



# Advocacy & Accountability

Representing over 3 million people in Massachusetts since 1985

Thursday, November 13, 2025

Hybrid Meeting  
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 (in person)
David Manugian	Bedford	Here (remote)
John Sullivan	Boston	Here (remote)
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Here (remote)
Dave Pavlik	Lexington	Here (remote)
Yem Lip	Malden	Here (remote)
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	Here (remote)
Nicholas Rystrom	Revere	Here (remote)
Brendan O'Regan	Saugus	Here (remote)
Richard Raiche	Somerville	Here (remote)
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Here (in person)
John DeAmicis	Stoneham	Here (in person)
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Here (remote)

***Board of Directors members:***

*Lou Taverna, Andrew Pappastergion*

***Advisory Board and MWRA staff:***

*Christine Bennett, Nathan Coté, Matthew Romero, Bernadette Russo*

***Also in attendance:***

*Andreae Downs, Bill Kiley, Adriana Cilloa*

### **B. Executive Director's report**

Matthew Romero, Executive Director of the Advisory Board, provided several high-level updates.

Mr. Romero first addressed a late-breaking agenda change related to the Town of Wayland's emergency water connection. He explained that MWRA had proactively contacted Wayland





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prior to the expiration of its most recent emergency authorization and had been advised that no extension would be needed. Shortly thereafter, Wayland experienced a separate system issue and requested emergency access. Because of timing considerations, the MWRA Board of Directors is expected to vote on the emergency connection at its next meeting, contingent upon a prior vote by the Advisory Board. Mr. Romero emphasized that emergency connections are one of the limited areas where the Advisory Board has clear statutory authority under the Enabling Act.

In response to questions from Mr. DeAmicis, Mr. Romero confirmed that the vote would occur at the full Advisory Board meeting the following week and that materials would be distributed in advance. He noted that Wayland is pursuing eventual system membership and described how the community's long-term plans may depend on broader MetroWest system expansion discussions.

Mr. Romero reminded members that the Advisory Board Holiday Open House is scheduled for December 11 in Lexington and encouraged members to invite local officials and decision-makers. In response to a question from Mr. Handel, Mr. Romero stated that a registration link would be included in upcoming meeting notices and that staff would continue outreach to increase attendance.

Turning to Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs), Mr. Romero reported that MWRA staff had withdrawn the CSO presentation scheduled for the upcoming MWRA Board meeting in order to respond to additional questions from Board members. As a result, the CSO item was removed from the Advisory Board's draft agenda. He emphasized that the December 31 deadline for submitting the draft updated Long-Term Control Plan remains fixed, though it is unclear whether MWRA will take action at a December meeting or a special meeting.

Mr. Raiche provided additional context regarding recent discussions with the MA-Department of Environmental Protection and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, noting that the draft plan submitted by December 31 is intended to initiate the public comment process rather than represent a final decision. Committee members discussed the importance of understanding rate impacts, cost allocation, and communications strategy as the process moves forward.

Mr. Romero also provided an update on the 8(m) permitting working group, noting that the group has held its first meeting and that follow-up materials and action items are being developed. A second meeting is scheduled for early December.

On staffing, Mr. Romero reported that the Advisory Board's current co-op, Bernadette Russo, will conclude her term shortly after the holiday gathering, and that a new co-op,





# Advocacy & Accountability

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Kishan, will begin in January 2026 and remain through June. He also described progress on hiring a full-time Community Insight and Engagement Lead, explaining that the role will focus on community outreach and communications related to CSOs, system expansion, and rate impacts. Interviews are ongoing, with a goal of filling the position by January.

Finally, Mr. Romero thanked members for participating in the supplemental retail rate survey questionnaire and noted that staff had streamlined the survey to improve response rates. Nathan Coté and staff will begin preparing draft materials, with a full presentation planned for January.

## C. Request from StAB to present to the Advisory Board

Mr. Romero introduced a request from Save the Alewife Brook, an external advocacy group, seeking to present to the Advisory Board regarding CSOs and the Alewife Brook area. He reviewed the recently adopted public comment policy and emphasized that the Executive Committee is responsible for determining whether such requests are appropriate for placement on an Advisory Board agenda.

Committee members engaged in an extensive discussion regarding timing, format, and precedent. Several members emphasized the value of hearing community concerns, while others cautioned against setting expectations that could lead to multiple advocacy presentations at regular meetings. Members discussed alternatives, including written submissions, limiting presentation time, and avoiding dialogue or debate during presentations.

Following discussion, the Committee agreed to allow a brief presentation at the upcoming Advisory Board meeting.

*A motion was made to allow Save the Alewife Brook to provide a five-minute informational presentation at the November 20, 2025 Advisory Board meeting, with the amendment that there be no dialogue or debate. It was moved by Maurice Handel, seconded by Elena Proakis Ellis, and the following roll call vote was taken:*

Name	Community	Vote
Michael Rademacher	Arlington	Yes (in person)
David Manugian	Bedford	Yes (virtual)
John Sullivan	Boston	Yes (virtual)
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Yes (virtual)
Dave Pavlik	Lexington	Yes (virtual)
Yem Lip	Malden	<i>Not present at vote</i>
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	Yes (virtual)





# Advocacy & Accountability

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Nicholas Rystrom	Revere	Yes (virtual)
Brendan O'Regan	Saugus	<i>Not present at vote</i>
Richard Raiche	Somerville	Yes (virtual)
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Yes (in person)
John DeAmicis	Stoneham	Yes (in person)
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Yes (virtual)

## D. Action Item: Approval of the November 20, 2025 Advisory Board meeting agenda

*A motion was made to approve the November 20, 2025 Advisory Board meeting agenda, as amended. It was moved by Maurice Handel, seconded by Elena Proakis Ellis, and added to the omnibus roll call vote at the end of the meeting.*

## E. Action Item: Approval of the September 11, 2025 Executive Committee meeting minutes

*A motion was made to approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes from September 11, 2025, as presented. It was moved by Maurice Handel, seconded by Elena Proakis Ellis, and added to the omnibus roll call vote at the end of the meeting.*

## F. New Business

None.

## G. Adjournment

*A motion was made to adjourn the meeting. It was moved by Sam Stivers, seconded by Maurice Handel, and included in the omnibus roll call vote at the end of the meeting.*

## H. Omnibus Roll Call Vote

*A motion to take an omnibus roll call vote was put forth. It was moved by Sam Stivers and seconded by Maurice Handel.*

*An omnibus vote took place on the following items:*

- Approval of the November 20, 2025 Advisory Board meeting agenda, as amended
- Approval of the Executive Committee meeting minutes from September 11, 2025
- Approval of allowing a five-minute presentation by Save the Alewife Brook at the November 20, 2025 Advisory Board meeting
- Adjournment of the meeting





# Advocacy & Accountability

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*The roll call vote was as follows:*

Name	Community	Vote
Michael Rademacher	Arlington	Yes (in person)
David Manugian	Bedford	Yes (virtual)
John Sullivan	Boston	Yes (virtual)
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Yes (virtual)
Dave Pavlik	Lexington	Yes (virtual)
Yem Lip	Malden	Yes (virtual)
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	<i>Not present at vote</i>
Nicholas Rystrom	Revere	Yes (virtual)
Brendan O'Regan	Saugus	<i>Not present at vote</i>
Richard Raiche	Somerville	Yes (virtual)
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Yes (in person)
John DeAmicis	Stoneham	Yes (in person)
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Yes (virtual)

Respectfully submitted,

David Manugian, 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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Matthew A. Romero  
Executive Director