

**MWRA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**  
**OCTOBER 19, 2006**  
**NATIONAL HERITAGE MUSEUM**  
**33 MARRETT RD. (ROUTE 2A), LEXINGTON, MA**  
Minutes Approved at the January 18, 2007 Meeting

Forty-three people were in attendance, including twenty-two voting members: John Sanchez, ARLINGTON; Peter Castanino, BELMONT; John P. Sullivan, BOSTON; Ed Sullivan, CANTON; Al Borgonzi, EVERETT; J. R. Greene and Barbara Wyatt, GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEES; William Hadley, LEXINGTON; Jay Fink, LYNN; Bruce Kenerson, LYNNFIELD; Dana Snow, MARBLEHEAD; Ron Seaboyer, MELROSE; Katherine Haynes Dunphy, MILTON; Lou Taverna, NEWTON; Bernie Cooper, NORWOOD; Ted McIntire, READING; Larry Barrett, STOUGHTON; Walter Woods, WELLESLEY; Earl Forman, WESTON; Zig Peret, WILBRAHAM; Rob Antico, WILMINGTON; Steve Swymer, WINCHESTER.

Also present: John Carroll, Andrew Pappastergion and Joseph Foti, MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS; Michael Trotta, CANTON; Jon Norton and Mike Marchese, EVERETT; Barbara Stevens, LEXINGTON; Ben Lagman, MELROSE; Ana Singleton, STOUGHTON; Christopher Nowak, VHB; Paul Gorman, YMCA of the NORTH SHORE; Eileen Simonson, WSCAC; Ed Bretschneider, WAC; Richard Trubiano, David Coppes, Pamela Heidell and Rachel Madden, MWRA STAFF; Joe Favaloro, Cornelia Potter, Ryan Ferrara and Mary Ann McClellan, MWRA ADVISORY BOARD STAFF.

**A. WELCOME**

Chairman Katherine Haynes Dunphy called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

**B. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Executive Director Joseph Favaloro reported that the MWRA moved its records center from Fore River to the construction support building on Deer Island; over the weekend, there was a significant flood at that building, for which they are still determining the level of damage.

The Advisory Board has had presentations on the Blue Hills Covered Storage Project over the last 18 or so months. This project has been subject to significant litigation; however, a ruling in the MWRA's favor quoting the Judge states "the Plaintiffs Amended Complaint for Review of Decision and Injunctive relief is dismissed against the Defendants, Department of Environmental Protection and Massachusetts Water Resources Authority and the Defendants, Department of Environmental Protection and Massachusetts Water Resources Authority shall recover of the Plaintiffs their costs of action." Mr. Favaloro expects the MWRA to recover its costs.

As mentioned last month, the Advisory Board will kick off its “community meeting” strategy beginning next week with the Milton Board of Selectmen to inform communities about issues and the approach the Advisory Board plans to take on rate increases. Staff plans to show each community the projects the MWRA has done that have benefited their community, along with the projects in the Master Plan and the CIP that are going to benefit their community. There is a price to pay for these benefits and that is the reason the rates increase.

The Advisory Board is currently in the interview process to fill its open Government and Media Coordinator position.

The Legislator of the Year Award will be presented at the November Advisory Board meeting at the State House.

The American Water Works Association reported that the State of California recently signed a landmark law that reduces its standard lead allowance in plumbing fixtures and fittings from 8% to 0.25% to be implemented over the next three years. Hopefully this will have an impact in Massachusetts as well. Lead, for the most part, comes from the fittings and fixtures. The Massachusetts standard is currently 3%.

Gubernatorial appointee J. R. Greene asked Mr. Favaloro if he wanted to comment on the somewhat hostile reaction that Fred Laskey et al. got at the meeting in Northampton. Mr. Favaloro stated Senator Rosenberg and the entire central and western Massachusetts delegation asked for a meeting regarding system expansion, withdrawals and all other issues in regard to the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs. Many divergent opinions were expressed at this meeting. Senator Rosenberg did a phenomenal job as a facilitator. Mr. Favaloro said he would not classify the meeting as hostile but rather, directed, with a point of view that raises issues.

The first question that was paramount on the minds of just about everyone in that room was a commitment that the Connecticut River (or any river) would never be diverted. At that meeting, MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey and others stated clearly that it is never going to happen.

The second issue that is clearly unresolved is withdrawals and levels of withdrawals coming into the other river basins in that area, an issue that needs to be worked on. What is the best science to get to those answers?

