



Thursday, November 9, 2023  
Remote Connection via Zoom  
10:00 AM

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

### A. Roll Call Attendance

A commencing roll call voted as follows:

Name	Community	Vote
Michael Rademacher	Arlington	Here (remote)
John P. Sullivan, Jr.	Boston	Here (remote)
Jay Hersey	Brookline	(arrive after vote)
John G. Sanchez	Burlington	Here (remote)
Julie Greenwood-Torelli	Cambridge	(arrived after vote)
Cate Fox-Lent	Chelsea	Here (remote)

Yem Lip	Malden	Here (remote)
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Here (remote)
Elena Proakis-Ellis	Melrose	Here (remote)
Nicholas J. Rystrom	Revere	Here (remote)
Richard Raiche	Somerville	Here (remote)
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Here (remote)
John P. DeAmicis	Stoneham	(arrived after vote)

### B. Executive Director Report

Executive Director, Matthew Romero: Nathan Coté will be joining the MWRA Advisory Board through Northeastern University’s co-op program. The 35 hour per week position starts in January and runs until June, coinciding with the budgeting season. He has experience in the private construction sector and is a candidate for a Master of Public Policy. The full-time research and policy position first round interviews will be scheduled and conducted soon. In 2020 the AB switched from in-house processing of payroll/bill-payments to using Paychex. The AB also brought on board Growth Lab as an outside CPA to review all financials every month. Matt will also be working with the independent auditor who conducts the annual audit to get suggestions for AB staff restructuring and segregation of duties as onboarding begins. Some legislative updates: Our legislative partners led by the speaker were able to override the Governor’s veto for debt service assistance. Also, last month Matt submitted written testimony for two bills, the first being the CSO bill which calls for elimination of all CSOs in MWRA system by 2025. The AB’s position is this is unrealistic and unfair to ratepayers. The second bill is the WIPPES bill, which adds labels to packaging for key consumers regarding whether their toilet wipes are flushable or not, which can cause damage to local systems and cost these facilities millions of dollars.

### C. I/I Community Assistance Program – possible loan-only phase- discussion and possible vote

This item came up because the Milton Advisory Board representative reached out to ask if there will be another phase of I/I grant/loan program coming soon. Because most communities have yet to draw down most or all their funds (both current and prior ones), another I/I grant/loan phase is not justified at this time. However, in the past, proposals have been put forward to add a loan-only phase, which may be of interest to those communities that have already gone through their current phase funds. 22 out of 43 sewer communities have used all their Phase 14 funds, which is the current grant/loan phase that became available in September 2022. The original plan was to bring this issue up to the Operations Committee to review and vote on, but because no meetings take place in December it was decided to bring





this issue to the Executive Committee today for discussion and possible vote, bypassing the Operations Committee in the interest of expediency. Ms. Proakis-Ellis raised a concern that if a loan-only phase were approved it may delay the next grant/loan phase, to which Mr. Romero said he did not have the timeline information available on hand but would get it. It was decided to delay voting on the issue at today's meeting until this information was available. Because of the delay, the opportunity to bring this topic before the Operations Committee may be possible.

## **D. CSO Control Plan public meeting discussion**

The MWRA is holding a meeting Wednesday November 15, 2023 at 6pm to discuss updated CSO control plan, which will include tools available to control CSOs, the challenges and opportunities of these tools, and feedback related to these tools. The MWRA is aware that advocacy groups will be in attendance and so encourage community representatives, namely water and sewer professionals and representatives of the ratepayers, to attend the meeting to offer counterbalancing perspectives. Mr. Raiche pointed out that some water quality investigations indicate stormwater contributions from communities with separate sewer systems (non-CSO) are impacting water quality, which advocates of CSO elimination are not acknowledging.

## **E. Action Item: Approval of the November 16, 2023 Advisory Board meeting agenda**

This meeting will start at 10:30am instead of 10am because of scheduling constraints. The main presenter will be Kristen Patneude from MWRA providing an update on MWRA's energy and sustainability program initiatives.

*Rich Raiche motioned for the approval of the agenda and John DeAmicis seconded the motion.*

## **F. New Business**

None.

## **G. Omnibus roll call vote**

*Items being voted on: (1) Approval of November 16, 2023 Advisory Board meeting agenda and (2) Move into Executive Session for the purposes of discussing potential litigation with the intention of returning to open session to report any votes taken and for the purpose of adjournment.*

## **H. Executive Session-potential litigation**

John Sanchez reported that the Executive Committee moved into Executive Session to discuss potential litigation related to the NPDES permit. While in Executive Session they voted to endorse the comments on the Deer Island NPDES permit as drafted by outside counsel.

## **I. Action Item: (1) Motion to recommend AB endorse language in AB comments as drafted for outside counsel and presented with meeting materials (2) Motion will include adjourning the meeting.**

*Maurice Handel moved for the adjournment of the meeting following the omnibus roll call vote. Richard Raiche seconded the motion.*

A rollcall for:

- Motion to recommend AB endorses language in AB comments as drafted for outside council and presented with meeting materials.





- Motion to adjourn the meeting.

## J. Action Item: Meeting adjournment Roll Call

Name	Community	Vote
Michael Rademacher	Arlington	Yes (remote)
David Manugian	Bedford	
John P. Sullivan, Jr.	Boston	Yes (remote)
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Yes (remote)
John G. Sanchez	Burlington	Yes (remote)
Julie Greenwood-Torelli	Cambridge	Yes (remote)
Cate Fox-Lent	Chelsea	Yes (remote)
David Pavlik	Lexington	
Yem Lip	Malden	Yes (remote)
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Yes (remote)
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	Yes (remote)
Lou Taverna	Newton	
Nicholas J. Rystrom	Revere	Yes (remote)
Brendan O'Regan	Saugus	
Richard Raiche	Somerville	Yes (remote)
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Yes (remote)
John P. DeAmicis	Stoneham	Yes (remote)

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.

