

**MWRA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
NOVEMBER 16, 2006
STATE HOUSE
ROOM 350, BOSTON, MA
Minutes Approved at the March 15, 2007 Meeting**

Forty-three people were in attendance, including nineteen voting members: Peter Castanino, BELMONT; John P. Sullivan, BOSTON; Ed Sullivan, CANTON; Al Borgonzi, EVERETT; J.R. Greene and Barbara Wyatt, GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEES; Jay Fink, LYNN; Dana Snow, MARBLEHEAD; Doran Crouse, MARLBOROUGH; Ed Bates, MAPC; Ron Seaboyer, MELROSE; Katherine Haynes Dunphy, MILTON; Lou Taverna, NEWTON; Ted McIntire, READING; Carol Antonelli, SOMERVILLE; Bob Angelo, WESTWOOD; Zig Peret, WILBRAHAM; Rob Antico, WILMINGTON; Fred Russell, WOBURN.

Also present: Joseph Foti, MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS; Senator Steven Tolman; Sheila, Aide to Senator Tolman; Representative Bruce Ayers, QUINCY; Representative Rachel Kaprielian, WATERTOWN; Wayne Weikel, aide to Rep. Mariano; Jon Norton and Mike Marchese, EVERETT; Ben Lagman, MELROSE; Eileen Simonson, WSCAC; Christine Hevelone-Byler, MMA; Marian Orfeo, Carl Leone, Lise Marx, Ria Convery, Michael Ralph, Tracy Wadsworth, Patricia Filippone, Rachel Madden and Kristen Hall, 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 11:47 a.m. and presented MWRA Advisory Board staff member Ryan Ferrara with a plaque to express the Advisory Board's appreciation for his 11 years of dedicated service to MWRA ratepayers. Mr. Ferrara is leaving the Advisory Board to work for the City of Newton. Mr. Ferrara expressed his thanks to Advisory Board members for their support, to Joe Favaloro for his leadership and to Advisory Board staff members past and present.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM SEPTEMBER 21, 2006

A Motion was made **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2006 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.** It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

C. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MWRA Executive Director Joseph Favaloro introduced Christine Hevelone-Byler who will be joining the Advisory Board staff as Government and Media Coordinator.

D. PRESENTATION: MWRA ADVISORY BOARD LEGISLATORS OF THE YEAR

❖ THE HONORABLE STEVEN TOLMAN, CHAIR, MENTAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE/ASSISTANT VICE-CHAIR, SENATE WAYS AND MEANS

Chairman Dunphy stated the Advisory Board members enjoy honoring their allies and friends in the Legislature for their hard work on behalf of ratepayers. Certain people deserve special

recognition. This year we are recognizing Senator Steven Tolman and in February we will honor Representative John H. Rogers who was not able to attend today.

Senator Tolman's efforts to secure Debt Service Assistance are well known. He has been a strong ally and the Advisory Board can count on him to try to restore the \$25 million in state Debt Service Assistance, which was recently cut by Governor Romney's emergency 9C powers. Chairman Dunphy presented Senator Tolman with the Legislator of the Year Award.

Senator Tolman expressed his thanks, accepting the honor on behalf of the 200 legislators that came to our aid in two areas – first, in getting Debt Service Assistance (DSA) into the budget and, second, helping to keep DSA in the budget, as well as overriding the Governor's veto.

Senator Tolman stated that he advocated for \$60 million in DSA. He stated it is "unconscionable" that Governor Romney used the power of his 9C cuts to cut \$420+ million from the budget; it adversely impacts the mentally retarded, the deaf, the blind, etc.

The Senator stated that he humbly accepted this honor and applauded the work that the Advisory Board members do.

❖ **THE HONORABLE JOHN H. ROGERS, HOUSE MAJORITY LEADER***

[Due to a previous commitment, Representative Rogers will receive his award at the February Advisory Board meeting in Canton.]

E. PRESENTATION: MWRA'S MASTER PLANNING FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS – Marian Orfeo, Director of Planning and Coordination

Marian Orfeo stated for a number of years the Advisory Board has advocated for Master Planning at the MWRA as a way to guide the Authority in the development of its Capital Improvement Programs (CIP). Cutbacks in state Debt Service Assistance (DSA) led the Authority to slash its CIP, including projects that would meet priority needs. Master Planning and project prioritization is seen as the mechanism to rebuild the CIP.