The third series of questions centered on what would happen if communities in western and central Massachusetts wanted to have use of the water. Pioneer Valley Planning expects growth in that area equal to approximately 3 million gallons per day. The MWRA responded that the water is available for these communities if they want it. Perhaps it was an aggressive meeting, with pointed questions asked, but the end result was a positive one. Some misnomers were eliminated and it flagged what the important questions are. There was commitment from everyone that more discussion is needed.

At that meeting, Fred Laskey committed to have one of the Board of Directors meetings out in the Northampton area in the next twelve months.

Eileen Simonson of the Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee (WSCAC) stated that the meeting was extremely productive. Ms. Simonson stated the MWRA has done an extraordinary job and most of the MWRA communities are more efficient than the communities out where I live. Bringing staff to answer questions and talking about the work the MWRA is continuing to do on the water system brings political goodwill.

Mr. Favaloro said Advisory Board staff has made a concerted effort to move this discussion to the next level by asking WSCAC to provide a list, from their perspective, on what the issues are and what resolution they see to those issues. The entire delegation of central and western Massachusetts will also be asked those same questions so that future dialog or discussion will only be on the issues. There may be some issues we may never be able to resolve; however, there may be some issues where we can find common ground. WSCAC plans to provide their information by next week.

J. R. Greene agreed the meeting was productive. Having the “so called” surplus water being spilled at the Quabbin and Wachusett is a very important issue to the people of western and central Massachusetts. While this is an MWRA issue, it is also a state issue. If there is a special study to be done on this matter, perhaps the state should fund at least part of it.

**C. PRESENTATION: ONE YEAR OPERATIONAL PERFORMANCE OF THE JOHN J. CARROLL WATER TREATMENT PLANT** – David Coppes, Director, Western Operations and Richard Trubiano, Director of Field Operations

Richard Trubiano, MWRA Director of Field Operations, stated the Authority is celebrating the one-year anniversary of the operation of the John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant (CWTP). The facility is new, clean and technologically magnificent, providing 220 million gallons per day (MGD) of clean potable water to more than two million people per day with a staff of two on the off shifts. It is an advanced plant that has worked well over the past year.

The CWTP was placed in service on July 27, 2005. Ozone is used for primary disinfection, which has proven to be a reliable and safe operation. Soda ash and carbon dioxide are added to properly control lead corrosion and the plant has passed two rounds of lead sampling as an entire system. Sampling and the third round of bi-annual testing were done in September and staff is still waiting for the results from the lead and copper samples.

Chloramination (chlorine and ammonia) is also provided to ensure that the disinfection reaches all the way to each community and fluoridation is done as well. The plant passed all regulatory requirements during the first year of operation and met all disinfection levels, disinfection byproduct levels and all chemical parameters for turbidity, pH and alkalinity. The CWTP operated reliably, with no losses of service, although there were times when the plant had hydraulic issues that were dealt with by plant staff; complete service was maintained.

Water quality has improved. The plant has a higher level of disinfection; there has been reductions in some carcinogenic products like disinfection byproducts. Taste and odor complaints have decreased, which staff believes can be attributed to the effect of ozone; growth of algae in the reservoir was not as high as in other years. The maintenance program was ready to go on day 1 and with a combination of in-house and contracts, staff has been able to fully maintain the facility. Staff is doing process optimization as the plant continues to operate. Essentially, construction is done; however, there are a few small change orders to complete.

Director of Western Operations David Coppes stated the plant's primary disinfection regulation is *giardia* CT achievement. CT is the concentration of the disinfectant times the time it is in contact with it. MWRA has a regulatory minimum standard of 100% achievement. Prior to the plant going into service, the levels were between 130 to 200%. Since the plant went into service, the plant is achieving upwards of 400% most times and is often at 800 to 900% of the *giardia* requirement. Thus, staff has seen a big improvement in the primary disinfection that the plant can achieve.

The plant was not designed for *giardia* inactivation; it was designed for some level of *cryptosporidium* inactivation. Recent regulations have been enacted that require a certain level of *cryptosporidium* inactivation. The Authority went ahead, prior to all of the regulations being finalized, and is now achieving a 2 log *cryptosporidium* inactivation. The performance goal for the plant is to achieve a performance ratio of 1, which is equivalent to a 2 log. The plant is currently at 1.5 and the plant is optimized, that number is slowly going down, thus less ozone is being used; less ozone is less electricity and oxygen and less cost to operate the facility.

