

**MWRA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING AND PUBLIC HEARING
APRIL 19, 2007
MASSACHUSETTS STATE HOUSE
ROOM 350, BOSTON, MA – 11:30 A.M.
MINUTES APPROVED AT THE JUNE 21, 2007 MEETING**

Forty-three people were in attendance, including twenty-five voting members: Peter Castanino, BELMONT; John P. Sullivan, BOSTON; Charles Barry, BROOKLINE; Ed Sullivan, CANTON; Jerry F. Sheehan, EVERETT; J.R. Greene and Barbara Wyatt, GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEES; Ed Demko, HINGHAM; Bill Hadley, LEXINGTON; Jay Fink, LYNN; Ed Bates, MAPC; Dana Snow, MARBLEHEAD; Doran Crouse, MARLBOROUGH; Ron Seaboyer, MELROSE; Katherine Haynes Dunphy, MILTON; Timothy Dooling, NATICK; Lou Taverna, NEWTON; Ted McIntire, READING; Larry Barrett, STOUGHTON; Richard Stinson, WAKEFIELD; Earl Forman, WESTON; Bob Angelo, WESTWOOD; Zig Peret, WILBRAHAM; Michael Woods, WILMINGTON; Fred Russell, WOBURN.

Also present: Joseph Foti, MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS; Jon Norton, EVERETT; Ben Lagman, MELROSE; Ana Singleton, STOUGHTON; Robert Brandt, AIDE TO REPRESENTATIVE SANCHEZ; Matt Boger, UCANE; Ed Bretschneider, WAC; Michael Hornbrook, Leon Lataille, Pam Heidell, Rachel Madden, Michael Ralph and Tracy Wadsworth, MWRA STAFF; Joe Favaloro, Cornelia Potter, Matthew Romero, Christine Hevelone-Byler and Mary Ann McClellan, MWRA ADVISORY BOARD STAFF.

**ADVISORY BOARD PUBLIC HEARING ON MWRA'S PROPOSED
FY08 CURRENT EXPENSE BUDGET**

Chairman Katherine Haynes Dunphy called the public hearing to order at 11:30 a.m.

For the record, Joseph Favaloro, Executive Director of the MWRA Advisory Board, read the official notice of the public hearing. The MWRA Advisory Board will hold a public meeting and hearing on Thursday, April 19, 2007, at the Massachusetts State House, Room 350, Boston, MA at 11:30 a.m. After a presentation on the components of the Authority's proposed \$575 million FY08 Current Expense Budget, community officials and members of the public will have an opportunity to offer their comments on the budget. The Authority must adopt the proposed budget on or before June 30, 2007, as set forth in Chapter 372 of the Acts of 1984. The Advisory Board is empowered by statute to make comments and recommendations on the proposed budget. Copies can be examined at the offices of the Authority at 100 First Avenue in Charlestown. Written comments received at the office of the MWRA Advisory Board, 11 Beacon Street, Suite 1010, Boston, MA 02108-3020, no later than May 10, 2007 will also be considered. For further information, call (617) 742-7561.

A Motion was made **TO RECESS THE PUBLIC HEARING AT 11:32 A.M.** It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Chairman Dunphy called the public hearing to order again at 11:47 a.m.

Cornelia Potter stated the Authority has proposed a Current Expense Budget (CEB) that includes funding for Direct expenses of \$212 million, a 4.5% increase over the amount budgeted for FY07. This category of expenses includes wages, chemicals, utilities, fringe benefits, maintenance, professional services and the pelletizing plant.

On the Indirect side, the Authority is proposing \$42 million for such expenses as insurance, watershed payments, mitigation payments, additions to reserves and retirement related expense.

Capital financing, which represents the lion's share of the Authority's budget, is \$333.9 million, essentially the same amount as budgeted in FY07. Results from the major restructuring that are the principal element of the multi-year rates management strategy will show as soon as this coming year on the Authority's budget. If the Authority had not conducted this restructuring transaction, capital financing expense would have been \$43 million higher in FY08.

Together, these three expenses before offsets total nearly \$590 million. The Authority, in its budgeting processes, treats a number of expenses as offsets to capital financing. A draw down from bond redemption of nearly \$3 million and the assumption that Debt Service Assistance (DSA) will be \$11.25 million, consistent with \$15 million in the statewide program (as proposed in the Governor's budget), are subtracted from the gross expenses the Authority proposes for a total budget of \$575 million.

