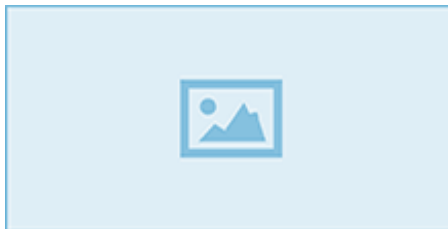




News and Notes

A Publication of the
Advisory Board for MWRA Communities

October 2015



First and Foremost, Quabbin/Wachusett/Ware River Watershed Use is For the Protection and Insulation of Our Drinking Water Supply

In a strongly worded letter, MWRA Advisory Board staff weighed in on the ongoing issues/impacts of off-road mountain biking at the Ware River Watershed.



Typical erosion resulting from illegal mountain biking
on slopes in the Ware River Watershed.

As we all know, watershed protection is the critical most direct line of defense in assuring that the drinking water of 40% of the residents of Massachusetts is protected, providing us with a natural forest-filtered safety net around our drinking water supply.

Did you know...

- Watershed protection was the single largest factor that swayed the

federal courts to rule against the Environmental Protection Agency and allowed the waiver of filtration.

- At today's costs, it would cost the MWRA over \$300 million to build a filtration plant.
- Passive recreation uses are allowed within the watershed areas.



Illegal trail and bridge constructed in wetlands, within a WSPA regulated stream and NHESP Rare/Endangered Species Habitat area.

In conclusion, Advisory Board staff wrote, if "passive" recreational uses

were to allow off-road mountain biking, it would, in fact, open "Pandora's Box" for any and all recreational activities and would be the beginning of the end for watershed protection. The Division of Water Supply Protection already allows a great deal of public access across the watersheds, more so than other unfiltered water supplies and even more than local filtered systems like Worcester and Springfield who have fences surrounding their watershed land.

No longer would the lands around our precious reservoirs be for watershed protection; they would make these sensitive areas parkland, seriously jeopardizing the drinking water of Greater Boston, ultimately becoming an extreme sport enthusiasts' playground at the expense of our drinking water protection and our ratepayers.

Click [here](#) to read the entire letter.

The Advisory Board Has Gotten Smarter!!!

How could that be? Click [here](#) to see how!

Office Happenings

Since the Advisory Board is not having a meeting until November 19th, staff wanted to share some office updates.

- Filling our open position: Staff is currently interviewing for the open Finance and Policy Analyst position. Two rounds of interviews have been completed. The goal is to be fully staffed by early December. If you would like to read how Travis is doing, click [here](#) to read an article about former staffer Travis Ahern.
- System Expansion discussion continues to gain momentum. MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey and MWRA Advisory Board Executive Director Joseph Favaloro attended the North Reading Town Meeting to answer questions on joining the MWRA system. The Town voted to begin preliminary engineering/design. Ashland continues to

proceed with their plans to join the system having submitted their Draft Environmental Impact Report.

- The Town of Shrewsbury, in conjunction with Weston and Sampson, presented a PowerPoint [presentation](#) at the 2015 Water Resource and Sustainability Symposium entitled "Panacea or Problem, Does the Wachusett Reservoir Represent a Regional Solution." Note: As part of its FY16 Comments and Recommendations, the Advisory Board recommended that the Authority convene a working group to develop an appropriate rate structure for Direct Source Water. Further that the recommendation of the working group be brought to the Operations Committee and full Advisory Board for a vote as a new admission policy for the MWRA.

- Discussed schedule for Operations Committee meetings with Advisory Board Chair Lou Taverna and Operations Chair John G. Sanchez. Topics will include:
 1. Measuring the benefits of Inflow/Infiltration removal and water system improvements
 2. Preliminary discussion on the next phase of Water Loan Programs
 3. Status: MWRA Wastewater Meter Replacement Program
 4. Raw Water Policy

Please share with us other topics that you would like to put on upcoming agendas.

These are just some of October's highlights. See you on November 13th at the Executive Committee and/or November 19th at the full Advisory Board meeting.

Upcoming Events

November 11 – Veterans Day
Office Open

Executive Committee

November 13 – 8:30 am

November 26 – Holiday
Thanksgiving

**MWRA Board of
Directors**

November 18 – 10:00 am

November 27 –
AB Office Closed

Advisory Board

November 19 – 11:30 am



HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

[Visit Our Website](#)

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