In regard to the disinfectant byproduct achievement, staff has seen greater than 90% reduction in total trihalomethanes and halo acidic acids since the plant went into service.

There have been some problems at the plant. There are very strong residuals in the distribution system; however, staff has seen some increased bacterial activity during warm water conditions in the plant water system and at the entrance to a couple of MetroWest communities. Coliform counts are low and staff believes there is a bio-film growth in the pipeline that is feeding the plant water system that might be the cause. A response plan is being put together. Thus far, those pipes have been taken out of service and chlorinated, with some improvement in disinfection levels. The pipeline that feeds those communities will be taken out of service to be disinfected. A consultant, with specific expertise in bio-film, has been hired. Staff has stepped up the amount of monitoring and testing being done to better understand the mechanics of what is going on so actions can be taken to better control it.

The CWTP has developed a maintenance program for the 4,000 pieces of equipment that were added to its computerized maintenance management system; work orders are generated by that system and maintenance staff works on those as they come out. During the winter staff plans to take the plant down to make sure the ozone diffuser stones are working properly and efficiently.

#### **D. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Executive Committee** – Katherine Haynes Dunphy

##### **❖ LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Favalaro stated staff is in the process of putting together the Advisory Board's legislative strategy; Debt Service Assistance (DSA) will be high on the list of priorities. All bills for the next two-year session need to be filed by January 10.

The receipt of DSA required the MWRA to submit a report to both the House and Senate Chairmen of Ways and Means, along with the head of Administration and Finance, on what the MWRA has accomplished and its priorities; also included in this report are ways the Commonwealth could help, not only the MWRA but other water and sewer entities, and

issues surrounding it. The report was done by the MWRA, with input from the Advisory Board.

The number one issue will be getting and growing DSA for FY08. A new Administration could impact receipt of DSA. Lt. Governor Kerry Healey did not respond to the Advisory Board's invitation to provide her opinion on DSA, but in a letter she sent out during the FY07 legislative process, she chastised the legislature for providing DSA. Deval Patrick, through the primary and general election process, has contacted the Advisory Board but has declined to answer the survey or talk about DSA.

The Advisory Board's ability to increase DSA is contingent upon the Commonwealth's revenue growth. Through the first quarter of the fiscal year, there is no growth in the Commonwealth's budget. The state barely missed its projected number, which means it is flat. It could improve, but it is in this critical timeline that House and Senate Ways and Means and the Governor's office all agree on what they are going to use as the growth number as they build the FY08 budget. The elimination of tolls reduces the revenue stream and incorporates costs into the highway department; the State Budget will have to take care of the turnpike. Further, this will be the first year to show the real costs of the health initiative that came forward last session. That is the framework in which the Advisory Board will try to increase DSA.

❖ **PRESENTATION/ACTION ITEM: APPLICATION TO THE MWRA FOR A WATER CONNECTION SERVING PROPERTY PARTIALLY LOCATED IN A NON-MWRA COMMUNITY (SALEM INTO MARBLEHEAD) FOR THE YMCA AT LEGGS HILL THROUGH MWRA POLICY OP.09**

Christopher Nowak, Senior Project Engineer for Vanasse Hangen and Brustlin Associates of Watertown, represented the YMCA of the North Shore in its application for a straddle connection within the communities of Salem and Marblehead. There is a 16-inch water main located in Leggs Hill Road that the YMCA is proposing to connect to. Hydro flow tests on that main have determined that there is capacity to provide 4,000 gallons of water per minute at 20 psi, which is sufficient to service this project.

The proposed YMCA building is roughly 88,000 square feet. Additionally, ten house lots will be sold as revenue for the YMCA and act as a buffer for the neighborhood. It would be difficult to receive water for this site from Salem because the YMCA would have to transport the water over a salt-water estuary and a boxed culvert about 2,200 feet up the road.

Water demand for the site was calculated two ways. First, the standard state sewer generation rates were increased by 10%, for an estimate of about 18,000 gallons per day (GPD) water demand; these estimates are typically high, on the order of 60 to 70%. At the request of MWRA staff member Pam Heidell, the consultant re-calculated the expected use at the site by using empirical data from another comparable facility (the Sterling Center in Beverly) in terms of programs, although their facility is about 20% larger in square footage. Based on the Sterling Center's data, they use about 12,000 gpd. With adjustments for square footage, the YMCA estimates it will need 10,000 gpd for its building. The expected use from the residential homes, based on the public data for Massachusetts average water usage from the Water Resources Commission, is 66 gpd, assuming four people per household, for an additional 3,000 gpd; the overall total for the site is 13,000 gpd.

