



Advocacy & Accountability

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Thursday September 24, 2026
Remote Connection Via Zoom
10:00 AM

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A. Roll call attendance

A commencing roll call was voted as follows:

Name	Community	Vote
Michael Rademacher	Arlington	Here (remote)
Daniel Maurer	Ashland	
David Manugian	Bedford	Here (remote)
John Sullivan	Boston	Here (remote)
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Here (remote)
Brian White	Burlington	Here (remote)
Lucica Hiller	Cambridge	Here (remote)
Michael Trotta	Canton	Here (remote)
Cate Fox-Lent	Chelsea	
Ernest Lariviere	Everett	
Stephen Leone	Framingham	
David Pavlik	Lexington	Here (remote)
Joe Beauchesne	Lynn	Here (remote)
Lynnfield Water District	James Finegan	
Yem Lip	Malden	Here (remote)
Amy McHugh	Marblehead	Here (remote)
Tim McGivern	Medford	Here (remote)
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	Here (remote)
Mike Retzky	Needham	Here (remote)

Name	Community	Vote
Thomas Fitzgerald	Newton	Here (remote)
Robert Donnelly	Norwood	Here (remote)
Margaret LaForest	Quincy	Here (remote)
Chris Cole	Reading	Here (remote)
Richard Raiche	Somerville	Here (remote)
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Here (remote)
John DeAmicis	Stoneham	Here (remote)
Gino Cresta	Swampscott	
Joseph Conway	Wakefield	
Patrick Fasanello	Walpole	Here (remote)
Michael Chiasson	Waltham	Here (remote)
David Cohen	Wellesley	Here (remote)
Jamie Dunbar	Wilbraham	
Joseph Lobao	Wilmington	Here (remote)
Sean Harrington	Watertown	Here (remote)
Sean Divoll	Worcester	
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Here (remote)
J.R. Greene	Quabbin-Ware	Here (remote)
Lexi Dewey	Ct. River Basin	Here (remote)

Board of Directors members:

Lou Taverna, Joe Foti, Andy Pappastergion

Advisory Board staff:

Matthew Romero, Nathan Coté, Christine Bennett, Abigail Bulman, Stephanie Ackley, Jogeashwini Srinivasan-Ramesh



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MWRA staff:

Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Brian Kubaska, Jim Coyne, Rebecca Weidman, Mike Cole, Katie Ronan, Tom Durkin, Stephen Cullen, Stacie Marley, Denise Ellis-Hibbett, Kathleen Baskin, Carolyn Francisco Murphy, David Wu, Michael O'Keefe, Devon Winkler, Sean Navin, Elizabette Batista

WSCAC

Moussa Siri (WSCAC), Paul Lauenstein (WSCAC), Erin Bonney Casey (WSCAC), William Copithorne (WSCAC), Nina Gordon-Kirsch (WSCAC), Warren Kimball (WSCAC), Bill Merriam (WSCAC), Lydia Olson (WSCAC), Martin Pillsbury (WSCAC), Janet Rothrock (WSCAC), Paul Rybicki (WSCAC)

WAC

Andreae Downs (WAC), Adriana Cillo (WAC), Alfredo Vargas (WAC), Craig Allen (WAC), Dan Winograd (WAC), Kannan Vembu (WAC), Karen Lachmayr (WAC), Martin Pillsbury (WAC), Taber Keally (WAC), Wayne Chouinard (WAC), Felina Silver (WAC), Zhenyu Tian (WAC)

Also in attendance:

Juliet Simpson (MIT), John Thompson (Braintree), Emily Norton (CRWA), Brandon Ward (UCANE), Sarah Robertson, Jennifer Pederson (Mass Water Works Association), Max Rome (CRWA)

B. Action Item: Election of Executive Committee

Advisory Board Executive Director Matthew A. Romero explained that the Advisory Board's annual kickoff meeting includes the election of officers and at-large members of the Executive Committee. He noted that the current members wished to continue serving and that, at its meeting the previous week, the Executive Committee, acting as the Nominating Committee, voted to recommend the existing slate of officers and Executive Committee members for another term. Mr. Romero added that the election remained open to nominations from the floor.

