



# Advocacy & Accountability

Representing Over 3 Million People in Massachusetts Communities Since 1985

## MWRA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

Thursday, May 19, 2022

Online Remote [Zoom \(www.mwraadvisoryboard.com/event\)](https://www.mwraadvisoryboard.com/event)

(pursuant to An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law)

10:00 AM

### AGENDA

*Incorporated within the regular meeting, the MWRA and the Advisory Board will be hosting a forum on the revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule that EPA issued in December 2021*

- A. Welcome
- B. Approval of Advisory Board Meeting Minutes from April 21, 2022
- C. Report of the Executive Director
- D. Committee Reports

Executive Committee – Louis M. Taverna

Report of the nomination Committee

**Action Item:** Nomination and election of Joseph Foti as an Advisory Board representative to the MWRA Board of Directors for a three-year term from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025

**Action Item:** Approval of the FY22 Advisory Board Operation Budget

Finance Committee – Elena Proakis Ellis – Update

**Action Item:** Approval of the Advisory Board's Comments and Recommendations on the MWRA's Proposed FY23 CIP and CEB

Operations Committee – Update

- E. New Business
- F. Adjournment

**\*\*Please Note: The vote to elect a representative to the MWRA Board of Directors is not a weighted vote, but one vote per community. A quorum of 33 voting members is necessary to validate the election.\*\***



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\*\*\*NOTICE\*\*\*

(PLEASE POST)

## Advisory Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the MWRA Advisory Board will be held online via remote access on May 19, at 10:00 AM. Instructions for accessing the meeting can be found on the online [event page](#) at [www.mwraadvisoryboard.com/event](http://www.mwraadvisoryboard.com/event) You can join by calling in or by using your computer or mobile device. The proposed agenda for the meeting will be made final at an open meeting of the Executive Committee on Friday, May 13, 2022, at 10:00 AM, also held [remotely](#). Please contact Joseph Favaloro at the Advisory Board office no later than May 13, 2022, with any additional items for the final agenda.

May 6, 2022

MWRA Advisory Board  
100 First Avenue  
Boston, MA 02129

Dear Advisory Board Members:

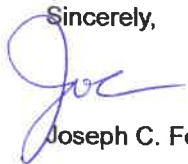
Please accept this letter as notification of my intent to seek re-election as the Advisory's Board's representative to the MWRA Board of Directors, and as a request for your consideration of nomination.

Since joining the Board of Directors I have worked alongside John Carroll and Andy Pappastergion to assure the Advisory Board's presence at the Board of Directors. With the guidance from the membership, and the support of Advisory Board staff, I am committed to protecting the interests of the member communities.

It has been a privilege to serve as your representative to the Board of Directors. I am proud of the work we have accomplished together, and I look forward to continued success. With the endorsement of the membership, I will continue to work with the Advisory Board and my colleagues to ensure that member communities have a strong voice at the Board of Directors.

Thank you for your consideration of my nomination,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Joe', is written over the printed name 'Joseph C. Foti'.

Joseph C. Foti

**JOSEPH C. FOTI**  
**25 Valley Road**  
**North Reading, MA 01864**

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### **EDUCATION**

**SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY**, Boston, Massachusetts  
*Bachelor of Science in Business Administration*

**UNIVERSITY of MARYLAND CENTER FOR ADVANCED TRANSPORTATION TECHNOLOGY**,  
Baltimore, Maryland  
*Operations Academy Senior Management Program*