The Authority proposes to fund these expenses with an additional withdrawal from the rate stabilization and bond redemption funds of \$4.6 million; the Authority also assumes \$46 million in non-rate revenue will contribute to meeting expenses proposed for next year leaving a rate revenue requirement of \$527 million, the equivalent of a 6.4% increase from the FY07 budget, an increase between \$31 and \$32 million.

Over the coming weeks, Advisory Board staff will be preparing their *Comments and Recommendations* for consideration by the Authority staff and Board of Directors. The Executive Committee will discuss these comments at their May 11 meeting and the Advisory Board will deliberate and vote on the comments for transmittal to the Authority at the May 17 Advisory Board meeting.

The Board of Directors is scheduled to meet on June 6 to discuss the comments and will vote on both the CIP and CEB budgets on June 27.

Chairman Dunphy asked for comments from community officials.

Ron Seaboyer said the proposed increase is 6.4%. If the state-wide DSA appropriation goes up to \$20 or \$25 million, how will that affect the percentage? Chairman Dunphy said the proposed House Budget allocates state-wide DSA of \$20 million, which would result in less than one percentage point. Ms. Potter added the value for the Authority, should the state-wide program rise by \$5 million, is an estimated \$3.75 million, which translates to approximately seven-tenths of one percent off of the wholesale rate increase.

Chairman Dunphy asked if there were further comments from the community officials or public. Hearing none, Chairman Dunphy concluded the public hearing at 11:54 a.m.

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

A. WELCOME

Chairman Katherine Haynes Dunphy called the meeting to order at 11:54 a.m.

B. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MWRA Advisory Board Executive Director Joseph Favaloro stated notices have been sent out regarding the election of an Advisory Board representative to the MWRA Board of Directors. Joseph Foti's three-year term expires on June 30. All interested parties may submit a resume and letter of intent. Mr. Foti has submitted a letter of intent and resume to serve a third term. The Executive Committee will act as the Nominating Committee at their May 11 meeting; a quorum of 32 voting members will be required at the May 17 Advisory Board meeting to hold this election.

C. PRESENTATION: POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS (PCBs) AT THE WACHUSETT DAM – Michael Hornbrook, MWRA Chief Operating Officer

MWRA Chief Operating Officer Michael Hornbrook stated the MWRA was involved in a capital project to install spill gates along the spillway. As part of preparation for that construction, staff tested some joint compound and other materials on the dam and discovered that the joint compound on the walkway contains polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs). As a result, staff began taking concrete samples because PCBs tend to migrate out from the joint compound into the concrete. Samples of the soil at the foot of the dam, in addition to water samples, were also taken. PCB contamination has spread to areas of the soil.

MWRA notified the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Town of Clinton and the Clinton Health Department and is developing an abatement plan for that removal. In the interim, DEP required that temporary fencing be put up around the dam to limit public exposure and access in that area.

The Cosgrove Intake facility was built in the 1960s and is the major intake for drinking water into the MWRA system. This facility has the same caulking material as well.

No evidence of PCBs was found in the drinking water. The Authority has been testing for PCBs in the drinking water since the 1970s at a frequency rate that is higher than is regulatory required.

Samples were taken at various depths (surface depth, 20, 40 and 80 feet deep) at the Reservoir and the Clinton Intake to get a representative sample and no PCBs were detected in any of the 50+ samples. Samples were taken at the John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant downstream as well and no PCBs were detected.

The Authority is working closely with EPA and DEP to develop a three-step process to remove the joint compound containing PCBs at the facilities. The first step is the immediate removal of the joint compound on the top of the dam and at the Cosgrove Intake facility, which staff anticipates will begin by the end of the summer. The second step would involve removal along the face of the dam and the soil. Step three will be an inventory of all MWRA water facilities, concentrating first on direct contact with drinking water; second will be facilities that are staffed but have no direct contact, such as a pump station; third will be looking at emergency backup supplies and systems to see if the caulking exists.