Chair Richard Raiche opened the floor for additional nominations. Hearing none, he requested a motion to elect the slate of candidates recommended by the Nominating Committee and presented in the meeting materials.

A motion was made to elect the slate of officers and Executive Committee members as presented by the Nominating Committee. It was moved by David Manugian, seconded by Sam Stivers, and approved unanimously by roll call vote. The vote was as follows:





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Michael Rademacher	Arlington	Yes (remote)
Daniel Maurer	Ashland	
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John Sullivan	Boston	Yes (remote)
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Yes (remote)
Brian White	Burlington	Yes (remote)
Lucica Hiller	Cambridge	Yes (remote)
Michael Trotta	Canton	Yes (remote)
Cate Fox-Lent	Chelsea	
Ernest Lariviere	Everett	
Stephen Leone	Framingham	
David Pavlik	Lexington	Yes (remote)
Joe Beauchesne	Lynn	Yes (remote)
Lynnfield Water District	James Finegan	
Yem Lip	Malden	Yes (remote)
Amy McHugh	Marblehead	Not present
Tim McGivern	Medford	Yes (remote)
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	Yes (remote)
Mike Retzky	Needham	Yes (remote)

Name	Community	Vote
Thomas Fitzgerald	Newton	Yes (remote)
Robert Donnelly	Norwood	Yes (remote)
Margaret LaForest	Quincy	Yes (remote)
Chris Cole	Reading	Yes (remote)
Richard Raiche	Somerville	Yes (remote)
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Yes (remote)
John DeAmicis	Stoneham	Yes (remote)
Gino Cresta	Swampscott	
Joseph Conway	Wakefield	
Patrick Fasanello	Walpole	Yes (remote)
Michael Chiasson	Waltham	Yes (remote)
David Cohen	Wellesley	Yes (remote)
Jamie Dunbar	Wilbraham	
Joseph Lobao	Wilmington	Yes (remote)
Sean Harrington	Watertown	Yes (remote)
Sean Divoll	Worcester	
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Yes (remote)
J.R. Greene	Quabbin-Ware	Yes (remote)
Lexi Dewey	Ct. River Basin	Yes (remote)

C. Presentation: FY27 Priorities

a. Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, MWRA Interim Executive Director

MWRA Interim Executive Director Steve Estes-Smargiassi provided an overview of the Authority's priorities for FY27 and the challenges anticipated over the coming years. He described MWRA as being in a period of significant transition, including senior staff retirements, the ongoing search for a new Executive Director, and the need to prepare the organization for increased capital investment as major system assets age.

Mr. Estes-Smargiassi reflected on MWRA's first 40 years, noting that the Authority's initial decades were focused on rebuilding the water and wastewater systems and addressing major environmental and regulatory challenges, followed by a period focused more heavily on maintaining those investments. Looking ahead, he said MWRA will need to adjust its staffing and organizational structure to accommodate a significant increase in capital maintenance. The current Capital Improvement Program includes nearly \$9 billion in investment between FY26 and FY38, although he noted that the current spending curve is aspirational and MWRA is working to spread the projected peak over a longer period.

Turning to combined sewer overflows (CSOs), Mr. Estes-Smargiassi reviewed the approximately \$1 billion already invested in the CSO program and the resulting reductions in CSO volume. He then discussed the Draft Updated Long-Term Control Plan for the Charles, Mystic, and Alewife rivers, noting





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that the planning process incorporates projected climate-driven changes in precipitation. The draft plan seeks to eliminate CSOs during a 2050 typical year and substantially reduce them during larger storms, while incorporating green infrastructure and balancing project costs and impacts with anticipated water quality benefits. He emphasized that stormwater remains a significant contributor to bacterial water quality issues and that continued municipal investment in stormwater will also be necessary to improve recreational water quality.