The draft Master Planning document will be sent as a companion piece to the proposed FY08 CIP and staff looks forward to comments from Advisory Board members on how to improve or clarify it.

The Master Plan is an exhaustive set of recommendations. Staff looked at all the topics that are within the CIP, topics that were once part of the CIP but were eliminated due to budget concerns, needs that had been previously identified but had not made it into the CIP and new needs and then prioritized all the projects. Additional prioritization will be done throughout the CIP process. In terms of total needs, staff has come up with \$3.1 billion worth of projects over a time span through FY2048.

Senior Program Manager Carl Leone, from the MWRA's Planning Department, stated that the Authority does not expect any new communities to be added on the wastewater side. The current budget numbers do not reflect funds for regulatory changes, though staff does expect those numbers to change; funds will be added later. The Cross Harbor Tunnel links the headworks facilities to the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (DIWTP). Staff has assumed that these large, expensive pipes don't need repair; however, staff has recommended funding a project to check up on those pipes.

On the wastewater side, the DIWTP is a large facility with expensive equipment that must be maintained; responsibility for the residuals facility will be returned to the Authority in 2015; the 40 year-old headworks facilities need significant investment, having equipment that is now 20 years old; MWRA invested in new pipes for replacement and upgrading for capacity issues for its interceptors, but a number of the pipes that don't have capacity issues do need to be rehabilitated because of age. Most of the projects are needed to keep the systems running.

There are four remote headworks: 1) Chelsea Creek; 2) Columbus Park; 3) Ward Street (all built in the mid 1960s and in need of repair). Significant investment is required for these headworks; and 4) Nut Island (built in 1998 and in good condition).

There is approximately \$2 million in the existing capital budget to do a condition assessment and facilities plan as part of a headworks reinvestment strategy. Staff has also budgeted \$5 million for screens replacement, likely the highest priority equipment replacement in the headworks. Additionally, another \$25 million will be spent over the following ten years on the three remote headworks facilities, along with some long-term annual asset protection dollars for smaller projects, essentially a placeholder annually to budget for smaller projects.

There are 20 wastewater pump stations and CSO facilities at the MWRA; 15 of the 20 have been built or rehabilitated by MWRA since 1985. In the current CIP there is \$3 million to do some small equipment relocation at a few of the facilities. Alewife is the oldest, built in 1951. The Framingham – Wellesley system is high in hydrogen sulfide and corrosion.

The current CIP includes \$16 million, in three construction phases, for a major upgrade for the wastewater system's Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to make more of the operations controllable from the Chelsea Operations Control Center.

There are 227 miles of gravity sewers in the MWRA system, along with 30 miles of force mains and siphons. One-third of the pipes are over 100 years old. The Authority has been putting a lot of money into larger scale projects and is now trying to re-focus and look at smaller scale rehabilitation projects for pipes that haven't been rehabilitated to date.

TV inspection is done on all MWRA pipes and the pipe is graded A (new, perfect condition), B (okay, needs to be looked at with more frequent TV inspections) and C (in need of repair). As of 2004, when analysis was done for the Master Plan, there was 52 miles (23%) of A rated pipe; 139 miles (61%) of B rated pipe; and 18 miles (8%) of C rated pipe; 18 miles of new pipe has not yet been rated.

As part of the Master Planning process, staff did a risk and consequence of failure methodology to rank all the C rated pipe and then grouped those sections of C rated pipe into different projects resulting in 12 sewer rehabilitation projects at \$79 million, which are spread out in the CIP. The first seven projects (of the 12) are proposed to be done from FY09-18 CIP at a cost of \$36 million. The next five projects would be in the next ten-year timeframe. Staff will reevaluate the TV inspection tapes on the C rated pipes in the next year to ensure the priorities are the same. Some inspections will be done in-house and others contracted out.

The \$80 million West Roxbury Tunnel rehabilitation project was formerly in the CIP but was removed; staff would like to get it back in. There is hydrogen sulfide deterioration and staff would like to rehabilitate it before the tunnel collapses.

