



Advocacy & Accountability

Representing over 3 million people in Massachusetts since 1985

Operations Committee Meeting
Thursday, May 1, 2025 at 11:00AM

VIRTUAL

Operations Committee Meeting Summary

A. Roll Call Attendance

A commencing roll call voted as follows:

Name	Community	Vote
Michael Rademacher	Arlington	Here (virtual)
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	Here (virtual)
Richard Raiche	Somerville	Here (virtual)
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Here (virtual)

Also in attendance:

Lou Taverna, Matthew Romero, Christine Bennett, Nathan Coté, Keira Kishnani, Rebecca Weidman, Colleen Rizzi, Hilary Monahan, Jennifer Johnson, Joseph Conway, Trevor McProud, Anne Malenfant, Matthew O'Connell, John Scenna, Margaret Laforest, Amy McHugh

B. LCWD/MWRA Wakefield Interconnection Proposal

The Committee reviewed the Lynnfield Center Water District's (LCWD) application to join the MWRA water system via an interconnection with the Town of Wakefield. The request was presented by Colleen Rizzi, MWRA's Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs. Also present to assist with questions were John Scenna, Director of LCWD; Anne Malenfant of CDM Smith; and Matthew O'Connell, Superintendent of the Lynnfield Water District (LWD).

Ms. Rizzi explained that the interconnection is being pursued under MWRA Operating Policy OP.10 and has been reviewed by MWRA staff for conformance. LCWD, which operates four groundwater wells, faces serious challenges with summer supply constraints, lack of redundancy, and elevated levels of manganese, PFAS, and nitrate.



2 Griffin Way, Suite A, Chelsea, MA 02150



(617) 788-2050



mwra.ab@mwraadvisoryboard.com

mwraadvisoryboard.com

Matthew A. Romero
Executive Director



Advocacy & Accountability

Representing over 3 million people in Massachusetts since 1985

These concerns led to a Notice of Non-Compliance issued by MassDEP in 2022, and the District has since completed both short- and long-term corrective actions. To address these water quality and resiliency issues, LCWD seeks to use MWRA water as a fifth source. The District has requested a waiver of the entrance fee.

The interconnection, which has already received interbasin transfer approval from the Water Resources Commission (WRC), would allow LCWD to draw an average of 0.28 million gallons per day (MGD), with a maximum day of 0.36 MGD, and emergency access up to 0.83 MGD. Ms. Rizzi noted that emergency access would not trigger the new surcharge structure recently implemented by MWRA for non-members, as LCWD would be acting under a contract and existing approvals. She confirmed that LCWD has completed its MEPA review, secured MassDEP approvals, and executed a 20-year intermunicipal agreement with Wakefield. The final steps are approval by the Advisory Board, the MWRA Board of Directors, and the passage of enabling legislation (H.972), which has been filed and referred to committee.

During discussion, Lou Taverna asked for clarification on the legislative component. Ms. Rizzi explained that the legislation must formally add LCWD to MWRA's enabling act. While the legislation is typically straightforward, she noted that the timing is unpredictable given legislative schedules and emphasized that all new community admissions follow this process.

Sam Stivers expressed concern about potential delays caused by the legislative process and asked whether those delays would prevent the interconnection from being used during peak summer months. Ms. Rizzi responded that the infrastructure would be in place by early June, and that LCWD could access emergency water under MWRA Policy OP.5 with the appropriate DEP declarations, even prior to formal admission. Mr. Scenna confirmed this timeline and underscored the urgency of the matter. He explained that the infrastructure is nearly complete and fully funded by the District, and that LCWD faces serious risk of not meeting system pressure or fire suppression needs during high-demand summer periods. He described the daily strain the District faces between May and September, with tank levels dropping and pressure falling even under water use restrictions. Mr. Scenna added that this will be the fourth summer that LCWD ratepayers have been funding improvements without yet receiving the benefit, and urged the Advisory Board to approve the request contingent on the legislation.

Questions then turned to water quality and blending. Mr. Taverna asked whether there were any concerns about compatibility between MWRA water and LCWD's



2 Griffin Way, Suite A, Chelsea, MA 02150



(617) 788-2050



mwra.ab@mwraadvisoryboard.com

mwraadvisoryboard.com

Matthew A. Romero
Executive Director



Advocacy & Accountability

Representing over 3 million people in Massachusetts since 1985

existing groundwater supply. Mr. Scenna deferred to Anne Malenfant, who explained that detailed modeling had been conducted and reviewed by MassDEP. The analysis considered even highly conservative scenarios—such as 100% Crystal Lake water from Wakefield reaching LCWD—and still found no compatibility issues with corrosion control or other water quality parameters. Ms. Proakis Ellis followed up by asking how a potential contamination event in Wakefield's Crystal Lake source would be managed, particularly in terms of communication. Ms. Malenfant and Mr. Scenna confirmed that the IMA requires Wakefield to notify LCWD in the event of a water quality issue, and that LCWD is responsible for communicating with its own customers. They noted that since LCWD may not always be drawing water at any given moment, the District's operational monitoring would determine whether notification is required. These procedures were carefully outlined in the agreement and reviewed during the permitting process.