The draft CSO program includes approximately \$1.3 billion in projects shared among MWRA, Cambridge, and Somerville. Mr. Estes-Smargiassi noted that, when MWRA's projects are escalated to the midpoint of construction and debt service is considered, the proposed level of control represents approximately \$2 billion in investment by MWRA ratepayers. A higher level of control designed around a 2050 25-year storm would increase that figure to approximately \$5.6 billion. He stressed the importance of considering whether additional ratepayer investments would produce meaningful water quality benefits. Comments on the draft plan are due to MassDEP by October 30, and he encouraged Advisory Board members and their communities to participate in the public comment process.

Mr. Estes-Smargiassi also provided an update on MWRA's donor-basin analysis related to potential water system expansion. He said the analysis found that an additional withdrawal of up to 20 million gallons for new customers would have minimal impacts on reservoir storage, river flows, and flood flows. The Water Resources Commission was scheduled to hold a hearing in Belchertown, with written comments also being accepted.

Regarding the search for MWRA's next Executive Director, Mr. Estes-Smargiassi reported that a Board of Directors subcommittee had narrowed a pool of qualified applicants to eight candidates for initial interviews and subsequently conducted five in-person interviews. The subcommittee was expected to identify two or three finalists for presentation to the Board on October 14, with the Board anticipated to select a candidate at its October 21 meeting.

Mr. Estes-Smargiassi highlighted MWRA's Lead Service Line Replacement Program, which has provided \$81 million of the \$200 million allocated to the program to 22 communities since 2016. He noted that MWRA provides a 25% grant component when communities fully replace service lines without charging homeowners and said MWRA was exploring an enhancement that would combine its program with the State Revolving Fund to increase the portion of replacement costs provided at no cost. He also noted that changes to the Lead and Copper Rule were anticipated by the end of calendar year 2027, with a training session for communities expected in early March.

On the Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program, Mr. Estes-Smargiassi reported that design of the approximately 10-mile Southern Tunnel was more than 60% complete, while the Northern Tunnel had reached approximately 30% design. Construction was expected to begin in the coming years.

Mr. Estes-Smargiassi concluded by discussing MWRA's efforts to manage future rate increases while accommodating growing capital needs. He credited collaboration between MWRA and the Advisory Board with helping reduce future debt service and smooth projected rate increases, while noting that upcoming capital investments, including the CSO program, will make maintaining those targets more challenging. He also highlighted the Board of Directors' approval of a new solar canopy project at Deer



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Island, which will increase renewable energy generation while reducing operating costs and supporting greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Finally, Mr. Estes-Smargiassi announced that MWRA had again won the regional New England water taste test, with that year's winning sample coming from Chelsea. Chair Richard Raiche congratulated MWRA on continuing its water tasting success.

b. Matthew Romero, MWRA Advisory Board Executive Director

Advisory Board Executive Director Matthew A. Romero presented the Advisory Board's priorities for FY27, framing them around MWRA's transition into a more capital-intensive period. He noted that communities have benefited from a prolonged period of relatively stable capital spending, disciplined rate increases, and sustainable and predictable assessments. With significant investment now anticipated for the Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program, Deer Island, water system renewal, and the CSO program, he said the goal should not be to make the next decade look like the previous one, but to manage the coming period of reinvestment as effectively as possible.

Mr. Romero identified MWRA's capacity to deliver its expanding capital program as an immediate concern. While the Advisory Board has historically examined staffing vacancies and personnel underspending primarily as budget issues, he said the increasing capital workload has shifted the focus toward whether MWRA has sufficient staffing and organizational capacity to implement the work ahead. He noted that MWRA staffing increased during FY26, but said the broader question is whether workforce capacity can keep pace with the upcoming capital program.

Mr. Romero explained that the effects of this investment cycle will reach communities on a different timetable. MWRA's debt management practices allow capital costs to be spread over longer periods, helping avoid sharp fluctuations in assessments and supporting sustainable and predictable rates. However, spreading those costs over time does not eliminate them and can increase total costs through interest. He emphasized that decisions being made today may therefore create financial obligations that communities and ratepayers will carry for decades.

