



# News & Notes

A publication of the **MWRA Advisory Board**  
June 2006

## **Advisory Board Presses Good Humor/Breyers To Clean Up Its Act**

At its April 27<sup>th</sup> meeting, the MWRA Advisory Board expressed concern over the Good Humor/Breyers Plant, alerting communities to the negative impacts the plant is having on the environment and the MWRA collection system because of consistently higher levels of releases of biochemical oxygen demand into the sewer system. At its May 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting, MWRA staff informed the Board of Directors that fines totaling \$200,550 had been issued to Good Humor/Breyers for 31 violations.

The Advisory Board, through press reports from NECN, WLVI, MetroWest Daily News and the Boston Herald, exposed ongoing violations occurring at the Good Humor/Breyers Plant.

Unless Good Humor/Breyers makes significant progress toward compliance, the Advisory Board, working with our cities and towns, will call for a boycott of Good Humor/Breyers' products. The Advisory Board will continue to work to send a strong message to Good Humor/Breyers to comply with MWRA regulations.

## **Senate Budget Allocates \$15 Million for Debt Service Assistance**

The Final FY07 Senate Budget allocates \$15 million for the Debt Service Assistance (DSA) Program. The FY07 House Budget, approved April 28th, allocates \$25 million for DSA. A Conference Committee, made up of House and Senate members, will begin to reconcile the differences between the Budgets. It is critical that the Final FY07 State Budget include \$25 million for DSA.

## **Public Forum Scheduled to Discuss MWRA Water System Expansion**

Coming on the heels of past discussions, the MWRA Board of Directors has scheduled a public forum at its June 28<sup>th</sup> meeting to allow interested parties to voice their opinions on system expansion. The Advisory Board urges MWRA communities to take part in discussions on the feasibility of expanding the water system.

## **MWRA and Advisory Board Testify at H 4914 Hearing**

On May 22, 2006, the MWRA and the MWRA Advisory Board testified at a hearing of the Joint Committee on Natural Resources and Agriculture (NR&A) against House Bill 4914, An Act Relative to the Protection of Certain Wetlands in the Blue Hills Reservation. The MWRA is proposing to build a 20 million gallon Blue Hills Covered (drinking water) Storage facility (BHCSP) to improve service reliability and pressure to 100,000 residents of the MWRA's southern system, including Quincy, Milton and parts of Boston. H 4914 would suspend the variance granted by DEP Commissioner Robert Golledge and require MWRA to provide a one-to-one wetlands replacement.

MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey testified that the current \$33.4 million budget for construction of the BHCSP includes an estimated \$8 million for mitigation costs including an 8.4 acre upland meadow, a pond (stocked with fish) and allows public access to a previously inaccessible facility.

MWRA Advisory Board Executive Director Joseph Favaloro testified the proposed plan for BHCSP is environmentally sound and ratepayer equitable. The Advisory Board strongly opposes further mitigation measures at the Blue Hills site, noting that any additional cost requirements for mitigation must come from the existing project budget.

The ongoing efforts of the Friends of the Blue Hills to slow the progress of the BHCSP has resulted in \$3 million of additional costs that place further burden on ratepayers because of significant project delays. The NR&A Committee has delayed any decision on the proposed legislation until June 30, 2006.

## **MWRA and Advisory Board to Host Community Pandemic Planning Meetings**

The MWRA and Advisory Board will hold two community meetings to discuss and outline the MWRA's planning efforts on how the MWRA will operate the water and sewer systems in the event of a pandemic. The June 8<sup>th</sup> meeting will be held at the MWRA's Chelsea Facility and the June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting at the John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant in Marlborough – 10 to noon.

### **Upcoming Meetings/Events**

- June 7- MWRA Board of Directors Meeting**  
1:00 pm at Charlestown Navy Yard
- June 9- Advisory Board Executive Committee Meeting**  
8:30 am at the Advisory Board Office
- June 15- Advisory Board Meeting**  
11:00 am at the Wellesley Free Library

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

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