Mr. Nowak said there will be no irrigation at the small athletic field and the remainder of the landscaped area of the YMCA site. The house lots will have no irrigation as well. Gutter systems on all the pools have been lowered 5 inches to minimize splash out and a more sophisticated pool backwashing filtering system will be installed, which would limit the amount of flushing required through the filtration system. Waterless urinals are proposed for the facility. All plumbing fixtures will be low-flow fixtures. The project will meet all of the MWRA and City of Salem's water conservation restrictions.

Dana Snow said the Town of Marblehead, as well as the Marblehead Water and Sewer Commission, is in support of the proposal. Mr. Snow said the project does not have any negative effect upon the Marblehead system and we look forward to the location of the YMCA facility adjacent to our community providing access to their resources.

Operations Chairman Jay Fink noted that this proposal came before the Operations Committee and was unanimously approved.

Dana Snow made a Motion **TO APPROVE A NEW WATER CONNECTION TO SERVE THE PROPOSED LEGGS HILL YMCA AND 10 FOUR BEDROOM RESIDENCES, LOCATED PRIMARILY WITHIN THE CITY OF SALEM. THIS MOTION IS SUBJECT TO THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH IN MWRA POLICY #OP.09, "WATER CONNECTIONS SERVING PROPERTY PARTIALLY LOCATED IN A NON-MWRA COMMUNITY", INCLUDING THE REVISIONS MADE BY THE MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS AT THEIR OCTOBER 11, 2006 MEETING. THIS INCLUDES THE FOLLOWING PROVISIONS TO:**

**1) YMCA OF NORTH SHORE WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR ALL PIPE MAINTENANCE AND FOR ASSURING THAT NO ADDITIONAL CONNECTIONS WILL BE MADE TO THE PIPE WITHOUT PRIOR APPROVAL OF THE MWRA;**

**2) PARTICIPATE IN ALL WATER CONSERVATION AND DEMAND MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS IMPLEMENTED BY THE MWRA USER COMMUNITY AND THOSE REQUIRED BY MWRA REGULATIONS, AND IMPLEMENT ALL WATER EFFICIENCY MEASURES IDENTIFIED IN ITS APPLICATION TO MWRA. FOR THE RESIDENTIAL COMPONENT OF THE DEVELOPMENT, THIS ALSO INCLUDES ADHERENCE TO ANY WATER CONSERVATION RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED ON THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF SALEM;**

**3) PAY AN ENTRANCE FEE TO ENSURE THAT THE SPONSORING PARTY, YMCA OF THE NORTH SHORE, WILL PAY A FAIR SHARE OF THE COST OF THE WATERWORKS SYSTEM IN PLACE AT THE TIME OF ENTRANCE;**

**4) PROVIDE AN ANNUAL REPORT TO THE MWRA DETAILING THE AMOUNT OF METERED WATER USE FOR THE PRECEDING CALENDAR YEAR FOR ALL FACILITIES AND RESIDENCES LOCATED WITHIN THE PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT;**

**5) TOTAL WATER USE FOR THE ENTIRE YMCA LEGGS HILL/RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IS PROJECTED TO BE ON AVERAGE 12,696 GALLONS PER DAY (GPD)/4,733,685 GALLONS PER YEAR (GPY) WITH A PEAK FLOW OF 18,106 GPD/6,608,690 GPY. ANY USE OVER THE 12,696 GPD OVER ANY ONE-YEAR PERIOD WILL TRIGGER A REVISION TO THE ENTRANCE FEE. THE ASSESSMENT OF AN**

**ENTRANCE FEE ENSURES THAT THE PROPONENT PAYS ITS FAIR SHARE OF THE COST OF THE WATERWORKS SYSTEM IN PLACE AT THE TIME OF ENTRANCE.**

**THE MWRA ADVISORY BOARD RECOGNIZES THE JUSTIFICATION FOR THE CONNECTION TO THE MARBLEHEAD WATER SYSTEM IS BASED UPON THE PHYSICAL CONSTRAINTS ON SALEM MUNICIPAL WATER SYSTEM TO SUPPLY THE LEGGS HILL YMCA/RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT SITE. THE PROPOSED CONNECTION HAS DOCUMENTED SUPPORT OF MARBLEHEAD (WATER AND SEWER COMMISSION AND BOARD OF SELECTMEN) AND SALEM (DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICES AND MAYOR KIMBERLY DRISCOLL). CONSISTENT WITH THE GUIDELINES SET FORTH IN THE MWRA'S SYSTEM EXPANSION POLICY #OP-09, YMCA OF THE NORTH SHORE AGREES TO PAY MWRA AN ENTRANCE FEE OF \$70,823 BASED UPON AN AVERAGE DAILY FLOW OF 12,696 GPD AND A PEAK DAILY FLOW OF 18,106 GPD. WATER USAGE FIGURES WILL BE VERIFIED THROUGH ANNUAL REPORTING TO THE MWRA. It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.**