Zig Peret asked if the action level is zero tolerance. Leon Lataille, Environmental Manager, said EPA has an action level of 50 parts per million (ppm) in caulking or any other building materials. If it is found at that level it is subject to EPA's regulations and must be remediated.

Ron Seaboyer said removing the caulking could be quite dusty; will the MWRA be encapsulating the area while working? Mr. Lataille said any dust would have to be controlled. Another strategy the MWRA's consultant is looking at is ensuring that the concrete is cut beyond any occurrence of PCBs so that PCBs will not be liberated during that process. Either tenting or wetting the concrete will be the focus of EPA's review of the Authority's action plan. Mr. Seaboyer questioned whether the wetting process would allow for PCBs to fall back into the reservoir. Mr. Lataille said any wetting process used would have to be controlled by vacuuming up the water.

Mr. Hornbrook noted the Master Plan and CIP were all prepared prior to discovery of the PCB situation. There will be considerable cost, into the millions of dollars.

Jay Fink asked if DEP or EPA is mandating that the PCBs be removed or is there a way of encapsulating it. Mr. Hornbrook said the PCBs are at the mandatory removal level. The regulators are talking about temporarily encapsulating it at the Cosgrove until it can be removed. While staff is developing a remediation plan, they have talked about epoxy coating the PCBs that are right over the Intake.

Mr. Fink said in your evaluations of the PCBs and where it is migrating has staff looked at taking samples of the caulking and submersing it in water to see if the PCBs are soluble or if they will only transfer in a solid state. Mr. Lataille said staff already knows that the PCBs have migrated into the concrete. Since the caulking has very high levels of PCBs, it has to be removed because it is a source and will continue to be a source as long as it is there.

Mr. Fink said even though PCBs have not been detected in the water, the science indicates that it actually is leaching into the water at some minute level. Mr. Lataille said the Authority wants to prevent that for the future.

John Sullivan asked if the MWRA owns the dam. Mr. Hornbrook said the dam was built in 1904 or 1905 by the Commonwealth. DCR had responsibility for capital maintenance of the dam. In 1985, when the Authority was created, the MWRA began to reimburse DCR for current and capital maintenance. In 2004, the MWRA signed an MOU that said the Authority would do capital improvements, which it was paying for anyway. The dam is still owned by the Commonwealth.

Mr. Sullivan asked if there is a way to go back to the original owner of the dam, the Commonwealth, to have them help pay for the repairs. Mr. Hornbrook said he would look into it.

Barbara Wyatt asked if EPA has found this caulking problem at any other dams throughout the United States. Mr. Lataille said caulking problems have been found in various types of structures although he could not say for sure about dams. Certainly other water utilities and schools and businesses have been found to have PCBs. Mr. Hornbrook said the University of Massachusetts–Amherst Research Center has PCBs in their windows and a west coast water utility had PCBs in their water tanks about ten years ago, which had to be remediated. A Harvard study found at least 24 buildings in Boston with PCBs and a report from Switzerland found this caulking in 1,300 buildings.

Barbara Wyatt asked who manufactured the caulking and whether the manufacturer may have some helpful information. Mr. Lataille said Monsanto was the primary manufacturer of this

caulking in the United States. Mr. Hornbrook said staff will look into whether Monsanto may have helpful information.

Cornelia Potter asked how quickly the MWRA is obligated to move on the remediation of this problem. Over what period of time does staff anticipate this extending? Mr. Lataille said staff has been discussing its plans with EPA and they are comfortable that we are moving forward as quickly as we can in terms of proper design and identifying the problem. Mr. Hornbrook said as far as scheduling and timing goes, DEP has not set a deadline because the MWRA has been moving quickly. As a drinking water supplier and a public health based agency, the Authority wants to remove the caulking from the dam and the Cosgrove Intake as quickly as possible, for not only public health, but perception of public health and confidence in the drinking water. Phase II will look at the base of the dam and the soil. Staff hopes to be at the top of the dam and the Cosgrove for physical removal by the end of the summer for an estimated three or four months.

Ms. Potter asked what kind of modifications are anticipated on the proposed budgets for FY08. Mr. Hornbrook said it is difficult to say because staff does not have the remediation design for the removal completed yet; the consultants are working on that now.

D. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee – Bernard Cooper

❖ ACTION ITEM: ADVISORY BOARD COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE MWRA'S PROPOSED FY08 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

Cornelia Potter stated the Authority submitted its proposed Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY08 along with a two-volume Master Plan. Advisory Board staff examined all three volumes, including a proposal for the next five-year spending cap, as part of its review.

The Advisory Board has advocated for a Master Plan for a number of years. It is quite an accomplishment that the Authority has put together this multi-faceted forty-year plan.

The Authority conducted an extraordinary restructuring transaction in January, restructuring over \$600 million of debt plus \$200 million of new borrowings to achieve a multi-year rates management strategy by rescheduling and reprogramming existing debt service into a later period of time outside the current window where there was particular pressure on rates over the next eight years.

To put together the next five-year cap, the Authority has moved into institutionalizing this process and setting the stage for the next cap.

The Master Plan contains just over \$3 billion in identified new and existing project spending over the next forty years, of which \$2 billion is for new projects or projects that will be reintroduced into the capital program eventually following the cuts and reductions a couple of years ago versus \$1 billion, which is in the existing CIP. Of the proposed or identified projects, \$2 billion is for wastewater projects, both new and existing and including the CSO Program, and the remaining \$1 billion, both new and existing, are for the Waterworks Program.

The Master Plan included a prioritization of each of these projects. Priority 1 is for critical or emergency work where the risk is at least moderate to high and the consequence of not pursuing the project is also very high; Priority 2 is essential projects where the risk is variable and the consequences of not pursuing the project are still high; Priority 3 projects are necessary where the risk is moderate to high and the consequences of not doing the project right away are

moderate to low; Priority 4 projects are important, risk is moderate and consequences are low; and Priority 5 projects are desirable where the risk or consequence of not doing a project is low yet they yield worthwhile cost savings, revenue gains or efficiency improvements.

The Advisory Board has recommended that the Authority set a longer range goal over time. Currently, projects that have been taken from the Master Plan are virtually all priority ones and twos. Staff is urging the Authority to look beyond its commitment to those projects as soon as possible and get to the priority threes and fours because a delay may turn these projects into priority ones and twos. The Authority should move gradually over time into a steady state of this kind of capital program.

Staff also recommends that the Authority use the Master Plan process as a rubric for CIP projects. This refers to projects both in this budget that did not appear in the Master Plan and other projects that appear in the future that should be tested against the Master Plan process and the prioritization scenario for suitability for inclusion in the Capital Improvement Program and Budget.

The Master Plan did not include a chapter for Business and Operations Support Projects, the most significant component of which is the MIS Program. Those materials were in preparation but were not finalized in time for publication in the Master Plan.

The CIP covers the ten-year period FY08-17. Just over half of overall spending is for the wastewater system, 46% is for waterworks and 2% is for Business and Operations Support. Over the ten-year period, 25% of spending is for the CSO Program. Spending on waterworks is more than one and one-half times all spending on all non-CSO wastewater projects as the Authority shifts its commitment to certain redundancy and related waterworks projects.

The top 20 projects make up 83% of all spending so the capital program remains dominated by a number of specific large projects, the largest of which is the North Dorchester Bay Tunnel, which is a CSO Project. The next biggest project is the year after year spending in protecting the investment in the Deer Island plant as an ongoing commitment to spend on maintenance and optimization projects. Together these two projects make up just over 20% of all spending in the next ten years.

For the current cap, the Authority originally set for itself a cap spending of just over \$1.1 billion; the Authority now projects that the five-year spending will be almost \$200 million lower than that.

In the next cap period, the Authority has developed a series of spending expectations modified by the cap calculation rules of adding contingency and inflation and subtracting Chicopee Valley Aqueduct projects. The Authority now projects a capital spending cap of just under \$1 billion for FY09-13. Spending for each of these five years declines rapidly, by almost \$100 million, between the first and the fifth year. A flexibility element of the cap calculations is the Authority can spend plus or minus 20% of the cap amount for each year. Because spending declines between FY09 and FY13, the plus or minus amount declines from about \$50 million to about \$30 million by the fifth year raising some questions about whether the Authority will have enough flexibility if there is slippage from the first couple of years. Will the Authority be able to continue to meet and spend at projected levels?