### **EXPERIENCE**

#### **MASSACHUSETTS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

*Deputy Highway Administrator/Chief of Operations* - Present

- Manage a staff of professional and skilled members to ensure the department's immediate and long-term goals are identified and achieved.
- Direct the Operations and Maintenance of statewide activities by setting targets, establishing criteria, and ensuring efficient allocation of resources.
- Identify best practices that will result in efficient utilization of assets while providing a high level of service in the operation and maintenance of a safe roadway system.
- Available 24/7 to respond to roadway emergencies and weather related events.
- Supervise the management of the Highway Operations Center providing a reliable and sustained means of monitoring state roadways and facilities.
- Maintain oversight of budget approval and fiscal management for all programs under Statewide Operations.
- Oversee the statewide Communications and Electronic System responsible for providing support and designing, engineering and maintenance to systems and devices including two-way radios, fiber optics, cameras and variable message boards.
- Coordinate with the Massachusetts Emergency Management Association (MEMA) responding to small and large scale incidents which requires MassDOT assistance and resources.
- Supervise the Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) in developing long-range projects utilizing emerging technology that will provide current roadway information to patrons.
- Oversee the statewide Permits Office in ensuring oversized loads and hazardous material vehicles are properly permitted and using designed routes.

*Deputy Chief of Operations and Maintenance* 2016-2018

- Provided assistance to the Chief of O&M in the day to day operation and maintenance of the state's Highway Division encompassing 15,000 miles of roadway.
- Directed Snow and Ice operations for the state's roads, highways, tunnels and bridges.
- Managed the fleet operations including the purchase and maintenance of heavy duty and light vehicles, construction equipment and Troop E State Police vehicles.
- Developed and revised policies and procedures and established standards for performance and conduct.
- Worked with the six districts to develop a maintenance program for statewide assets as it pertains to pothole repair, guardrail maintenance, street sweeping, catch basin cleaning and vegetation management.
- Oversaw the state's Traffic Incident Management (TIM) program and Highway Assistance Program (HAP) to provide guidelines and training to ensure the safety of first responders and general public.

**CITY OF CHELSEA, Massachusetts**

***Director of Public Works*** 2004-2016

- Established the mission of the department through and in response to the assessment of community needs.
- Provided overall direction to operating and administrative staff, plan, organize and direct departmental activities and develop goals and objectives.
- Directed the design, construction, repair and maintenance of all city roads and sidewalks, water and sewer systems, buildings, parks and cemetery.
- Collaborated with engineers, project managers and contractors to ensure project goals were identified and achieved.
- Supervised operations during snow and ice events and other emergency situations.
- Prepared the annual departmental operating and capital budgets and administered appropriate control procedures.
- Located, secured and administered grant/loan programs and prepared reports required by governmental agencies and city officials.
- Served as a member of the CIP Steering Committee, School Building Committee, Economic Development Coordinating Team and Traffic Commission.
- Advised and made recommendations to the City Manager relative to public works projects and initiatives.
- Provided information and responded to inquiries from residents and businesses on issues pertaining to public works projects and policies.
- Maintained effective working relationship with local, state and federal agencies.
- Represented department of City Council meetings and make presentations as needed.

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, Massachusetts**

***Director of Operations, Department of Public Works*** 1999-2004

- Directed the operations of all Public Works divisions including Highway, Water and Sewer, Buildings and Grounds, Sanitation and Recycling.
- Supervised all personnel administration functions for the department including interviewing and hiring in accordance with civil service guidelines.
- Reviewed and addressed correspondence from residents.
- Managed all phases of department's operations and the establishment and implementation of departmental policy.
- Participated in the collective bargaining process as member of the City's bargaining team.
- Responsible for the preparation and administration of the department's operating budget.
- Implemented and managed the department's Capital Improvement Program.
- Developed requests for proposal and invitations for bids for goods and services.
- Responded to and supervised department personnel during emergency events.

***Superintendent of Water Division*** 1990-1999

- Directed the daily operation and maintenance of the City's infrastructure.
- Established and monitored the following programs: Leak Detection, Water Meter Replacement, Cross Connection Control, Lead and Copper Testing and Hydrant Flushing.
- Responsible for the preparation and management of the department's \$12 million budget.
- Prepared specifications for various goods and services which were required by the department.
- Acted as the City representative to all local, state and federal agencies including the MWRA, DEP and EPA.
- Managed the City's long-term infrastructure improvements program.