Three Cross Harbor Tunnels run from the Chelsea Creek, Ward Street and Nut Island headworks to Deer Island. The two older tunnels were built in the 1950s and are expected to have a 100-year life; staff has allotted \$3 million to inspect all three tunnels to make recommendations for the future. Should there be a problem with one of those tunnels, the costs would be extremely large.

The tunnel shafts are another area with hydrogen sulfide corrosion. Staff has included \$5 million for rehabilitation.

No new funds have been proposed for the CSO Control Program, which has \$460 million in the current CIP.

Staff has recommended two additional rounds of \$40 million in the outyears to fund the I/I Community Assistance Program.

The MWRA's residuals processing plant in Quincy is privatized and will be run by the New England Fertilizer Co. until 2015, at which time responsibility for the plant will be turned back to the MWRA. There is \$6.3 million proposed to be spent in FY08-13 for a facilities condition assessment, facility upgrades (design and construction), electric system reliability and pier rehabilitation. A decision on whether to rehabilitate equipment or build a new facility (at a cost of \$69 million) will be made closer to 2015.

The Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant is a maintenance intensive site with \$2.4 billion in assets that need to keep running. Example projects are \$23 million in the current CIP for electrical upgrades and \$9.9 million for electrical modifications with another \$15.6 million recommended.

Eileen Simonson of WSCAC questioned if perhaps something at the plant was designed or engineered wrong. Ms. Orfeo said some of the more critical components of the plant are now more than ten years old. The plant is in a corrosive environment. Despite the best efforts on maintenance, equipment needs to be replaced. The theme on the sewer side is reinvestment in existing assets.

Lise Marx stated the MWRA has 102 miles of active transmission mains and tunnels that carry water from the west to the east. Additionally, there are 43 miles of backup transmission facilities. The Authority has water treatment capacity of 405 MGD, with 284 miles of distribution mains, 4700 valves, 263 million gallons of covered storage and 11 pump stations.

Although staff will be recommending tunnel inspections, costs for rehabilitating those tunnels have not been included. Further, funds for any additional regulatory requirement costs are not included as well. The major challenge in the water system is redundancy. The goal, in terms of a problem in the system, is to be able to switch over to the backup systems in as transparent a fashion as possible without disruption to the customer.

Maintaining water quality within the distribution system until it gets to the cities and towns is an issue; risk reduction is part of redundancy in terms of storage.

In terms of transmission system redundancy, with the construction of the MetroWest Tunnel, the MWRA has excellent redundancy as long as the work is completed; currently, MWRA is working on the Hultmann Aqueduct and the inner connections between those two tunnels so they will work in tandem.

For the metropolitan area, the City Tunnel has two backups – the old Sudbury and Weston Aqueducts. The Sudbury Aqueduct was built in the 1870s; the Weston Aqueduct was built around 1900. Staff believes the Weston Aqueduct is in fairly good condition but would like to do a comprehensive inspection. Inspection data for the Sudbury Aqueduct shows heaves in the floor, some leaks and cracks and a number of deteriorated top of shaft structures running along stretches of the Aqueduct. There is some concern that floor heaves could turn into washouts if the Aqueduct were activated. There is \$2.7 million in the current CIP for some immediate repairs to the Sudbury Aqueduct so it can be available in the event of an emergency.

Staff would like to initiate a long-term redundancy study for the city tunnel to determine the correct way to back that system up; there may be more cost-effective options that need to be investigated, either through a series of surface pipelines or through pressurization of the Sudbury Aqueduct. For planning purposes, staff has proposed \$100 million for this project, which would be closer to the cost of pressurization; a tunnel would be much more expensive.

MWRA has done work on the old Wachusett Aqueduct so it could be used while bringing the CWTP online; however, that was a planned shut down of the Cosgrove Tunnel, in the winter when demands were low and before the treatment plant was operating. The Aqueduct is limited to approximately 240 MGD, which does not meet the MWRA's demands for a good portion of the year and it is not currently connected to the CWTP. Staff believes pressurizing the Aqueduct in the long term would allow the Authority, in the event of an emergency, to shift seamlessly over to it. An inspection of the Cosgrove Tunnel identified some repair needs that staff would then be able to fix, therefore, staff has recommended funds for pressurizing the Wachusett Aqueduct be included.