Advisory Board recommendations include the evaluation of steps to ensure that spending proceeds as proposed. Spending during this cap period was considerably below what had been allowed when that cap was set. The cap for this upcoming period is a good deal less than the

previous cap. Staff wants to ensure that the Authority can bring the resources to bear to ensure the projects that have been identified will in fact be accomplished.

The Advisory Board recommends that conceptual and design projects, which tee up major capital spending in the future, should be exempt from the plus or minus 20% rule. If some spending slides over from the first or second year and the Authority begins to bump up against the 20% limitation in the third or fourth year, this recommendation would allow smaller, less expensive contracts in the design phase to move forward, thus ensuring that construction projects are in the pipeline as the Authority moves forward.

The Authority should continue to use the annual CIP process to evaluate and update the mix of capital projects. There was a particularly tight timeframe for the Authority to complete the Master Plan and build the budget and the cap this year; staff wants to continue to emphasize that the annual CIP process will enable the Authority to continue to rework, update and analyze whether the mix and the assumptions about cash flows are supportable or need to be modified.

On the PCB issues, staff recommends that the Authority negotiate with the Commonwealth for the responsibility for certain costs. As the presentation pointed out, the dam and the walkway were constructed years ago, well before the existence of the Authority. Similarly, since the Authority was created, the share of watershed-related costs shifted from 100% by the MDC to 75%/25% and then eventually the Authority took over 100% of those costs, yet the Authority took over direct responsibility for dam maintenance and capital improvements only in 2004.

Another recommendation called for the Authority to re-think the cash flows for watershed land acquisition, which are currently spread over a couple of years. Staff believes it will take the Authority longer than that to apply and expend those funds.

Bill Hadley recognized the efforts of Cornelia Potter and staff in keeping members up to date. Ms. Potter recognized Matt Romero for successfully jumping right into the process.

A Motion was made **TO APPROVE THE ADVISORY BOARD COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE MWRA'S PROPOSED FY08 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.** It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Executive Committee – Katherine Haynes Dunphy

❖ **ACTION ITEM: TO APPROVE THE CONNECTION OF THE HERB CHAMBERS LEXUS DEALERSHIP FACILITY, LOCATED PRIMARILY IN SHARON, TO TIE INTO THE MWRA WASTEWATER SYSTEM VIA CONNECTION TO THE WALPOLE SYSTEM, SUBJECT TO THE PARAMETERS SET FORTH IN MWRA POLICY #: OP.11**

Hillary Lacirignola of Weston & Sampson stated that Herb Chambers is constructing a Lexus dealership in the Town of Sharon on the Walpole town line. A small portion of the property is in Walpole and Walpole is providing water service to the site.

The proposed wastewater discharge is 10,500 gallons per day. To be considered for a permit under OP.11, the applicant must remove peak inflow from the Walpole system at a four to one gallon per day ratio so 42,000 gallons per day of peak inflow will be removed from the Walpole system through improvements to 75 manholes with stormwater inflow through the manhole covers.

The manhole improvements will be made by the Town of Walpole within six months and will consist of raising or resetting covers, installing water tight manhole covers, repairing the

pavement surrounding the manhole and/or installing inflow dishes. Where these dishes are necessary, there will be training by the manufacturer's representative on how to properly remove and replace these dishes. Upon completion of this work, the applicant will submit a final inflow removal report with a description of how each manhole was repaired, and a summary of before and after rainfall accumulation on six manholes to measure the effectiveness of these repairs. The report will also be certified by Walpole.

The proposed connection is consistent with MWRA's NPDES permit, the Walpole and MWRA sewer use regulations, and Walpole and Sharon's wastewater master planning documents. The applicant is responsible for maintenance of the piping on their property and assuring that no other connections will be made without approval of the MWRA or Walpole. A hydraulic capacity analysis of the Walpole system has been performed and the system is adequate to handle this additional flow. Walpole has reviewed and accepted this analysis.

The applicant has been through the MEPA process with the filing of an ENF and it has been determined that an EIR is not required for this project. The applicant has worked closely with the Water Resources Commission and the Department of Conservation & Recreation regarding the Inter-Basin Transfer Act and the applicant will remove an additional one to one gallon per day ratio of flow so there is no net increase in inter-basin transfer. Legislation is in process through Senator Timilty's office and approval is anticipated this week.

