



NEWS & NOTES

A PUBLICATION OF THE MWRA ADVISORY BOARD
NOVEMBER 2007

AFTER 10 YEARS OF SERVICE, CILE HICKS STEPS DOWN FROM MWRA BOARD

MWRA Board Member Lucile Hicks offered her resignation from the Board of Directors at the November meeting. She was first appointed to the Board in November 1997 by Governor Paul Cellucci, and was held over by Governors Swift and Romney. Ms. Hicks represents the Merrimack River Basin. On the Board, Ms. Hicks was Chair of the Water Policy and Oversight Committee and guided the Authority staff through water treatment and covered storage decisions.

Ms. Hicks served in the Massachusetts Legislature for sixteen years as Representative and a Senator prior to joining the Board of Directors. She served on the Committees of Ways & Means and Natural Resources, among others. At the November Board meeting, she noted that during her time in the Legislature, she never dreamed she would be able to participate in the working events of the MWRA at the Board of Directors level; she thanked her fellow Board members and the staff for shaping an excellent organization.



Former Senator Lucile Hicks served on the MWRA Board of Directors for ten years. She stepped down in November.

Joseph Favaloro, Executive Director of the Advisory Board, thanked Ms. Hicks for her efforts on behalf of cities and towns. "I would not want to be the person that replaces Cile Hicks on this Board; she has set a tremendous example. She asks the right questions and demands substantial answers. It has been a pleasure to work with her over the years," said Favaloro. Ms. Hicks noted that although her term has now expired, she was privileged to have stayed on the Board for the first ten months of the Patrick Administration.

A&F REQUESTS REPORT

This month staff from the Advisory Board met with Secretary Leslie Kirwan, Administration & Finance (A&F), and her staff to discuss the Debt Service Assistance (DSA) program. A&F is in the midst of reviewing spending plans for FY09 and Secretary Kirwan requested research from the Advisory Board regarding the impacts of various levels of DSA on communities and ratepayers. She also requested feedback on why DSA is the best way to lower water and sewer bills. The Advisory Board responded with a report presenting the requested information and advocating that dollar for dollar, DSA is the best way to ease the burden of the ratepayers; the amount of DSA provided in the state budget directly reduces rate increases. The report included a history of the MWRA and the DSA program to underscore that the program was the result of careful planning and collaboration to address the problem of rising water and sewer rates in communities. Over the years alternative programs have been considered, though the Advisory Board and the Legislative Caucus contend that this program is the most effective, efficient, and direct method of providing rate relief. House 1, the Governor's proposed FY09 state budget, comes out on January 23, 2008. The Advisory Board report on DSA can be found on the Advisory Board website: www.mwraadvisoryboard.com

LEAD & COPPER RULE UPDATE

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recently made changes to the Lead and Copper Rule, calling for improvements to mandatory education materials when communities are above the Action Level. The updated rule also requires more aggressive outreach when communities exceed the Action Level and formalizes the requirement that individual volunteer samplers be notified of their results. MWRA will be notifying communities of changes which affect them and providing assistance in compliance. During the September 2007 sampling round, MWRA system-wide lead levels were at their lowest ever, with the 90th percentile being 8.2 parts per billion (ppb). Levels were below the 15 ppb Action Level for the eighth consecutive sampling round. Only two communities were above the Action Level (the City of Medford and the Town of Milton), necessitating lead education and lead service line replacement.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

DECEMBER 12: MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS / 10 AM – CHARLESTOWN
**THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & ADVISORY BOARD
WILL NOT MEET IN DECEMBER**

JANUARY 11: EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE / 8:30 AM – BOSTON

JANUARY 16: MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS / 10 AM - CHARLESTOWN

JANUARY 17: MWRA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING / 11:30 AM – CANTON

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