**Finance Committee** – Bernard Cooper

**❖ CIP/CEB UPDATES**

Cornelia Potter stated the CEB variance reports through the first quarter of the year show spending reached \$132 million, or \$6 million below the \$138 million budgeted for the period, a variance of 4% overall. Contributing to this variance are lower utilities spending of \$2 million, primarily due to lower electricity pricing than had been assumed in the budget. Personnel costs were nearly \$1 million lower than budgeted reflecting a higher vacancy rate and \$1 million lower in debt service payments due largely to lower variable rate interest rates than had been assumed in the budget. Maintenance spending has also been lower than budgeted with a year to date variance of \$0.75 million.

On the capital side, accruals for the first quarter continue to be well below budget. Last year accruals were barely \$150 million, as compared to the more than \$200 million that had been budgeted. The ability to spend, as well as later than assumed schedules for spending, has been an important impact, with spending last year the lowest since 1989. Spending so far this year has been \$30 million or \$22 million less than the \$52 million budgeted for the first quarter, which is a variance of over 40%. A certain amount of this gap should close as a result of later and upcoming repayments to the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) for the CSO projects that they manage. There has also been slower spending on the North Dorchester Bay Tunnel contract, which the Authority had assumed would have picked up by now.

The budget for FY07 is \$205 million; with \$18.5 million for contingency, the total capital budget is close to \$225 million for this fiscal year.

The first meeting of the Rates Management Committee is scheduled for next Wednesday. The Committee will include Board members Lucile Hicks and Vincent Mannering plus representation from the Authority and Advisory Board staffs and the financial advisor. The agenda will likely include discussion on modifications to the bond covenants, options for restructuring debt service on existing bonds, consideration of the reserve levels provided in the Renewal and Replacement Reserve and the Insurance Reserve, discussion on the use and timing application of entrance fees and the outlook for debt service receipts.

❖ **PREVIEW: RATES MANAGEMENT STRATEGY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Favaloro stated discussions that occur between the Board, the Advisory Board and authority staffs in the next month or so are critical over the short and mid term. It will not only impact FY08, but also the next five to seven years. It is critical that all parties commit to an overall strategy on developing rate revenue requirements that are fair to communities and fair to the MWRA because its mission is not done yet. There is a lot of maintenance and construction that needs to occur. Next month the Authority will make a presentation on its Master Planning process at the State House meeting. Every dollar spent on the capital side contributes to an increase on the 60% portion of the operating budget.

Eileen Simonson asked if it is conceivable that the Board could wait to give final approval on the Master Plan until they get a handle on the rates management issue. Mr. Favaloro responded that when an acceptable rate revenue requirement is determined, whether it is 5% or 9%, then staff can determine the different tools it has (bond covenants, reserves, entrance fees, restructuring) to get to that number.

Operations Committee – Jay Fink

❖ **PRESENTATION: GOALS/OBJECTIVES AND PROGRESS BY THE STATE BLUE RIBBON PANEL REVIEWING THE WATER MANAGEMENT ACT** – Pamela Heidell, MWRA Policy & Planning Manager

Pam Heidell said as a result of legislation, a Blue Ribbon Panel was established to review the DEP Water Management Act. The goal and charge of the panel was to study the effectiveness of the DEP Water Management Act Guidance Policy and prepare a Report to the Legislature by the end of this year.

The DEP Water Management Act regulates water supply withdrawals in the Commonwealth. Per the Act, DEP is supposed to balance the competing needs for water. The guidance policy pertains to Water Management Act permits and permit renewals. In 2004, the Water Management Policy Guidance was promulgated by DEP; in 2006 an additional document was issued, which provided guidance on the policy. DEP representatives were at an Advisory Board meeting within the last year to discuss the policy but the basic tenet of it is 65 gallons per capita per day (gpcpd) for residential use and a performance standard of 10%.