Using the proposed CSO program as an example, Mr. Romero noted that financing associated with decisions made today could continue well beyond the plan's 2050 horizon, with the current analysis extending debt obligations to approximately 2072. He said an important Advisory Board priority is ensuring that these longer-term impacts are visible while communities still have an opportunity to influence the decisions creating them.

Mr. Romero said this perspective would also guide the Advisory Board's review of the proposed FY28 budget. Rather than examining the capital program, staffing, debt service, and community assessments as separate issues, staff will focus on how those components interact over time. He said the Advisory Board will continue its detailed budget review while also considering whether assumptions and decisions across the budget collectively make sense.

System expansion will be another FY27 priority. Mr. Romero noted that the current entrance fee waiver expires at the end of calendar year 2027 and said the Advisory Board should use the coming year to



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evaluate the experience under the policy and consider whether to recommend continuing, modifying, or allowing it to expire. He also identified legislation, regulatory changes, Quabbin-related issues, and potential funding opportunities as external matters that staff will continue to monitor and address when they materially affect member communities.

Mr. Romero also emphasized improving how the Advisory Board provides information to its members. He pointed to the budget and CSO dashboards and the municipal CSO comment template as examples of tools intended to translate complex MWRA information into formats communities can more readily use. He said the goal is not to produce additional material for members to review, but to reduce the amount of analysis and translation they must perform themselves. Member feedback will help staff identify where additional context or clearer presentation is needed.

Mr. Romero concluded that the Advisory Board's role during this period will be to evaluate whether proposed investments are proportionate to identified needs, whether their value and underlying assumptions are clear, and whether communities understand the long-term obligations they may be asked to carry. He also emphasized the importance of engaging early enough in the process for the Advisory Board and its members to meaningfully inform decisions.

During discussion, members asked about the projected decline in capital spending in the outer years of the CIP. Mr. Romero and Mr. Estes-Smargiassi explained that the decline reflects the limitations of long-range projections rather than an expectation that capital needs will disappear. Mr. Estes-Smargiassi said MWRA is working toward a more consistent long-term level of capital investment, potentially in the range of \$300 million to \$400 million annually, rather than pronounced peaks and valleys. He added that the forthcoming master plan will provide a longer-term view of anticipated system needs.

In response to a question from Andreae Downs regarding inflation and interest rates, MWRA staff explained that long-term projections incorporate assumptions regarding future construction costs and value projects at the midpoint of construction. MWRA also benefits from tax-exempt borrowing and can refinance eligible debt when interest-rate conditions are favorable. Staff noted, however, that both inflation and future interest rates remain difficult to predict.

David Pavlik asked how future water and wastewater capital spending ultimately affects community assessments. Mr. Romero explained that capital spending eventually flows through to the applicable water or sewer assessments, but MWRA's debt management practices spread those impacts over time rather than passing capital spending directly through to communities in the year it occurs. Discussion noted that water assessments are currently experiencing greater pressure, while significant future investment is anticipated on both sides of the system, including the Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program on the water side and Deer Island and CSO investments on the wastewater side.

Further discussion focused on the timing and composition of future capital spending. MWRA staff explained that major projects will need to be carefully sequenced, particularly at Deer Island, where facilities must remain operational and in compliance while rehabilitation occurs. Delaying projects may help spread costs but can also increase construction costs, allow conditions to deteriorate, or require





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interim repairs. Mr. Romero noted that rehabilitating Deer Island while maintaining continuous operations will make the coming work more complex than the original construction of the facility.

D. Action Item: Approval of Advisory Board meeting minutes from June 25, 2026

Due to time constraints and the possibility that members would need to leave the meeting, Chair Richard Raiche suspended the regular order of business and took this agenda item out of order.

