

WASTEWATER
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE MASSACHUSETTS WATER
RESOURCES AUTHORITY



Annual Report 2021-2022

An Introduction to the Wastewater Advisory Committee:

The MWRA Board of Directors created WAC in 1990 to offer independent recommendations on wastewater policies and programs. WAC's mission is to be an independent public forum for holistic discussion of wastewater issues. Membership is designed to reflect the knowledge and interest of major affected constituencies: engineering and construction, environmental advocacy, planning, academic research, and business.

Membership

Mary Adelstein, citizen advocate

Craig Allen, Craig A. Allen, FCAS

Philip Ashcroft, citizen member

George Atallah, GA Engineering & Consulting

Wayne Chouinard (Chair), Town of Arlington DPW

Adriana Cillo, Boston Water & Sewer

Stephen Greene, Howland-Greene Consulting, LLC

James Guidod, MWRA Advisory Board

Taber Keally, Neponset River Watershed Association

Karen Lachmayr, Harvard University

Martin Pillsbury, Metropolitan Area Planning Council

Kannan Vembu, (Vice Chair) AquaEnviroBio Solutions LLC----->

Dan Winograd, Woodard & Curran.



Executive Director:

Andreae Downs: Andreae.wac@gmail.com

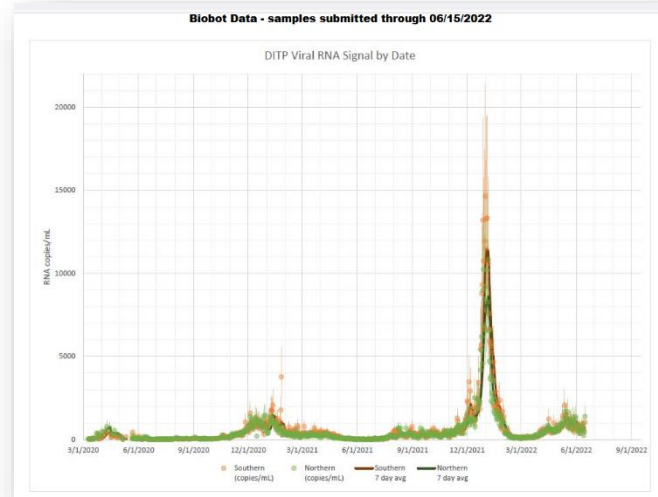
617-378-8972

WAC's Contractual Duties:

1. Provide independent advice to the MWRA Board and staff on wastewater programs and policies directly related to the MWRA
2. Review & comment to the Authority on wastewater reports and proposed documents; offer independent advice on current and proposed wastewater program and policy directions to further MWRA objectives
3. Reflect the knowledge and interest of major affected constituencies, including
 - a. Engineering
 - b. Construction
 - c. Business/industry
 - d. Planning
 - e. Academic research
 - f. Environmental advocacy
4. Advise MWRA on wastewater planning
5. Increase citizen participation and education by providing MWRA with assistance in outreach. Review programs and explain plans & policies to citizens

6. Attend Authority working groups related to wastewater programs and policy, including the AB and WSCAC
7. Propose to the Authority ways to continue effective and efficient long-term public involvement in wastewater programs

FY 2022 Highlights



Despite the challenges of another year of remote meetings, the Wastewater Advisory Committee actively explored several issues facing the Authority and continued advocacy, including testimony before the Joint House Committee on the Environment, promoting non-flushable wipe labeling legislation.

Bill H897 received a favorable report out of committee, and most recently advocacy has focused on moving it out of the House Ways & Means committee.

WAC sent comments on the new draft NPDES permit for the Clinton plant, and

prepared for comments in case the Deer Island plant gets a new draft permit. WAC also commented on the Sewage Notification bill, adding PFAS to the TURA list, on PFAS legislation.

The Legislature's work and report on PFAS, and progress on the Combined Sewer project have also filled many WAC discussions.

Meetings: Other topics included: MWRA's climate readiness and larger capital projects, the role and direction of OMSAP (the Outfall Monitoring Science Advisory Panel), and budgets.

Outreach: NEWEA, Water Resources Commission, Boston Harbor Ecosystem Network, Boston Harbor Now, municipal staff responsible for local sewers, Environmental Business Council, Mass Rivers Alliance, Save Alewife Brook, Outfall Monitoring Science Advisory Panel, Water Infrastructure Alliance, watershed organizations...

Leadership

WAC was ably led this Fiscal Year by Wayne Chouinard, P.E., from the Town of Arlington, a WAC member since 2013. Kannan Vembu of AquaEnviroBio Solutions served as Vice Chair.

The committee rotates leadership every other year, and expects to change chairs again in FY24.



Focus for 2022-23

The committee will continue to focus on maintenance and the future of biosolids recycling and how to do so most beneficially, how climate change may impact the system, and regular replacement of other 20+ year-old systems.

WAC remains interested in cost containment and the environment—in particular further energy efficiency, reliability and renewable energy production in MWRA facilities.

Other areas of interest:

- Toxics Reduction & Control
- MWRA's major capital projects
- MWRA's ongoing CSO modeling and testing
- Emerging contaminants, especially PFAS, and how regulators are reacting
- Other regulatory changes that may affect MWRA
- Stormwater management as it relates to sewers