These standards are applied to water supply permittees in medium and high stressed water basins. Medium and high stressed water basins were defined in a 2001 report by the Water Resources Commission and essentially 75% of the rivers assessed in the Commonwealth are medium to high stressed. These standards would be applied to the majority of rivers in the Commonwealth. The guidance includes summer use restrictions and if the standard is not met, a compliance plan must be developed.

The Water Management Act Policy and Guidance requires offset studies to establish a baseline use based on the past three years of water use; if you want to increase that use, an offset study must be done. Currently the policy and guidance only applies to Water Management Act permit and permit renewals. Seven MWRA communities have Water Management Act permits. Other partially supplied communities have registrations and the MWRA has a Water Management Act registration. The concern to the MWRA, and water suppliers across the state, is that DEP has signaled its intent to do more with the registrations when they are renewed 18 months from now. The policy and guidance may affect a broader amount of people in the future.

The panel has met three times and discussed how the policy was established and whether it was legally established; no consensus was reached. Another area of discussion was the science and the basis for the policy; a number of people had issues with that. What affect would the specific conservation standards and implementation of the plan have on improving stream flow? There were a number of presentations made by the U.S. Geological Society, the Charles River Watershed Association, Fish & Game, a hydrologist representing Mass. Water Works and John Gall from CDM. Other issues were the appropriateness of the standards and the cost issues and implications for communities.

The panel will meet again tomorrow to discuss the cost of implementing conservation standards, the costs of the specific programs DEP is recommending and what that may mean to revenues of the water suppliers.

Mr. Favaloro noted that he attended a meeting three weeks ago where Fred Laskey discussed MWRA's reasons for expanding water sales. At that meeting, people felt that 65 gpcpd was too generous and pushed for 40 gpcpd. At that meeting, Mr. Favaloro asked about the economic and political ramifications of going from 65 to 40 and the answer he received was there are no implications; the cost won't go up, it will change the unit price but there won't be any additional cost to the community. There is a belief out there that there is a zero sum game; if you use less water, you have to increase the unit price. It is missing the reality of the revenue stream within communities being geared to a fixed cost.

Ms. Heidell said water suppliers have capital investments, water treatment plants, pumps, wells in place and they are being told they need to restrict water use so conservation isn't necessarily helping them avoid the cost of expansion it is just increasing costs to comply with the policy guidance.

John Carroll said we all know the numbers now, 320 million gallons then, 230 million gallons now. There is no need to apply any more restrictions on water use in the MWRA communities. Pam is on the panel; another panel member feels it is two or three to six or seven. If someone has a lot of money and wants to water their lawn, let them water their lawn. We don't need these restrictions in our communities.

Eileen Simonson said MWRA's range of water use goes from 45 to 47 gallons in the City of Boston to over 100 gpcpd in some of the suburban communities. Some use local water and those stressed basins need the emphasis. When a system builds big reservoirs it has a different level of discussion. It isn't true that all of the MWRA is the same; the question is how do you make sure locally supplied communities and new communities coming into the system behave in the same efficient fashion as the MWRA. This Blue Ribbon Panel responds to a lot of hysteria in the water industry and there will be a common ground. The fourth topic after legality, science and cost is balance; that is where the MWRA has to weigh in. People are looking at the environment versus human consumption versus the unknown future; that is where this question has to be resolved.

Chairman Dunphy said in the city, a person may have a tomato plant on a private windowsill. In the communities, people may have vegetable gardens; that is not unreasonable. Having standards that are so rigid is hard. Ms. Simonson agreed, stating there should be a different

factor for outside water use. Chairman Dunphy noted it would depend on what kind of an outdoors you have.

Ms. Simonson stated WSCAC wants efficiency. MWRA should be arguing to make a distinction between the different types of users in its system and the different types of users around the state. The MWRA should use its technical expertise to help the state do a better job, not to fight against, but work inside it to make it better, as Pam Heidell is now.

Bernie Cooper said the state isn't listening to communities. The burden is going to fall on the small user because when volume is restricted, the people that can't cut back because they don't have lawns to water or cars to wash, will be affected. It is going to be the elderly. Ms. Simonson said the average use of water in a home with elderly people is 37 gpcpd. Mr. Cooper said communities are being asked to give their elderly citizens a discount; who is left to absorb the cost of those discounts. Ms. Simonson said every house with a lawn needs a meter on that watering system for the summer and double their rate. Mr. Cooper said we will continue to do battle.

**E. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS**

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 1:12 P.M.** It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Sullivan, Secretary