A motion was made to approve the Advisory Board meeting minutes from June 25, 2026. It was moved by Robert Donnelly, seconded by Elena Proakis Ellis, and approved by roll call vote. The following vote took place:

Name	Community	Vote
Michael Rademacher	Arlington	Yes (remote)
Daniel Maurer	Ashland	
David Manugian	Bedford	Not present
John Sullivan	Boston	Yes (remote)
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Yes (remote)
Brian White	Burlington	Yes (remote)
Lucica Hiller	Cambridge	Yes (remote)
Michael Trotta	Canton	Yes (remote)
Cate Fox-Lent	Chelsea	
Ernest Lariviere	Everett	
Stephen Leone	Framingham	
David Pavlik	Lexington	Abstain
Joe Beauchesne	Lynn	Yes (remote)
Lynnfield Water District	James Finegan	
Yem Lip	Malden	Yes (remote)
Amy McHugh	Marblehead	Not present
Tim McGivern	Medford	Yes (remote)
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	Yes (remote)
Mike Retzky	Needham	Not present

Name	Community	Vote
Thomas Fitzgerald	Newton	Yes (remote)
Robert Donnelly	Norwood	Yes (remote)
Margaret LaForest	Quincy	Yes (remote)
Chris Cole	Reading	Yes (remote)
Richard Raiche	Somerville	Yes (remote)
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Yes (remote)
John DeAmicis	Stoneham	Yes (remote)
Gino Cresta	Swampscott	
Joseph Conway	Wakefield	
Patrick Fasanello	Walpole	Yes (remote)
Michael Chiasson	Waltham	Yes (remote)
David Cohen	Wellesley	Yes (remote)
Jamie Dunbar	Wilbraham	
Joseph Lobao	Wilmington	Yes (remote)
Sean Harrington	Watertown	Yes (remote)
Sean Divoll	Worcester	
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Yes (remote)
J.R. Greene	Quabbin-Ware	Yes (remote)
Lexi Dewey	Ct. River Basin	Yes (remote)

E. Presentation: FY27 Priorities

a. Andreae Downs, WAC Executive Director

Wastewater Advisory Committee (WAC) Executive Director Andreae Downs reviewed WAC's work over the past year and priorities for FY27. She thanked the Advisory Board and its staff for increased collaboration on meetings, tours, and shared topics, noting that joint meetings also reduced demands on MWRA staff.

Ms. Downs said WAC spent much of the past year reviewing the Draft Updated Long-Term CSO Control Plan and also examined Deer Island issues including future capacity and flows, energy planning, residuals recycling, financing, and contaminants such as PFAS. She also reported that legislation





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addressing wipes labeling, sponsored by Representative Sean Garballey and Senator Jamie Eldridge, had been incorporated into the environmental bond bill, which remained in conference committee.

Ms. Downs announced that Dan Winograd would succeed Kannan Vembu as WAC Chair, with Alfredo Vargas serving as Vice Chair.

Looking ahead, Ms. Downs said WAC would continue holding joint meetings with the Advisory Board and WSCAC on areas of mutual interest, including staffing, energy, budgets, and master planning. WAC also plans meetings focused on inflow and infiltration, climate planning, biosolids, PFAS, and maintenance, with an increased focus on capital maintenance.

Ms. Downs said WAC plans to hold another Deer Island tour in May for elected officials and their staff, this time focusing on infrastructure requiring replacement or major rehabilitation. She expressed hope that the Advisory Board would again participate and that the tour could include a deeper discussion of long-term costs. She also recognized Advisory Board staff member Christine Bennett for her work estimating infrastructure life cycles, costs, and associated borrowing needs.

b. Moussa Siri, WSCAC Executive Director

Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee (WSCAC) Executive Director Moussa Siri reviewed WSCAC's activities during FY26 and priorities for the coming year. He reported that WSCAC held nine meetings during the year, including four joint meetings with the Advisory Board and WAC. Topics included drought conditions, changes to the Lead and Copper Rule, tunnel redundancy, the MWRA budget, reservoir operations, and watershed forestry.