The Chicopee Valley Aqueduct (CVA) system is in fairly good shape; staff is finishing up the current redundancy project. New work is proposed to update the Winsor Power Station, which has an outdated electrical system and a poor valve configuration that makes it difficult to operate. Staff also recommends considering the feasibility of reactivating the hydro-electric facility at the Winsor Power Station.

At the CWTP, the issues are any potential regulatory changes or issues, operational improvements and long-term asset protection. The long-term enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule [crypto rule] requires a second form of disinfection for the CWTP. Funding of \$43.5 million is included in the FY07-14 CIP for Ultra Violet (UV) disinfection, but staff will revisit that decision before proceeding.

The MWRA inherited a number of dams and responsibility for maintenance from DCR. The dams are generally in good to fair condition. In addition to the dams at Quabbin and

Wachusett, MWRA has a number of emergency distribution dams. As part of the emergency plan backup source, MWRA must maintain those dams as well.

Work is currently being done at the Wachusett Spillway and Winsor Dam, with \$4 million in immediate repairs. Additional risk studies are needed. Long term, \$6 million has been included in the planning process going out to 2048 for periodic re-pointing of the masonry dams and for corrosion control and rain issues at the earthen dams.

Shaft 9 in Somerville has some masonry and structural issues that need improvement; staff has recommended \$10 million for improvements to roofs and buildings in the transmission system.

The existing CIP contains funding for Ultra Violet treatment; however, staff plans to review the UV treatment process before moving forward to ensure it is the best option at that time.

The metropolitan system has a number tunnels, pipelines, pump stations, storage tanks and tunnel shafts. Themes staff looked at on this part of the system include redundancy, the aging condition of facilities, water quality and capacity issues. Staff looked at whether there were single spine issues and focused on those that were considered major problems in the Northern Intermediate High and the Southern Extra High. The presence of MWRA or community storage at the end of a single spine may mitigate a problem until the pipe is fixed. Further, a partially supplied community can rely more on its own local sources until a repair can be made.

In the Northern Intermediate High service area, Sections 89A and 89B are the source of supply for Stoneham, Winchester, Wakefield, Woburn and Reading; Stoneham and Reading don't have local sources online. The concern at this particular section is that this pipe was manufactured in 1973 at a plant that is known for deficient manufacturing. Because it is a single line, it cannot be taken offline for inspection so staff is recommending that a redundant pipeline be built to serve that area. Staff is currently preparing a concept plan to identify alternative pipeline routes and storage locations because this area is also deficient in storage. MWRA has about six million gallons of storage in the area and the communities have about 13 million gallons. Additional storage sites are recommended.

A deficiency exists for storage for the Southern Extra High (Bellevue). The existing storage is close to the MWRA's pump stations. The Board has approved an expedited concept plan to look at pipeline routes and storage locations for the Southern Extra High. Staff has recommended \$25 million for redundant pipeline for this area.

A key project in the current CIP is to make a connection between WASM 3 and WASM 4 to allow the MWRA to take WASM 3 offline and continue to serve the area while it is being rehabilitated. WASM3 is an older steel main, which tend to get corrosion and pinhole leaks. WASM 3 has picked up on the number of leaks over the past few years. One of the key recommendations made during a vulnerability assessment was to have a connection between Shaft 7 in the Southern High System to the surface pipelines in the event of an emergency at the Dorchester Tunnel.

In the Intermediate High System there is an opportunity to build a relatively short stretch of pipe that will link to pressure zones at two parts of the Intermediate High Service so that there is redundancy between the pump stations and more operational flexibility.

There are two capacity issues: 1) there is \$4 million in the existing CIP to put in a new 8" line for Lynnfield. The current line has reached capacity; 2) the Northern Extra High area has a number of small pipes that are tuberculated or hydraulically inefficient and do not serve the pump stations or the flows required in that area.

In terms of pipelines, staff looked at known water quality problems. Section 80, which serves Needham and Wellesley, is a pipe that was constructed with a coal tar lining, which would not be done today. It presents operational issues relative to needing to flush the line before it can be used so staff recommends that it be replaced.

Unlike the wastewater system, staff does not have inspection data but does have information on leaks and breaks. Staff knows when the system was built and how old the pipes are. There is an understanding on how internally corroded the pipes may be so staff uses all of that information.