Chairman Dunphy noted the Executive Committee approved the connection. Jay Fink, Operations Committee Chair, reported that two additional amendments had been made and are included in the proposed motion before the Advisory Board. The Operations Committee gave a favorable vote.

A member asked how much water the inflow dish can hold and will the water evaporate or just sit there. Ms. Lacirignola said the inflow dish can hold three to four gallons. The water will sit there until someone removes it. The member asked if precautions have been taken on West Nile virus. Ms. Lacirignola said no.

Ron Seaboyer asked if the inflow dishes have a lifetime. Do they need to be inspected from time to time? Ms. Lacirignola said the inflow dish is made of PVC or metal material; the biggest issue is whether they remain in place with inexperienced sewer workers taking them out and not putting them back correctly. Additions that were made to the agreement will cover training personnel to remove and replace the dishes properly. The town has regular maintenance of their sewers and this should be incorporated into it. Mr. Seaboyer requested that amendments be added to the following motion to add the inspection and replacement of these covers. Phil Macchi noted that the Town of Walpole has hired a company to check their manholes and clean them.

A Motion was made, SUBJECT TO FINAL LEGISLATIVE/GUBERNATORIAL APPROVAL, TO CONDITIONALLY APPROVE THE REQUEST BY THE HERB CHAMBERS LEXUS DEALERSHIP FACILITY, LOCATED PRIMARILY IN THE TOWN OF SHARON, TO TIE INTO THE MWRA WASTEWATER SYSTEM FROM ITS SITE AT 25 PROVIDENCE HIGHWAY, SHARON, MA VIA A CONNECTION TO THE WALPOLE SYSTEM THROUGH AN 800 FOOT, THREE-INCH FORCE MAIN.

THIS MOTION IS SUBJECT TO THE PARAMETERS SET FORTH IN MWRA POLICY #: OP.11, "REQUESTS FOR SEWER SERVICE TO LOCATIONS OUTSIDE MWRA SEWER SERVICE AREA." THIS INCLUDES PROVISIONS THAT 1) THE APPLICANT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTENANCE OF ITS PUMP STATION AND PIPELINE CONNECTING

THE PROPERTY TO THE WALPOLE SEWERAGE SYSTEM; 2) THE APPLICANT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ASSURING THAT NO ADDITIONAL CONNECTIONS WILL BE MADE TO THE PIPE FROM OUTSIDE OF WALPOLE WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE MWRA.

THE APPLICANT'S FLOWS WILL BE LIMITED TO ESTIMATED AVERAGE DAILY FLOW OF 6,400 GALLONS PER DAY AND A MAXIMUM DAILY FLOW OF 10,500 GALLONS PER DAY.

THE APPLICANT WILL PAY THE TOWN OF WALPOLE BOARD OF WATER AND SEWER COMMISSIONERS A FEE TO REMOVE AT LEAST 42,000 GALLONS PER DAY OF PEAK INFLOW FROM THE WALPOLE SYSTEM, PURSUANT TO THE FLOW REMOVAL REPORT SUBMITTED IN ITS APPLICATION AND THE REQUIREMENTS OF MWRA POLICY #: OP.11, WHICH STIPULATES A FOUR TO ONE REDUCTION OF INFLOW. THE APPLICANT WILL MEASURE FLOW AT SIX (6) MANHOLE LOCATIONS WITH ESTIMATED INFLOW IN EXCESS OF 1,000 GALLONS PER DAY AS PRESENTED IN ATTACHMENT B OF EXHIBIT E OF THEIR APPLICATION. AFTER REHABILITATION HAS BEEN COMPLETED, ADDITIONAL MEASUREMENTS MUST BE TAKEN TO VERIFY THE PREDICTED FLOW HAS BEEN REDUCED. THE APPLICANT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE TOWN OF WALPOLE, WILL EXPEDITE INFLOW REMOVAL WITH A GOAL TO HAVE WORK COMPLETED WITHIN SIX MONTHS. THE APPLICANT WILL PROVIDE THE MWRA ADVISORY BOARD WITH A FINAL FLOW REMOVAL COMPLETION REPORT VERIFYING 42,000 GALLONS PER DAY OF INFLOW HAS BEEN REMOVED. IN ADDITION, THE APPLICANT WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ENSURING AN ADDITIONAL I/I REDUCTION OF 10,000 GALLONS PER DAY, PURSUANT TO THE REQUIREMENTS OF THE WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION.