**MWRA ADVISORY BOARD BUDGET - FISCAL YEAR 2023**

	Approved FY21	Approved FY22	Draft FY23	Change from FY22
<b>PERSONNEL</b>				
Regular employees	4 full time	4 full time	4 full time	
Part-Time employees				
<b>Total employees</b>	\$439,310	\$439,310	\$448,641	2.1%
Consultant/Contract Employee	\$0	\$0	\$4,725	
Benefits	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$3,260	30.4%
Medicare	\$6,370	\$6,370	\$6,755	6.0%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	\$8,870	\$8,870	\$14,740	66.2%
<b>OFFICE SPACE</b>				
Rent	\$72,000	\$74,000	\$67,000	-9.5%
Insurance & Workers' Comp.	\$2,900	\$2,900	\$2,900	0.0%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	\$74,900	\$76,900	\$69,900	-9.1%
<b>MATERIALS</b>				
Office & PC supplies	\$10,000	\$10,000	\$10,000	0.0%
Postage	\$1,500	\$500	\$200	-60.0%
Printing	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$750	-25.0%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	\$12,500	\$11,500	\$10,950	-4.8%
<b>FURNITURE &amp; EQUIPMENT</b>				
Furniture & Fixtures				
Equipment	\$0	\$0	\$500	49900.0%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>				
<b>OTHER EXPENSES</b>				
Audit & Accounting	\$22,700	\$22,700	\$19,380	-14.6%
Equipment Maintenance	\$200	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Equipment Lease	\$7,324	\$3,000	\$1,800	-40.0%
Education/Training/Conferences	\$2,500	\$2,500	\$2,500	0.0%
Information Services/Telecom*	\$8,100	\$9,948	\$10,159	2.1%
Public Meetings	\$20,000	\$17,000	\$17,000	0.0%
Publications	\$350	\$350	\$350	0.0%
Advertising/Legal Notices	\$300	\$300	\$2,000	566.7%
Members' Reimbursement	\$2,600	\$2,600	\$2,000	-23.1%
Miscellaneous/Payroll Expense				
Temp Help	\$0	\$0	\$0	0.0%
Bank Charges	\$50	\$50	\$50	0.0%
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	\$64,124	\$58,448	\$55,239	-100.0%
Previous year surplus				
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	\$599,704	\$595,028	\$599,470	0.7%
Interest Income				
<b>MWRA CONTRIBUTIONS</b>				



# Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2022  
10:00 am

Online Remote Meeting via Zoom

**MWRA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022  
ONLINE REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM**

**Draft Meeting Summary**

**A. Welcome**

Advisory Board Chairman, Lou Taverna, opened the meeting at 10:00 AM and welcomed all attendees. He noted the virtual meeting would be recorded. An opening roll call vote was had and voted as follows:

COMMUNITY	VOTE	APPOINTEE/ORGANIZATION	VOTE
ARLINGTON		<i>Quabbin and Ware Watershed</i>	
ASHLAND		<i>Wachusett Watershed</i>	
BEDFORD	Yes	<i>Connecticut River Basin</i>	
BELMONT		MAPC	Yes
BOSTON	Yes		
BRAINTREE			
BROOKLINE			
BURLINGTON	Yes		
CAMBRIDGE			
CANTON			
CHELSEA			
CHICOPEE			
CLINTON			
DEDHAM			
EVERETT			
FRAMINGHAM	Yes		
HINGHAM			
HOLBROOK			
LEOMINSTER			
LEXINGTON	Yes		
LYNN			
LYNNFIELD	Yes		
MALDEN			
MARBLEHEAD	Yes		
MARLBOROUGH			
MEDFORD	Yes		
MELROSE	Yes		
MILTON			
NAHANT			
NATICK			
NEEDHAM			
NEWTON	Yes		
NORTHBOROUGH			
NORWOOD			
PEABODY			
QUINCY			
RANDOLPH			
READING			
REVERE			
SAUGUS			
SOMERVILLE			
SOUTH HADLEY			
SOUTHBOROUGH	Yes		
STONEHAM	Yes		
STOUGHTON	Yes		
SWAMPSCOTT			
WAKEFIELD			
WALPOLE	Yes		

