the Braintree-Weymouth Interim Pump Station. The Board of Directors determined that they would not award that bid at this time and are going back out with a bidding process, eliminating the need for the Contingency Budget Amendment.

Cornelia Potter, summarizing the Amendment review, noted that the Authority had assumed the need for another \$34 million in contingency fund transfers. The Authority already had \$23 million remaining, so the request was for an additional \$10.5 million. With the \$17.5 million for the Intermediate Pump Station gone, the Authority has more than enough authorizing capacity in the contingency fund for the remainder of the year.

Ms. Potter stated that everything staff has drafted is a question of timing. During the course of the Advisory Board's review, staff learned that the actions that had been

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anticipated on a number of items are more likely to occur after June 30<sup>th</sup>. Staff expects, at next week's discussion of the capital budget, some acknowledgement of the impact of the transfers that are taking place. In addition, there are a number of other change orders for the tunnel project already under way, which will add more than \$5.5 million to that contract.

The Braintree-Weymouth Project will go up by over \$22 million just in the revisions between the proposed budget and the final budget. Clearly the contingency budget requests are a prelude of things to come.

In the first draft of comments for the Contingency Fund Amendment, the Advisory Board also addressed the practice of adding an additional \$250,000 to a vote on a change order. It allows the staff to continue to process change orders for tough projects in between Board meetings through delegated authority. However, that process also slows down information exchange. The Advisory Board has suggested that the Authority discuss more fully the practice of delegated authority awards for projects that are troublesome. They ought to come back to the Board more frequently for information updates and specific change order actions.

Ms. Potter noted that the Board will hold a hearing on May 16<sup>th</sup> to discuss the CIP and CEB as proposed and the Advisory Board's comments.

### **V. UPDATE: CEO Meeting**

Mr. Favaloro reported that during the past few months, the Advisory Board had conducted one on one meetings with the CEOs from the MWRA communities. The next step was a CEO meeting with 21 communities in attendance on May 2<sup>nd</sup> hosted by Somerville Mayor Dorothy Kelly Gay, which concluded with the adoption of a "Resolution". The Resolution seeks: 1) An MWRA spending cap; 2) The approval of the Advisory Board's recommendations within the range of 3.53%; 3) The adoption of a multi-year management strategy to control rates; 4) Work toward more state and federal assistance. Staff hopes to have as many communities as possible sign the Resolution for presentation to the Board of Directors at the CIP/CEB budget hearings on Wednesday.

### **VI. UPDATE: Court Decision on Filtration**

Mr. Favaloro noted that the MWRA received a favorable ruling in the court decision on filtration. The Judge's decision was not based on strict Safe Drinking Water Act rules that say a filtration plant must be built, but were based on the water quality and what the real water quality was versus the incremental benefits to spend an additional \$200 million. The Authority must stay in compliance.

Guy Carbone suggested that the Advisory Board tour the Cambridge Water Treatment Plant, which has filtration.

Mr. Favaloro noted that the Authority is ready to move forward on the first year of the Local Pipeline Assistance Program.

The House Budget included language on surplus property. Staff worked diligently to have language included in the body of the Senate Budget and succeeded; however, the

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language needed to be altered, and will now have to go to Conference Committee. The surplus language will reach the Governor's desk.

Language in the House Budget included the reimbursement of \$200,000 of out-of-pocket expenses for Lake Cochituate because the Commonwealth sold that property to an outside entity. The language will likely be in the Senate version as well.

There is currently no legislative support for Walnut Hill or water treatment plants in general since the Commonwealth would have to provide support for other communities' water projects if they provided assistance to the MWRA.

**VII. APPROVAL OF THE ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA FOR MAY 18, 2000**

A Motion was made **TO APPROVE THE ADVISORY BOARD AGENDA FOR THE MAY 18, 2000 MEETING, WITH THE DELETION OF THE CIP CONTINGENCY BUDGET AMENDMENT.** It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:32 A.M.** It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Sullivan, Secretary