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Thursday, February 8, 2024  
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)
David Manugian	Bedford	Here (remote)
John Sullivan	Boston (BWSC)	Here (remote)
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Here (remote)
John Sanchez	Burlington	Here (remote)
Cate Fox-Lent	Chelsea	Here (remote)
Yem Lip	Malden	arrived after vote
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	Here (remote)

### B. Office Update, by Matthew Romero

The Advisory Board’s new research and policy analyst, Christine Bennett, since her start on January 22, 2024 continues to quickly get up to speed as the budget season arises. In a legislative update, Governor Healey has released her FY25 budget which does not include debt service assistance. Also, on February 15, 2024 there is a Water Infrastructure Alliance meeting taking place where forthcoming legislation will be discussed.

### C. Watershed Management Update

The Healey Administration announced that it intends to use forests within the Commonwealth as one method to meet the goal of net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2050. Secretary Rebecca Tepper (Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs) convened the Climate Forest Committee comprised of experts from various backgrounds to investigate this issue,



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25 resulting in the release of their report *Recommendations for Climate-Oriented Forest Management*  
26 *Guidelines*. The committee had differing views on management around water supplies. Some  
27 experts agree with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) that limited active  
28 management of forests could help improve water quality, which is in-line with the MWRA and AB’s  
29 position. Others did think that active management in watersheds was necessary for producing  
30 clean water, and others still were against any management at all. Comments were submitted by  
31 the Advisory Board to the State, as did the MWRA, and both submissions are available to read on  
32 the Advisory Board’s website. The AB’s comments reiterate the position that “carefully considered  
33 and deliberately limited” active forest management around the watershed improves the water  
34 quality. Christine Bennett has started researching the publications and reports that the AB can use  
35 to bolster this position, and these documents will be put into the Executive Committee’s shared  
36 drive so that members can review.

37  
38 The Water Supply Protection Trust has called an off-cycle meeting next week to discuss the issue of  
39 the replacement of the Quabbin Administration Building’s roof. During recent storm events, the  
40 building’s roof was discovered to be in worse condition than previously thought. Replacement  
41 needs to happen quickly to prevent further damage and increased rehabilitation costs in the future.  
42 The meeting will include a vote to add roof replacement to DCR’s workplan. This roof rehabilitation  
43 is already included in the MWRA’s CIP, but design was not scheduled until FY26 and construction in  
44 FY28. The estimate for roof replacement is about \$1.1 million. John Sanchez and Matthew Romero  
45 spoke of their concern that condition assessment is not being conducted in a way that eliminates  
46 surprise repairs and results in inaccurate CIP timelines. This issue will be brought up in the meeting  
47 next week that Matthew Romero will attend. Matthew Romero represents and votes on behalf of  
48 the AB as a trustee designated by John Sanchez.

## 49 **D. Proposed FY25 Budget Review Update**

51 The Board of Directors moved their meeting to February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024 which prevents the CEB from  
52 being presented to the AB at the February 15, 2024 meeting as the BOD first needs to vote to  
53 transmit it to the AB. The CEB presentation to the AB has been moved to March and will be a joint  
54 meeting with WAC and WSCAC. After the BOD approves the proposed CEB budget on February 21<sup>st</sup>,  
55 preliminary assessments will go out to MWRA communities, formally kicking off budget review. In  
56 the meantime, MWRA staff are putting together overview briefings to get the AB up to speed on  
57 general pieces of the MWRA budget, including how their FY24 budget has gone thus far.

## 58 **E. Approval of the Advisory Board meeting agenda for February 15, 2024**

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60 *A motion to approve the Advisory Board meeting agenda for February 15, 2024 was motioned by Bedford,*  
61 *seconded by Somerville, and added to the omnibus roll call vote at the end of the meeting.*

## 62 **F. Approval of previous Executive Committee meeting minutes for the following meetings:**

- 63 a. September 14, 2023
- 64 b. Executive Session minutes from September 14, 2023
- 65 c. November 9, 2023





- d. Executive Session minutes from November 9, 2023
- e. January 11, 2024

*In the interest of time and convenience, the above-mentioned minutes were proposed in a singular motion, which were motioned by MAPC, seconded by Bedford, and added to the omnibus roll call vote at the end of the meeting. The November 9, 2023 minutes will be amended to remedy an error where Maurice Handel's vote was recorded twice.*

**G. New Business**

With the passing of James Guidod, the AB has fallen behind on the publication of the annual Water and Sewer Rate Survey, which is usually finalized and put out in January. To release information soon to communities as they set their rates, the AB will prioritize MWRA community data first, with other pieces of the document, such as national comparisons, released at a later date. Focus will be on calculations using 120HCF, the appendices C and D, and MWRA community historical rate charts. John Sanchez suggested incorporating the 61,000 gallon estimates which more accurately reflect New England's water usage. A question for the future would be whether 120HCF becomes the new appendix section of the rate survey, with a 61,000 gallon comparison becoming the new standard. If so, the reports going forward would include historical calculations using the more accurate 61,000 gallon standard.

**H. Adjournment**

*Adjournment was motioned by Bedford, seconded by Somerville, and added to the omnibus vote at the end of the meeting.*

An omnibus roll call vote took place on the following items:

- a. Approval of the February 15, 2024 Advisory Board meeting agenda.
- b. Approval of the Executive Committee meeting minutes for September 14, 2023.
- c. Approval of the Executive Committee executive session meeting minutes for September 14, 2023.
- d. Approval of the Executive Committee meeting minutes for November 9, 2023.
- e. Approval of the Executive Committee executive session meeting minutes for November 9, 2023.
- f. Approval of the Executive Committee meeting minutes for January 11, 2024.

*The roll call vote was as follows:*

Name	Community	Vote
Michael Rademacher	Arlington	Yes
David Manugian	Bedford	Yes
John Sullivan	Boston (BWSC)	Yes
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Yes
John Sanchez	Burlington	Yes
Cate Fox-Lent	Chelsea	Yes





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Yem Lip	Malden	Yes
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Yes
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	Yes
Nicholas J. Rystrom	Revere	Yes
Richard Raiche	Somerville	Yes
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Yes
John P. DeAmicis	Stoneham	Yes

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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.