Richard Raiche expressed strong support for the proposal and recommended a friendly amendment to the motion clarifying that Advisory Board approval should be contingent on the legislation passing "as presented." He explained that this would safeguard against unexpected amendments during the legislative process, ensuring that any substantive changes would bring the matter back to the Advisory Board. The amendment was accepted by both the motion maker and seconder without objection.

With no further questions raised, Matthew O'Connell read into the record a letter of support from the Lynnfield Water District Board of Water Commissioners, urging approval of LCWD's application.

A motion was made to recommend the Lynnfield Center Water District's admission to the MWRA waterworks system to the Executive Committee, pursuant to MWRA's Policy #OP.10, contingent upon the passage of H.972 and final Water Resources Commission approval, with the additional stipulation that the legislation pass as presented. Should the legislation be amended or materially altered, the matter would return to the Advisory Board for further consideration. It was moved by Sam Stivers, seconded by Richard Raiche, and added to the omnibus roll call vote at the end of the meeting.

C. Approval of the minutes from January 22, 2025

A motion to approve the minutes from January 22, 2025 was put forward. It was moved by Sam Stivers, seconded by Michael Rademacher, and added to the omnibus roll call vote at the end of the meeting.





Advocacy & Accountability

Representing over 3 million people in Massachusetts since 1985

D. Approval of the minutes from July 18, 2024

A motion to approve the minutes from July 18, 2024 was put forward. It was moved by Sam Stivers, seconded by Michael Rademacher, and added to the omnibus roll call vote at the end of the meeting.

E. New Business

Matthew Romero, Executive Director of the Advisory Board, announced that the Operations Committee currently has one vacancy following the departure of a representative from Milton. Advisory Board members interested in filling the seat were encouraged to reach out for consideration by the Chair.

Mr. Romero then updated the Committee on efforts to expand engagement around MWRA's 8M permitting process. He described a new informal working group, now forming in response to interest expressed at last month's Advisory Board meeting. The group will bring together interested community representatives to share local permitting practices, identify common challenges, and collaborate on draft templates or procedures. Brookline's permitting framework sparked the initiative, and communities like Medford have voiced interest in participating. The group is not a formal subcommittee, and participation will be open-ended and voluntary, intended to foster informal collaboration and resource-sharing among member communities.

Chair Mike Rademacher asked for clarification as to whether the working group would be affiliated with the Operations Committee. Mr. Romero clarified that it would not—it is simply a broader group open to any interested Advisory Board members or municipal staff, with no quorum or voting structure.

Mr. Romero also described ongoing external outreach on this topic. He noted that John Downey of MWRA is preparing an article for the Massachusetts Water Environment Association (MAWEA) on 8M permitting and has distributed a survey to gather input from MAWEA members. Mr. Romero emphasized that outreach must go beyond MWRA member communities, as critical infrastructure such as the Dorchester Tunnel may be affected by outside excavation work. He stressed the importance of raising awareness among non-member communities, particularly as geothermal and other emerging project types become more common and increase the risk of accidental infrastructure impacts.

Chair Rademacher noted that the creation of the working group was a worthy effort, particularly in light of how differently permitting is currently handled from one community to the next.



2 Griffin Way, Suite A, Chelsea, MA 02150



(617) 788-2050



mwra.ab@mwraadvisoryboard.com

mwraadvisoryboard.com

Matthew A. Romero
Executive Director



Advocacy & Accountability

Representing over 3 million people in Massachusetts since 1985

F. Adjournment + Omnibus Roll Call Vote

A motion to adjourn was put forward. It was moved by Sam Stivers and seconded by Elena Proakis Ellis. The following roll call to adjourn was as follows:

Name	Community	Vote
Michael Rademacher	Arlington	Yes (virtual)
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	Yes (virtual)
Richard Raiche	Somerville	Yes (virtual)
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Yes (virtual)

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Rademacher, Chair

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



2 Griffin Way, Suite A, Chelsea, MA 02150



(617) 788-2050



mwra.ab@mwraadvisoryboard.com

mwraadvisoryboard.com

Matthew A. Romero
Executive Director