Of the 284 miles of water distribution mains, 194 miles have not yet been rehabilitated. The current CIP includes funding for 62 miles, leaving 132 miles in the Master Plan.

To date, the MWRA has distributed \$190 million in the Local Pipeline Assistance Program; staff recommends providing additional funding.

The MWRA is no longer allowed to have open storage for its water and is gradually ramping up Covered Storage with a goal to have one maximum day's demand. Staff is looking at local storage as part of the solution to the problem. Local storage is difficult to maintain, but is important for system redundancy.

For security, monitoring technologies may change in the next five to ten years; there will be continued replacement of surveillance equipment or new technologies where that is necessary. Physical hardening is being done as a matter of course as facilities are constructed or rehabilitated.

Zig Peret asked what the water and sewer breakdown is among the \$3.1 billion of projects. Ms. Orfeo stated two-thirds of the projects are sewer related (mainly equipment) and one-third are water projects.

Mr. Favaloro stated the Advisory Board has been pushing for a Master Planning process for a number of years. MWRA staff is to be commended for its efforts. The process that identified \$3.1 billion worth of water and wastewater projects was a huge undertaking. The next step is to prioritize the \$3 billion of projects among water and wastewater, which will be especially difficult with a finite amount of money. How does staff ensure every dollar it spends is going to be best placed?

Ed Sullivan said in the past, many of the projects were mandated; what about the future? Ms. Orfeo said staff believes the next big push will be on the water distribution system. As long as the Authority is aggressive on maintenance and systematically continues to line its

cast iron mains, then staff believes the MWRA can stay ahead of that curve. However, there are forces beyond the MWRA's control depending how the filtration decision plays out.

Ed Sullivan noted, at least for the moment, most of the projects going forward are our own initiative. Ms. Orfeo stated, with the exception of the CSO projects and UV, which is also mandated, that is correct.

Chairman Dunphy asked if a mandate comes in to remove unlined pipes, would it apply to community pipes as well in the same timeframe. Ms. Orfeo said absolutely, which is part of staff's rationale in recommending additional funding for the Local Pipeline Assistance Program.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee – Katherine Haynes Dunphy

❖ ACTION ITEM: 2007/2008 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

Mr. Favaloro said when Christine joins me in the next couple of weeks, our challenge will be to write legislation, get sponsors and file it by January 10, 2007; that date will trigger a two-year legislative cycle.

Last Thursday we mailed out a package for the Advisory Board meeting and the first part was going to be about Debt Service Assistance. On Friday, the Governor vetoed the \$25 million in DSA, therefore, cutting \$18.75 million out of the budget.

When the Advisory Board found out that DSA had been cut amongst \$425 million worth of cuts, staff immediately sent out advisories to the cities and towns. On Monday, another advisory was sent informing communities what an \$18.75 million loss would mean to each community. Staff has met with House and Senate leadership; the message from them was be concerned, but tempered in your approach. They are committed to getting DSA back, although it will likely not be before the end of the year but rather after the new Governor is inaugurated.

The Governor-elect has mentioned that he has a one-hundred day plan, which includes 1,000 more policemen for cities and towns; fees for activities in schools to be eliminated; funding for full-day Kindergarten; some local relief for seniors and low-income residents; and a reduction in property taxes. Where DSA stands should play out in the January timeline. On February 22, House One will be distributed. It is not unfair to say if the Authority loses the battle for DSA in FY07, it will likely be lost for FY08 as well.

The ability to increase DSA may be limited because of reduced expectations in revenues for the Commonwealth.

For the 2007-2008 legislative process, staff honed in on specific issues including a re-filed bill that limits health insurance and related costs that MWRA pays for DCR employees to actual costs; currently, MWRA pays an additional 31%.

The Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant was given to the MWRA with the understanding that the state would continue to pick up the costs for its operation. The state budgets \$500,000 for this purpose; however, costs are significantly higher, in the \$1 million range. The Advisory Board bill requests that the Commonwealth honor this obligation.

The Tort Liability initiative simply says the MWRA should be held to the same rules as municipalities and other state agencies and authorities.