Mr. Siri reported that WSCAC submitted a proposal requesting \$40,000 from MWRA to conduct an independent study of Quabbin watershed forestry practices. The request remained under MWRA review. He explained that the purpose of the proposed study is to provide WSCAC with an independent understanding of current forestry practices to better inform its advice to MWRA.

Mr. Siri also highlighted the work of WSCAC's Water Conservation and Forestry Working Groups and reported that four new members joined the committee during FY26. He noted that WSCAC continues to participate in the Massachusetts Drought Management Task Force and previously submitted a letter supporting drought-related legislation.

Looking ahead, the Water Conservation Working Group is developing a presentation for potential submission to the Water Resources Commission. Mr. Siri said the presentation will first be reviewed by the full committee before WSCAC seeks an opportunity to present it to the Commission.

WSCAC is also developing comments related to the Interbasin Transfer Act process, including MWRA's donor-basin analysis concerning an additional 20 million gallons per day and applications from communities seeking MWRA water. Mr. Siri said WSCAC would submit comments outlining its position once its review is complete.



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Mr. Siri also discussed WSCAC's continued participation in drought monitoring. He collects photographs and observations from streams feeding the Quabbin Reservoir to document changes in conditions over time and provides this information to the Drought Management Task Force. He added that he will continue attending meetings concerning Quabbin-related issues during FY27 to remain informed about discussions affecting the watershed.

Mr. Siri concluded by reminding WSCAC members to remain after the Advisory Board meeting for WSCAC business.

F. Draft CSO Updated Long-Term Control Plan – Update and discussion

Advisory Board Executive Director Matthew A. Romero provided an update on the Advisory Board's outreach regarding the Draft Updated Long-Term CSO Control Plan. He said staff continues weekly outreach to communities and elected officials, providing new resources and information as they become available, including the extended public comment period, the CSO Resources Hub, and the CSO Dashboard. Advisory Board staff also remains available to meet with municipal and elected officials to discuss the plan and its potential community impacts.

Mr. Romero reviewed two documents included in the meeting materials: a municipal comment letter template and the Advisory Board's draft comments. Both support the partners' submitted draft plan, which calls for eliminating CSOs during a 2050 typical year, referred to by the Advisory Board as the Future Storm Protection Plan. He explained that the municipal template was designed to be adapted by individual communities and had been pre-populated by Advisory Board staff with community-specific assessment and cost information. The template also provides space for communities to describe their own local infrastructure, financial, and other competing priorities.

The Advisory Board's draft comments take a broader regional and ratepayer perspective. Mr. Romero said the comments emphasize that any requirement for a higher level of CSO control should be accompanied by a clear demonstration that the additional benefits justify the additional costs and disruption. The draft also calls for state or federal financial assistance if regulators require a higher level of control. The Advisory Board's comments will be presented for a vote at the next meeting before the October 30 public comment deadline.

Chair Richard Raiche summarized two actions for members: consider whether their individual communities wish to submit comments using the municipal template and review the Advisory Board's draft comments in preparation for a vote at the next meeting. He also reminded members of the October 30 written comment deadline and the remaining opportunities to provide comments through the public hearing process.

During discussion, Andreae Downs asked about a CSO comment letter submitted by the Town of Norwood. Robert Donnelly explained that he and the Town Manager became concerned after reviewing the potential long-term costs to Norwood, including approximately \$36 million under the proposed plan and more than \$100 million under the higher-cost alternative. He noted that Norwood is simultaneously facing substantial local infrastructure needs, including a \$45 million water main relining project, a \$15 million water tank replacement project, and more than \$25 million in anticipated





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stormwater investments for which a funding source has not yet been identified. Mr. Donnelly said the Town submitted its letter to communicate those concerns and agreed that it could be shared with other Advisory Board members.

Mr. Romero said the Norwood letter would be included in the follow-up materials distributed to members. Mr. Raiche clarified that formal public comments on the draft plan should be submitted through the process established by the three CSO partners so they can be provided to MassDEP and EPA. Mr. Donnelly confirmed that Norwood had subsequently submitted its letter through the formal public comment process.

