



# Advocacy & Accountability

Representing over 3 million people in Massachusetts since 1985

Thursday, March 12, 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 (remote)
David Manugian	Bedford	Here (remote)
John Sullivan	Boston	Here (remote)
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Here (in person)
Dave Pavlik	Lexington	
Yem Lip	Malden	
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	Here (remote)
Nicholas Rystrom	Revere	Here (remote)
Brendan O'Regan	Saugus	
Richard Raiche	Somerville	Here (in person)
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Here (remote)
John DeAmicis	Stoneham	Here (in person)
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Here (remote)

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

- Lou Taverna

#### **Advisory Board and MWRA**

#### **staff:**

- Christine Bennett, Research & Policy Analyst, Advisory Board
- Nathan Coté, Research & Policy Analyst, Advisory Board

- Matthew A. Romero, Executive Director, Advisory Board
- Abigail Bulman, Community Insights & Engagement Lead, Advisory Board
- Kishan Parida, Co-op Student, Advisory Board

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

From Advisory Committees:

- Andreae Downs, WAC

### B. Executive Director's Report

Matthew Romero, Executive Director of the Advisory Board, briefed the Committee on recent developments related to the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) long-term control planning process.



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Matthew A. Romero  
Executive Director



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Mr. Romero reported that the MWRA Board of Directors recently voted to approve the Partners' (MWRA, the City of Somerville, and the City of Cambridge) proposed CSO control alternative. With the selection of a proposal, Advisory Board staff began conducting an independent financial analysis to better understand the long-term cost implications for member communities.

Staff developed a draft financial dashboard designed to illustrate projected costs associated with the CSO program under different levels of storm protection. Mr. Romero explained that the dashboard is intended to improve communication with member communities and elected officials by presenting cost projections in a clearer format.

The analysis compares the MWRA-approved proposal, described as the Future Storm Protection (FSP) plan, with the higher level of CSO control advocated by environmental groups, described as the Extreme Storm Protection (ESP) plan, which would design infrastructure for a 25-year storm event based on projected 2050 data incorporating climate change.

Mr. Romero noted that public discussions have largely focused on projected costs through 2050, which reflect the horizon of MWRA's financial model. Staff analysis extended projections through the anticipated debt repayment period ending around 2072, illustrating that total long-term costs could be substantially higher than those reflected in the 2050 projections.

Committee members discussed the presentation and offered several suggestions for further analysis, including:

- evaluating the net present value of projected costs
- presenting the information in a format that highlights impacts on community sewer assessments
- providing comparisons with existing MWRA capital spending and future infrastructure obligations
- clearly communicating financial trade-offs to local officials and legislators

Members generally supported continuing development of the dashboard and suggested that the analysis be refined and reviewed by the Advisory Board Finance Committee before broader outreach.

Mr. Romero noted that the figures presented were preliminary and that staff will continue coordinating with MWRA staff to reconcile certain assumptions and finalize the data.

## **C. Action Item: Opening of the process to nominate an Advisory Board representative to the MWRA Board of Directors**

Mr. Romero informed the Committee that the Advisory Board's annual process to nominate a representative to the MWRA Board of Directors has begun.



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He noted that Lou Taverna's seat on the MWRA Board is up for election this year and that Mr. Taverna has indicated his intention to seek reelection.

Mr. Romero explained that the Executive Committee serves as the nominating committee, and that nominations will be brought forward at a future meeting before consideration by the full Advisory Board.

*A motion was made to open the nomination process for an Advisory Board representative to the MWRA Board of Directors. It was moved by Maurice Handel, seconded by John DeAmicis, and added to the omnibus roll call vote at the end of the meeting.*

## **D. Action Item: Approval of the March 19, 2026 Advisory Board meeting agenda**

*A motion was made to approve the Advisory Board meeting agenda for March 19, 2026, as presented. It was moved by Maurice Handel, seconded by David Manugian, and added to the omnibus roll call vote at the end of the meeting.*

## **E. Action Item: Approval of the February 5, 2026 Executive Committee meeting minutes**

Mr. Romero noted that minor edits had been submitted to the February 5, 2026 Executive Committee meeting minutes.

*A motion was made to approve the minutes as amended, authorizing staff to incorporate the noted edits, by Maurice Handel, seconded by David Manugian, and added to the omnibus roll call vote at the end of the meeting.*

## **F. New Business**

Members briefly discussed recent commentary advocating additional CSO controls and broader stormwater management measures.

Members noted that many communities are already facing significant infrastructure costs, including stormwater permit compliance, sewer infiltration and inflow reduction programs, and coastal resilience investments. Members emphasized that these obligations may affect the affordability of additional CSO spending and should be considered when evaluating long-term policy decisions.

## **G. 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, seconded by David Manugian, and added to the omnibus vote.*

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



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- Opening of the nomination process for an Advisory Board representative to the MWRA Board of Directors
- Approval of the March 19, 2026 Advisory Board meeting agenda
- Approval of the February 5, 2026 Executive Committee meeting minutes, as amended
- Adjournment of the meeting

The roll call vote was as follows:

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

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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