The next series of bills are in reaction to state mandates and important environmental issues. Items 4 and 5 are both re-files that deal with the growing concerns of lead in the water. Item 4 speaks to providing assistance for the homeowner to replace their side of the line and Item 5 speaks to the same issue on the municipal side so the pipes can be replaced from curb to main. Programs are needed to help communities deal with this issue.

DEP has made stormwater a major issue and concern. Item 6 requests that DEP develop funding mechanisms to help communities with I/I removal or reimburse the MWRA for what it has paid so the Authority can give the funds back to communities to do more.

Item 7 is in response to the new Water Management Act, which calls for a 65 gallon per capita per day requirement and further conservation standards. Communities can't conserve until they know what they are using. In the 1980s, DEQE provided water meter modernization funding. Item 7 requests that this funding be reestablished and includes provisions for reimbursement to communities that have already modernized their meters so the funds can be used for something else.

MWRA and its ratepayers take full responsibility for lands that were taken in western and central Massachusetts to provide the source of one of the best drinking water supplies in the world. MWRA should only have to make payments in lieu of taxes (PILOT) on lands that are watershed related and only pay once, not multiple times. Currently, MWRA is still making PILOT payments for lands that are no longer utilized for watershed protection in the Sudbury Reservoir. This bill would shift costs to the appropriate party.

Item 9 refers to PILOT payments made for the Quabbin Reservoir and annexed land payments. What is the difference? Advisory Board staff believes these are double payments totaling more than \$400,000.

J. R. Greene noted when the Quabbin Reservoir was built, four towns were totally wiped out; their territory was assigned to adjoining towns for legal purposes through legislation in 1938, which also stated that there would not be any further compensation for the lands that were in the former four towns. Lands that were taken are PILOT lands. There were no PILOT payments made until 1985. Towns now get a bonus \$400,000, but fire and police departments do provide assistance in those annexed lands. Mr. Greene said, from his perspective, total elimination would probably not be justified. Mr. Favaloro said it is healthy to have this back and forth dialog and we now have more information.

The Towns of Rutland, Holden and a piece of West Boylston had an agreement with the Metropolitan District Commission [MDC] (and subsequently with the Department of Conservation and Recreation [DCR]) giving the MDC responsibility for the main trunk line that takes wastewater to the Blackstone Wastewater Treatment Plant in Worcester. As written in the MOU between MWRA/DCR and the communities, MWRA provides the function, DCR supplements the function and the Towns are billed for ordinary maintenance on the line. It makes more sense that the beneficiaries of the line be responsible for it.

Barbara Wyatt stated people in West Boylston and the Wachusett area feel this main trunk line was designed by MDC without input from the towns, which may have configured it a different way. People feel the MWRA is dumping it on them now. Mr. Favaloro noted the towns now have greater opportunity to participate in the discussion on how to manage growth with the existing limitations of the trunk sewers of the Rutland-Holden line. This allows the parties to come together for discussion on their wastewater management plans and how they will incorporate with the deficiencies of that line.

Statewide initiatives, for which the Advisory Board will not take the lead role but will support, include a plan to tier or change the interest rate for the State Revolving Fund or a state match for important projects. Previously the SRF had zero interest loans and is currently at 2%, which is still a great rate.

The American Water Works Association reported that California has passed landmark legislation that significantly reduces the amount of lead allowed in faucets and appurtenances. Massachusetts' level is now 0.8. Others within the state may pick up on the ground swell and file similar legislation for Massachusetts. If appropriate legislation is filed, the Advisory Board will support it.

A Motion was made **TO APPROVE THE ADVISORY BOARD'S SLATE OF 2007/2008 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**. It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

❖ **PREVIEW: 2006 ANNUAL WATER & SEWER RETAIL RATE SURVEY**

Ryan Ferrara reported that the Advisory Board's Annual Water & Sewer Retail Rate Survey document will be produced in next couple of weeks. Residential rates have broken the \$1,000 threshold for the first time, an increase of 6.3% from the prior year. Over the past ten years, retail rates have increased nearly 61%. On a national basis, the Authority finishes near the top of the list. Even though the national increase averages to be 5.9%, the dollar amount is nearly 31% lower than the MWRA.

G. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 1:50 P.M. It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Sullivan, Secretary