



# Advocacy & Accountability

Representing over 3 million people in Massachusetts since 1985

Thursday, January 8, 2026

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

### ***Board of Directors members:***

*Lou Taverna, Andrew Pappastergion, Joe Foti*

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

*Christine Bennett, Nathan Coté, Matthew Romero, Abigail Bulman*

### ***Also in attendance:***

*Rebecca Weidman, Colleen Rizzi, Hillary Coolidge; Mark Ryan, Andreea Downs, Curtis Quitzau, Clyde McGraw, David Libardoni*

### **B. Introduction of New Staff**

Matthew Romero, Executive Director of the Advisory Board, introduced two new staff members. Abigail Bulman was introduced as the Advisory Board's new Community Insights & Engagement Lead, having joined the staff the prior week. Kishan Parida who will serve as a co-op student with the Advisory Board





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for the next six months, was also introduced. Members welcomed both new staff and expressed appreciation for their joining the organization.

## C. Action Item: Sunrise Senior Living (Sharon) – Proposed MWRA Sewer Connection via Norwood (OP.11 Admission Review)

The Committee reviewed a request to recommend approval of a proposed wastewater connection for a Sunrise Senior Living facility located in the Town of Sharon, to be served via a sewer connection through the Town of Norwood. Because Sharon is not an MWRA sewer community, the request required review pursuant to MWRA Operating Policy OP.11, approval under the Interbasin Transfer Act, and special enabling legislation authorizing MWRA to serve this specific facility.

Colleen Rizzi, MWRA Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs, presented the request and summarized MWRA staff's review. Ms. Rizzi explained that the proposed facility is a 99-unit senior living community with an estimated maximum daily wastewater flow of approximately 10,000 gallons per day and an average daily flow of roughly 6,000 gallons per day. The project team evaluated alternative wastewater disposal options, including on-site septic systems, but determined that those alternatives were infeasible due to site conditions such as high groundwater and soil constraints.

Ms. Rizzi reported that the Water Resources Commission issued a Determination of Insignificance under the Interbasin Transfer Act. As required under OP.11, the project is subject to a four-to-one infiltration and inflow removal requirement based on maximum daily flow. The applicant submitted a flow removal report documenting the removal of approximately 49,000 gallons per day of I&I from Norwood's system, exceeding the required threshold.

Ms. Rizzi also reviewed the project's regulatory status, noting that MEPA review was not required, the Town of Sharon submitted a letter of support, and the Town of Norwood approved the connection through a sewer agreement outlining maintenance and payment responsibilities. She confirmed that special enabling legislation authorizing MWRA to serve the facility has been enacted and signed into law. Outstanding approvals include final action by the Advisory Board and the MWRA Board of Directors, as well as certain local approvals in Sharon.

Representatives of the applicant and project team were present, including David Libardoni, legal counsel for the project. In response to questions, Mr. Libardoni explained that the Town of Norwood completed the required I&I removal work in anticipation of the connection and that the developer will reimburse Norwood through an entrance fee established in their sewer agreement. He also confirmed that both the special legislation and regulatory approvals limit the sewer connection exclusively to the Sunrise facility, and no additional properties may connect.

Committee members asked clarifying questions regarding I&I removal, capacity considerations, and the limitations on the sewer connection. MWRA staff confirmed that no system capacity or operational



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Matthew A. Romero  
Executive Director



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concerns were identified given the scale of the project and the completed I&I removal.

Following discussion, a motion was made to recommend approval of Sunrise Senior Living's admission to the MWRA wastewater system, pursuant to MWRA Policy OP.11 and subject to MWRA staff conditions, including the entrance fee. The motion passed by unanimous roll call vote:

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

## D. Executive Director's Report

Mr. Romero provided an update on the status of MWRA's Combined Sewer Overflow long-term control planning process. He explained that MWRA requested an extension of time to submit materials to regulators and that an additional public meeting has been scheduled as part of the ongoing public engagement process.

Mr. Romero and Mr. Raiche discussed the increasing focus on ratepayer impacts and financial capacity, particularly as project scopes and cost estimates continue to evolve. Members emphasized the importance of clearly communicating potential cost implications to communities and elected officials and ensuring that the Advisory Board remains actively engaged in these discussions. Members were encouraged to attend the upcoming virtual public meeting, and staff will continue to keep the Committee informed as additional information becomes available.

## E. 2025 Water and Sewer Retail Rate Survey Update

Nathan Coté, Research and Policy Analyst, presented an overview of the 2025 Water and Sewer Retail Rate Survey. Mr. Coté highlighted trends in water and sewer rates across MWRA communities, comparisons using both standardized usage assumptions and actual reported usage, and continued expansion of the survey to include non-MWRA and national systems.



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Discussion focused on the growing complexity of comparing rates as more communities adopt separate stormwater fees. Members noted that separating stormwater costs can cause sewer rates to appear to decline even when overall ratepayer costs have not changed. Several members emphasized that stormwater charges can no longer be ignored and should be addressed more explicitly in future survey analyses.

Members expressed interest in forming a small working group to explore how stormwater fees, usage benchmarks, and affordability metrics could be better incorporated into the survey. Staff noted that early input would be helpful as work on the next survey cycle begins later in the year.

## F. Action Item: Approval of the January 15, 2026 Advisory Board meeting agenda

*A motion was made to approve the Advisory Board meeting agenda for January 15, 2026, as presented. It was moved by John DeAmicis, seconded by David Manugian, and added to the omnibus roll call vote at the end of the meeting.*

## G. Action Item: Approval of the November 13, 2025 Executive Committee meeting minutes

*A motion was made to approve the Executive Committee meeting minutes from November 13, 2025, as presented. It was moved by Maurice Handel, seconded by John DeAmicis, and added to the omnibus roll call vote at the end of the meeting.*

## H. New Business

Mr. Romero informed the Committee that his current employment agreement concludes at the end of the fiscal year. He reviewed how the process was handled previously and invited discussion on how the Committee would like to proceed. Members indicated a preference to follow a similar process as in prior years, with the Board's officers serving as a negotiating group and discussions to occur in executive session at a later date.

As part of new business, Mr. Romero congratulated staff on the success of the December Advisory Board event and discussed opportunities to build on that momentum in the coming year. No additional new business was raised.

## I. Adjournment and Omnibus Roll Call Vote

*A motion to adjourn and take up an omnibus roll call vote was put forth. It was moved by Maurice Handel and seconded by Michael Rademacher.*

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

- Approval of the January 15, 2026 Advisory Board meeting agenda
- Approval of the Executive Committee meeting minutes from November 13, 2025
- Adjournment of the meeting





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*The roll call vote was as follows:*

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

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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