



Thursday, September 21, 2023

Remote Connection via Zoom

10:00 AM

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A. Roll Call Attendance

A commencing roll call voted as follows:

AB Member	Designee	Open Roll
Bedford	David Manugian	Here
Belmont	Jason Marcotte	Here
Boston (BWSC)	John P. Sullivan	Here (remote)
Braintree	James Arsenault	Here (remote)
Brookline	Jay Hersey	Here (remote)
Burlington	John Sanchez	Here
Canton	Michael Trotta	Here (remote)
Chelsea	Cate-Fox Lent	Here (remote)
Marblehead	Amy McHugh	Here (remote)
Medford	Timothy McGivern	Here (remote)

AB Member	Designee	Open Roll
Milton	Chase Berkeley	Here (remote)
Needham	John Terry	Here (remote)
Reading	Chris Cole	Here (remote)
Somerville	Rich Raiche	Here
Southborough	Sam Stivers	(arrived after vote)
Stoneham	John DeAmicis	Here (remote)
Wellesley	David Cohen	Here (remote)
Wilmington	Joe Lobao	Here (remote)
MAPC	Maurice Handel	Here (remote)
Quabbin and Ware	J.R. Greene	Here (remote)

B. Executive Director’s Update, by Matthew Romero

A moment of silence was held for the passing of Whit Beals, the Chair of the Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee. Matthew Romero spoke on Lexi Dewey’s retirement from the Executive Director role at WSCAC, as well as Ria Convery’s retirement from the role of Special Assistant to the Executive Director at the MWRA. The Governor’s veto of debt service assistance, as well as Burlington becoming a fully supplied member of the MWRA water system, we also touched on. There was a reminder that there is no Advisory Board meeting in October, and that the November meeting is scheduled for 10:30am (instead of the usual 10:00am). The Executive Committee voted the week prior to recommend to the full AB to amend the bylaws relative to committees to formalize them, allowing the Vice Chair of Operations and the Vice Chair of Finance to solicit membership for interest to serve, constituting membership for the next year. This will assist in establishing a quorum and allowing formal votes to be taken.

A motion to approve the proposed amendments to the Advisory Board bylaws as presented in the meeting materials was moved by Somerville, seconded by Bedford, and moved to the omnibus vote at the end of the meeting.

C. Election of Executive Committee

As Lou Taverna has moved on to the Board of Directors, there is significant movement in the Executive





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Committee. Meeting materials include letters of interest, resumes, and a slate of candidates approved by the EC including John Sanchez for Chair, Rich Raiche for Secretary, and Michael Rademacher for Vice Chair of Operations. No nominations were put forth from the floor.

A motion to recommend the nominations of the officers of the Executive Committee for FY24 as presented in the meeting materials was motioned by Bedford, seconded by Southborough, and added to the omnibus vote at the end of the meeting.

D. Presentation FY24 Priorities

a. Fred Laskey, MWRA, Executive Director

With \$912 million spent to date, 40 of 86 CSO outfalls have been closed, reducing 3.3 billion gallons of CSO to 396 million gallons (an 88% reduction). 94% of the remaining CSO volume is treated. The overall system wide goal created years ago has been exceeded. There are six outfalls remaining that are deemed “incorrigible” by the Court, indicating the understanding of the trouble of closing these. There are some efforts to go to a second long-term control plan which will require working with Somerville, Cambridge, Chelsea, and Boston to ensure efforts get underway. This new long-term control plans is required for remaining CSO outfalls in Variance Waters, which includes CSOs entering Alewife Brook, the Upper Mystic River, and the Charles River.

On May 31, the EPA issued a draft NPDES permit for the Deer Island Treatment Plant. The DEP issued a draft permit as well. This permit, which authorizes discharges from CSOs, all 43 connected community sewer system communities are named as co-permittees, with 4 CSO communities’ NPDES permits being incorporated into this permit and designating them as “CSO-responsible” co-permittees. The public comment period is through November 28th, 2023.

Summer 2023 precipitation levels have hit historic levels with high intensity events of 1.5 to 2 inches per hour. This will pose engineering and hydraulic challenges. These high intensity events quickly fill the wastewater system, increasing system levels requiring the activation of the CSO treatment facilities. If levels continue to rise, the untreated CSOs are activated which prevent backup into streets and homes. There are no CSO discharges to the Boston area beaches, and any pollution is mostly coming from stormwater, which discharges to several beaches including Wollaston, Tenean, Malibu, and Constitution beaches.

Transfers of Quabbin water through Wachusett creates a band of high-quality water, known as interflow, which decreases UV254 as well as reduced ozone and chlorine demand. Since July 2023, precipitation events have reduced the ability to maintain high transfer rates. Buoy monitoring stations are used to monitor water quality trends. Future planning for CSO control will incorporate climate change projections and measures of water quality impacts as higher intensity of rainfall makes the likelihood of CSO discharge higher.

New federal lead and copper testing requirements will make it difficult to remain under action levels. Current corrosion control includes pH and alkalinity adjustment. Since the 1990s there has been a 90% reduction in lead levels. The John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant Corrosion Control Optimization Study allows simulation of what will happen to pipes under certain conditions to evaluate potential treatment alternatives to meet current and future requirements. There will eventually be debate about adding orthophosphates to drinking water to lower corrosion. Changes from the anticipated EPA rule could include sampling protocols, reduction of lead action level, and mandate for replacement of lead service lines. This could result in more communities exceeding the action level, which requires public notification within 24



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hours, a mandate for MWRA to complete a corrosion control study, and an increase in speed of replacing lead service lines.

The Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program's preliminary design will be completed in January 2024 with a large geotechnical investigation starting and running through 2025. Final design is targeted to start in mid-2024 with first tunnel construction contract to bid in 2027. The program is estimated to be completed by 2040. The current design status encompasses geotechnical investigations, environmental impact reports, a preliminary design report, contract package establishments, and refinement of program cost and schedule to be reflected in the FY25 CIP.

Bids for the successor Operating Contract for the privatized pelletizing facility are due on September 29th, 2023.

b. Matthew Romero, Executive Director, MWRA AB

Regular meetings with Metro-West communities regarding system expansion are ongoing. At a recent meeting, a consultant used by Metro-West communities presented information on how said communities might work together regionally and how fund restructuring might work going forward.

The AB and MWRA requested an additional 90-day comment period on the draft Deer Island permit, which the EPA and DEP granted, making the new deadline for comment submission November 28, 2023. Counsel was asked to draft a template for communities to use as they submit comments, with tailored language according to CSO and non-CSO communities.

The Governor placed a six-month moratorium on commercial forestry on publicly owned lands with the intent of developing climate-oriented forest management guidelines that reduce carbon emissions. The AB and MWRA have made the case that forestry in the watershed is different from other forestry as its intent is to maintain and improve water quality.

Pellets from wastewater containing PFAS will cost about \$12.5 million per year to landfill. PFAS is not in any MWRA source water. MWRA has hired outside counsel to look at a 3M and DuPont PFAS settlement as it is unclear how MWRA communities will be categorized in the settlement. For instance, it is unclear if they are individual claimants or must join with the MWRA. Carolyn Francisco-Murphy, MWRA's General Counsel, stated that communities may be receiving notices directly from their respective counsels notifying of their class membership in the settlement. Communities can visit the website www.pfaswatersettlement.com for more information. Public water systems are deemed included in the settlement unless they affirmatively opt out. If a community is included in the settlement, regardless of whether a claim is actually made, they will be deemed to have released certain claims against DuPont and 3M. The opt-out deadlines are in early December, with the possibility of filing objections in November.



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In new business, AB and EC meetings will attempt to reduce overall meeting time, as well as incorporate new speakers and topics. WAC and WSCAC will also be coordinating and recording with AB meetings for efficiency and to limit the amount MWRA staff repeat presentations. The AB will also be reaching out to communities that lack active members with the intent of driving up participation with the option of using temporary designees as outlined in the recent bylaw change. This change allows an existing designee to replace their seat with a temporary designee so that quorum can be achieved, as well as allowing that community to stay informed.

The AB also plans on bringing on a Policy and Analyst position, as well as a full-time co-op role through Northeastern University, before the new calendar year.

c. **Andreae Downs, WAC Executive Director**

WAC has been joined by Alfredo Vargas, an engineer with the City of Newton, and Jim Ferrerra of National Grid. WAC has been focused on the NPDES permit since June and is interested in the impacts of the co-permittee language on communities, as well as climate planning from the EPA. An extension for the permit comment period has allowed WAC to work on this issue until the Fall. WAC hopes to tour Nut Island in May.

d. **Lexi Dewey, WSCAC Executive Director**

Outgoing WSCAC Executive Director Lexi Dewey gave updates on WSCAC's agenda. In October they will be looking at the Metro-West Feasibility Study and discussing ongoing system expansion efforts, as well as the role PFAS will be playing in new communities joining the water system. In November they will discuss MWRA's Sustainability Program based on a presentation given to the Advisory Board by Kristen Patneude, MWRA's Manager for Energy. In January there will be an update on the Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program and discussion of the supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Report. In February there will be a joint AB, WAC, and WSCAC meeting on the budget. In April there will be a meeting with updates on dam projects, aquatic invasives projects, daily demand management, and environmental quality programs. The committee is interested in learning how demand intersects with drought and the effects on water treatment. There will be several meetings with the Department of Conservation and Recreation concerning programs and projects, with a large focus on forest management and climate change solutions, as well as updates on the annual deer hunt, water quality programs, ongoing road salt programs, as well as the Ware River Public Access Plan.

E. **Approval of Advisory Board meeting minutes from June 15, 2023**

A motion to approve the Advisory Board meeting minutes from June 15, 2023 was made by Bedford and seconded by MAPC, and was moved to the omnibus vote at the end of the meeting.

F. **New Business**

None

G. **Omnibus Roll Call Vote**

An omnibus roll call vote took place including the following:



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- approval of the bylaw amendments relative to standing committees as presented in meeting materials
- approval of the June 15, 2023 Advisory Board meeting minutes
- meeting adjournment

Advisory Board Member	Designee	Vote
Bedford	David Manugian	Yes
Boston (BWSC)	John P. Sullivan	Yes
Brookline	Jay Hersey	Yes
Burlington	John Sanchez	Yes
Canton	Michael Trotta	Yes
Chelsea	Cate Fox Lent	Yes
Marblehead	Amy McHugh	Yes
Needham	John Terry	Yes
Somerville	Rich Raiche	Yes
Southborough	Sam Stivers	Yes
Stoneham	John DeAmicis	Yes
Walpole	Patrick Fasanello	Yes
Wellesley	David Cohen	Yes
Wilmington	Joseph Lobao	Yes
Quabbin and Ware	J.R. Greene	Yes
MAPC	Maurice Handel	Yes

H. Adjournment

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Raiche, Advisory Board Secretary

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



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