WALTHAM	
WATERTOWN	
WELLESLEY	Yes
WESTON	
WESTWOOD	
WEYMOUTH	
WILBRAHAM	
WILMINGTON	Yes
WINCHESTER	
WINTHROP	
WOBURN	
WORCESTER	

**B. Approval of Advisory Board Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2022**

*David Manugian moved for the approval of the Advisory Board Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2022. Maurice Handel seconded the motion and it was added to the omnibus roll call vote for the end of the meeting.*

**C. Report of the Executive Director**

Executive Director, Joe Favaloro, noted that next month’s meeting will include the election of an Advisory Board representative to the MWRA Board of Directors. Those interested in running should submit their letters of intent and resumes before the May 2022 Executive Committee meeting. He went on to note that the May Advisory Board meeting will also include a Lead and Copper Forum with Training Contact Hours.

**D. Preview of Advisory Board’s Comments & Recommendations on the MWRA’s Proposed FY23 CEB and CIP**

Director of Finance, James Guidod, gave a presentation previewing the Advisory Board's developing Comments & Recommendations on the MWRA's proposed FY23 Capital Improvement Program and Current Expense Budget. Staff anticipate the Advisory Board’s recommended combined rate increase for FY23 will be in the range of 2.85% to 2.95%. Influences on this year’s budget review process include the MWRA personnel vacancy rate, use of rate stabilization on the water utility rate, and the nearing 2030 MWRA pension full funding date. The presentation slides are available on the meeting event page [at this link](#).

**E. Proposed Language for Modifications to MWRA Policy # OP.10 - Waiver of the Entrance Fee**

Executive Director, Joe Favaloro, summated the discussion and action regarding a waiver to the MWRA entrance fee. He noted that staff assembled a pros/cons summary of adjusting the MWRA entrance fee policy using Executive Committee feedback. This sheet was packaged with other materials on the topic and formatted for the full Advisory Board to review. The presentation slides and packet of materials are available on the meeting event page [at this link](#). The meeting was opened to questions and comments.

Prior to the meeting, Chris Cole of Reading submitted a statement noting that Reading might support this initiative only if the MWRA were to give a benefit to those communities that have already had to pay an entrance fee. The statement noted that completely waiving the entrance fee for new



communities would not be fair and equitable for communities where ratepayers are already paying hefty water rates due to the community still paying off their entrance fee through debt payments, etc.

Susan Herman of Stoughton noted that the policy change appears unfair to water communities who have paid entrance fees over the prior years. She suggested adjusting the analysis in the presentation to reflect the entrance fees paid by communities already.

**F. Draft Advisory Board FY23 Operating Budget**

Executive Director, Joe Favaloro, gave updates on progress of the Advisory Board's Draft FY23 Operating Budget. He anticipated that the proposed budget would be \$599,470, a 0.7% increase from the approved FY22 budget. The budget will be voted on in May.

**G. Updates on Regulatory Matters**

- NPDES Permit – Clinton & Deer Island: Deputy Executive Director, Matthew Romero, noted that the Advisory Board has drafted comments on the new Clinton permit in coordination with the MWRA. The Advisory Board remains committed against the inclusion of any co-permittee language in the Clinton and Deer Island permits. Advisory Board staff have also reached out to prospective law firms for proposals in case the Advisory Board were to challenge either of the permits.
- CLF Lawsuit – Executive Director, Joe Favaloro, noted that the MWRA and CLF have been in discussion regarding CLF's intent to file suit with respect to MWRA pre-treatment. The outcome of these discussions should be known soon.
- CSO Program - Executive Director, Joe Favaloro, discussed the strong advocacy coming forward regarding discharges in the Alewife Brook and Charles River. He emphasized the minimal impact of the MWRA CSO Program with respect to the problems being flagged by environmental advocacy groups. He went on to note that the Advisory Board will continue to advocate for solutions based on sound science.