IN ORDER TO MAXIMIZE THE LONG TERM EFFECTIVENESS OF INFLOW DISHES, THE ADVISORY BOARD FURTHER RECOMMENDS THAT:

- **ALL TOWN OF WALPOLE PERSONNEL THAT HAVE REASON TO WORK ON THE SEWER SYSTEM WILL BE TRAINED IN THE INSTALLATION, REMOVAL AND RE-INSTALLATION OF THE INFLOW DISHES**
- **LANGUAGE BE INCORPORATED INTO DRAIN LAYERS' LICENSES NOTIFYING THEM OF THE EXISTENCE OF THE INFLOW DISHES**
- **THE TOWN OF WALPOLE WILL INCORPORATE, INTO OPERATION MANUALS, LANGUAGE THAT INCLUDES INSPECTION OF INFLOW DISHES AT REGULAR INTERVALS**

THE APPLICANT WILL PAY A CONNECTION FEE OF \$40,750.00 TO THE MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY, CONSISTENT WITH THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH IN MWRA POLICY #: OP.11. It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

❖ LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Mr. Favaloro stated that Governor Patrick included \$15 million in Debt Service Assistance (DSA) as part of his House One Budget, while the House Budget included \$20 million. Amendments have been filed on the House side to increase the DSA number to \$25 million. Staff will monitor the progress on this amendment and the proceedings for the Senate Budget. Staff plans to emphasize to the legislature that 98 other entities are eligible for assistance as well as the MWRA.

Operations Committee – Jay Fink

❖ **MWRA REVENUE METER ADJUSTMENTS AND THEIR IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES' WATER/SEWER ASSESSMENTS** – Michael Hornbrook, MWRA Chief Operating Officer

Mr. Hornbrook introduced Charles Calapa, Manager, Metering and Monitoring. Mr. Calapa stated that the MWRA installed a new wastewater metering system in 2003 and 2004 and has been using it since April 1, 2005. During the installation phase, average flows from the prior three years were used for billing.

Two types of meters are used: Flodar and ADFM. The ADFM is used in larger pipes and Flodar used at other sites. For preventative maintenance, staff does quarterly calibrations and tries to verify the flows coming into the meters. Staff had to remedy a few quirks in the new system to get to a flow that was acceptable to all.

As far as the data was concerned, a few things slipped through the cracks. In 2005, staff realized it had to subtract CSO flows for Cambridge and Boston and a couple of industrial plants in Canton. The effect on the current 2007 assessments was fairly minor at \$2,000.

Although erratic velocity data has been seen over the past year and one-half, most of the meters are stable and staff has been able to apply an equation to come up with a flow result.

Mr. Hornbrook stated on the water side, a large adjustment had to be made. In October 2005, an internal inspection of meter 5 found a five-foot long stop plank in the throat of the meter. Staff believes it came from construction at the Norumbega tank. Since the stop plank was removed, we have had low flow readings. Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) saw an overall drop in their consumption after this was removed and meter 5 was shut down. MWRA looked at the meter because BWSC had done a complete modernization of its residential and commercial meters and they summed up this area and were seeing a discrepancy between what they were selling on a retail rate and what MWRA was charging on a wholesale rate. BWSC questioned our meters and because they had a large discrepancy on retail versus wholesale the MWRA went out and shut the meter off and inserted a camera and found the stop plank.

As a result, the MWRA policy does allow an adjustment going back one year. Staff estimates over registration of that meter due to the stop plank. Based on comparison with flows immediately before and, closing meter 5, the meter immediately after, and looking at all the previous years information, Authority staff is recommending a 211 million gallon adjustment for the period of 1/11 through 10/19/05 going back one year and will result in a credit to BWSC of \$469,000. BWSC is the MWRA's biggest single customer and it has a significant impact. The other communities have an increase from a low of \$909 to a high of \$37,616.

Dana Snow said some communities are now going to have a deficiency.

E. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

F. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 1:25 P.M. It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Sullivan, Secretary