Mr. Romero concluded by noting that Advisory Board staff was finalizing a timeline for the CSO Resources Hub documenting major milestones and the extensive public outreach undertaken throughout the development of the updated plan.

G. Committee Reports

a. Executive Committee – Richard Raiche

Chair Richard Raiche highlighted two upcoming opportunities for Advisory Board members. The annual Holiday Open House will be held on December 10 at 11:00 a.m. at the Scottish Rite Museum in Lexington and will provide an informal opportunity for Advisory Board members and staff to gather.

Mr. Raiche also reminded members of the October 8 Advisory Board field trip to Stoneham near Spot Pond, which will include the dedication of the covered storage facility and pump station in honor of retired MWRA Executive Director Emeritus Fred Laskey.

b. Finance Committee – Elena Proakis Ellis

Finance Committee Chair Elena Proakis Ellis reminded communities to complete and return their Rate Survey responses to the Advisory Board.

Christine Bennett provided an update on the Advisory Board's dashboards. She reported that the website now features a redesigned dashboard page, including an integrated Quick Reference Dashboard. The updated page provides easier access to key statistics on water supply and precipitation, as well as frequently used MWRA documents and other resources.

c. Operations Committee – Michael Rademacher

Operations Committee Chair Michael Rademacher reported that there were no new updates from the Committee.

H. Legislative Update



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Advisory Board Executive Director Matthew A. Romero provided a legislative update, noting that a new legislative section had been added to the Advisory Board's News & Notes. Following the addition, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) reached out to discuss areas of shared legislative interest. Mr. Romero said Advisory Board staff would be meeting with MAPC to explore opportunities for collaboration on legislative priorities.

Mr. Romero reported that the Commonwealth's budget included \$1.5 million statewide for debt service assistance. While significantly below historical funding levels, he noted the importance of maintaining the line item and thanked the Advisory Board's legislative partners for their continued support. The budget also included \$500,000 for the Clinton wastewater treatment plant reimbursement, which offsets MWRA assessments to member communities.

Mr. Romero reported that the Mass Ready Act, the Environmental Bond Bill, remained in conference committee. Provisions related to the Quabbin region remained under consideration, including temporary payments of \$50,000 per community for two years and changes related to MWRA Board governance.

He distinguished those provisions from the separate Quabbin Equity legislation, noting that the Senate version remained active. That legislation included a proposed \$35 million annual MWRA contribution to a trust fund for Quabbin host communities, replacing the per-gallon charge included in an earlier version, as well as an additional MWRA Board seat and other provisions of interest to the Advisory Board. Mr. Romero said staff would continue monitoring both measures and update members as developments occur.

Mr. Raiche noted that the next items on the agenda, the MWRA Executive Director Update and approval of the June 25, 2026 meeting minutes, had already been addressed earlier in the meeting.

I. New Business

Advisory Board Executive Director Matthew A. Romero thanked Andrew Pappastergion for representing the Advisory Board during the MWRA Executive Director search process and ensuring that the Advisory Board's perspectives and concerns were represented during candidate interviews. J.R. Greene announced an upcoming program on the history of the Metropolitan Boston water system and the Quabbin towns. The free event will be held on October 13 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Quincy Public Library and will feature Mr. Greene, filmmaker Roger Hagopian, and DCR archivist Sean Fisher. Mr. Romero said staff would look for additional information about the program to include in the meeting follow-up materials.

J. Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the Advisory Board meeting. It was moved by Maurice Handel, seconded by David Manugian, and approved unanimously by roll call vote.

The following roll call vote took place:



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Sean Divoll	Worcester	
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Yes (remote)
J.R. Greene	Quabbin-Ware	Yes (remote)
Lexi Dewey	Ct. River Basin	Yes (remote)

Respectfully submitted,

David Manugian

David Manugian, Secretary

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



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