**H. Committee Reports**

Finance Committee – Elena Proakis Ellis

Finance Chair, Elena Proakis Ellis, noted that the Finance Committee met on March 30 and received a briefing from MWRA staff. She thanks the MWRA for their thorough analysis and time.

Operations Committee – John Sanchez

Operations Chair, John Sanchez, summated the April 12 Operations Committee meeting.

*Based on the recommendation from the Operations Committee, the following motions were made by John Sanchez:*

- *That the Advisory Board recommends that the MWRA authorize and fund Phase 14 of the Inflow/Infiltration Community Assistance Program at the same level and with the same criteria and guidelines as Phase 12 of the Inflow/Infiltration Community Assistance Program.*

- That the Advisory Board recommends that the MWRA designate that the loan-only Phase 13 of the Inflow/Infiltration Community Assistance Program is optional for communities and does not need to be used before accessing funding from future phases of the I/I program.
- That the Advisory Board recommends that the MWRA extend Phase 2 of the Local Water System Assistance Program two years from FY23 to FY25.

The motions were seconded by David Manugian.

**I. ACTION ITEM: Omnibus Motion/Adjournment**

A motion was made by Maurice Handel for:

- Approval of Advisory Board meeting minutes from March 17, 2022
- Authorization of Phase 14 of the I/I Community Assistance Program
- Clarification on Phase 13 of the I/I Community Assistance Program
- Extension of Phase 2 of the Local Water System Assistance Program to FY25
- Meeting adjournment

The motion was seconded by David Manugian.

A rollcall of all voting Advisory Board communities and organizations was held weighted by community share of the MWRA system (organizations having a share 0.5% each). The rollcall results were as follows:

COMMUNITY	VOTE	APPOINTEE/ORGANIZATION	VOTE
ARLINGTON		Quabbin and Ware Watershed	
ASHLAND		Wachusett Watershed	
BEDFORD	Yes	Connecticut River Basin	
BELMONT		MAPC	Yes
BOSTON	Yes		
BRAINTREE			
BROOKLINE			
BURLINGTON	Yes		
CAMBRIDGE			
CANTON			
CHELSEA			
CHICOPEE			
CLINTON			
DEDHAM			
EVERETT			
FRAMINGHAM	Yes		
HINGHAM			
HOLBROOK			
LEOMINSTER			
LEXINGTON	Yes		
LYNN			
LYNNFIELD	Yes		
MALDEN			
MARBLEHEAD	Yes		
MARLBOROUGH			
MEDFORD	Yes		
MELROSE	Yes		
MILTON			
NAHANT			
NATICK			
NEEDHAM			
NEWTON	Yes		
NORTHBOROUGH			
NORWOOD			
PEABODY			

QUINCY	
RANDOLPH	
READING	
REVERE	
SAUGUS	
SOMERVILLE	
SOUTH HADLEY	
SOUTHBOROUGH	Yes
STONEHAM	Yes
STOUGHTON	Yes
SWAMPSCOTT	
WAKEFIELD	
WALPOLE	Yes
WALTHAM	
WATERTOWN	
WELLESLEY	Yes
WESTON	
WESTWOOD	
WEYMOUTH	
WILBRAHAM	
WILMINGTON	Yes
WINCHESTER	
WINTHROP	
WOBURN	
WORCESTER	

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Rademacher, Secretary

These minutes reflect the discussion of the meeting. The Advisory Board maintains audio recordings of Advisory Board meetings that are available upon request.