## MWRA Board of Directors Meeting February 13, 2013 Voting Summary Sheet

Item Name	Туре	Notes	Vote	Discussion Highlights	Attachments
Approval of Minutes	n/a	n/a	Unanimous		
Report of the Chair	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	
Report of the Executive Director	n/a	n/a	n/a	*	
		Approved the transmittal of the FY14 Proposed			
FY14 Proposed Current Expense Budget	Approval	CEB to the Advisory Board for its 60-day review.	Unanimous		
		Board voted to adopt the MWRA Investment			
A d	A1	Policy, in compliance with the Commonwealth	T T	*	
Adoption of Investment Policy	Approval	Mass. Finance Advisory Board's regulations.  Board voted to appoint MWRA Budget Director	Unanimous	**	
		Kathy Soni to vote as proxy at the next annual			
		meeting and any special meeting of the			
		stockholders for the Fore River Railroad			
		Corporation meeting. In addition, the Board directs			
Appointment of the Proxy for the Fore River Railroad		the proxy to elect board members. See Board			
Corporation	Approval	Highlights for list of members.	Unanimous		
		Approved MWRA Affirmative Action Plan effect			
		for one year from January 1, 2013 through			
		December 31, 2013.			
		Staff highlighted women are well-represented at the			
		MWRA facilities in Charlestown and Chelsea but			
A 1 C.1 A.CC" (' A.1' TXI	A 1	still challenging finding qualified candidates for	** .	*	
Approval of the Affirmative Action Plan	Approval	other locations.	Unanimous	*	
		Approved the recommendation to appoint Matthew			
		Dam to the position of Regional Manager, Toxic			
		Reduction and Control Unit			
Appointment of Regional Manager, Toxic Reduction		At annual salary of \$85,999.44			
And Control Unit	Approval	Effective February 16, 2013	Unanimous		
		Approved the recommendation to appoint Donald			
		Martel to the position of Security Services			
		Administrator in the Office of Emergency Preparedness			
Appointment of Security Services Administrator,		At an annual salary of \$85,221			
Office of Emergency Preparedness	Approval	Effective February 16, 2013	Unanimous		
	11.0.00	Approved the amendments to the Position Control			
		Register, as presented and filed with the records of			
PCR Amendments-February 2013	Approval	the meeting.	Unanimous		
		Approved the recommendation of the Consultant			
		Selection Committee to select KPMG, LLP to			
		provide Audit Services to the Authority			
		Authorized the Executive Director to execute			
		Contract F223			
		Amount not to exceed \$119,000			
		For one year from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014 Under Delegated Authority, authorize Executive			
		Director to extend additional 3 year period			
Audit Services: KPMG, LLP, Contract F223	Contract Award	Amount not to exceed a total amount of \$501,550.	Unanimous		
	- January I Trial G	MWRA staff highlighted that it was looking at	- Indifficus		
Security System Improvements at Various Facilities-		MWRA facilities that did not have surveillance and			
Design and Construction Administration Services:		card access and working on getting them in-line			
EDA2, Inc., Contract 6760U	Contract Award	with security systems at other facilities.	Unanimous	*	

# MWRA Board of Directors Meeting February 13, 2013

## **Voting Summary Sheet**

Janitorial Services at the Deer Island Treatment Plant:		Approved Contract WRA-3575Q to lowest and responsible bidder, S.J. Services, Inc. Amount not to exceed \$427,171			
WRA-3575Q, S.J. Services, Inc.	Contract Award	Term of eleven months.	Unanimous		
Primary and Secondary Clarifier Rehabilitation-Deer Island Treatment Plant: CDM Smith, Inc., Contract 6965, Amendment 2	Contract Amendments/Change Orders	Approved the Amendment No. 2 to extend the term of Contract No. 6965 with CDM Smith Inc., Primary and Secondary Clarifier Rehab-Deer Island Treatment Plant By 212 Calendar days to September 12, 2013 No increase in contract amount.	Unanimous		
Lynnfield/Saugus Pipeline: Albanese Brothers, Inc., Contract 6584, Change Order 27	Contract Amendments/Change Orders	Approved Change Order No. 27 to decrease the amount of Contract No. 6584 with Albanese Brothers., Inc., Lynnfield/Saugus Pipeline Construction For a net lump sum credit of \$20,315.26 No increase in contract term	Unanimous		
FY13 Second Quarter Orange Notebook	Information	MWRA staff gave a presentation on the Orange Notebook. It was highlighted that even if there were a dry spell, there would not be any challenges with the ability to supply water to MWRA's customers.	n/a	*	
Fiscal Year 2013 Mid-Year Capital Project Spending Report	Information	MWRA staff noted that it had requests higher than anticipated from communities for loans and grants. That is what is driving overspending but staff anticipates being back on budget by the end of the fiscal year and to actually be below budget.	n/a	*	
FY13 Financial Update and Summary as of January 2013	Information	MWRA staff noted that MWRA has received very solid ratings by rating agencies as it pertains to the strategy of the defeasance account, OPEB and a few other components.	n/a	*	
FY13 Water Assessment Adjustment	Information	MWRA staff explained that it has decreased CY2011 metered water use by a total of 91.4 million gallons for the City of Boston. This adjustment results in a \$178,051 decrease to the FY13 water assessment for BWSC.	n/a	*	
Preliminary FY14 Water and Sewer Assessment	Information	MWRA staff noted that it is currently projecting a rate revenue requirement of \$631 million, a 3.9% increase over the FY13 Rate Revenue Requirement.	n/a	*	
Draft CSO Annual Progress Report for 2012	Information	MWRA staff indicated that the City of Cambridge is still having some challenges with the design of the project but would meet the project deadline.	n/a	*	
FY13 Second Quarter Orange Notebook  Fiscal Year 2013 Mid-Year Capital Project Spending Report  FY13 Financial Update and Summary as of January 2013  FY13 Water Assessment Adjustment	Information  Information  Information  Information  Information	MWRA staff gave a presentation on the Orange Notebook. It was highlighted that even if there were a dry spell, there would not be any challenges with the ability to supply water to MWRA's customers.  MWRA staff noted that it had requests higher than anticipated from communities for loans and grants. That is what is driving overspending but staff anticipates being back on budget by the end of the fiscal year and to actually be below budget.  MWRA staff noted that MWRA has received very solid ratings by rating agencies as it pertains to the strategy of the defeasance account, OPEB and a few other components.  MWRA staff explained that it has decreased CY2011 metered water use by a total of 91.4 million gallons for the City of Boston. This adjustment results in a \$178,051 decrease to the FY13 water assessment for BWSC.  MWRA staff noted that it is currently projecting a rate revenue requirement of \$631 million, a 3.9% increase over the FY13 Rate Revenue Requirement.  MWRA staff indicated that the City of Cambridge	n/a n/a n/a	*	

☐ Administration and Finance ☐ Wastewater ☐ Water ☐ Personnel \* Link to Advisory Board position



## MWRA Advisory Board Summary of the MWRA Board of Directors Meeting Wednesday, February 13, 2013

- Please note that this serves to highlight active discussion on agenda items at the Board of Directors meeting.
- Language directly from the staff summary is highlighted in grey, while the discussion remains in plain text.
- Please see the attached summary sheet for a complete list of Board actions.
- PowerPoint presentations made to the Board of Directors have been included in the February Discussion Highlights

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority was held on February 13, 2013 at the Charlestown Navy Yard. **Present:** Chair Rick Sullivan, Michael Gove and Joel Barrera, Gubernatorial Appointees; John Carroll, Andrew Pappastergion and Joseph Foti, Advisory Board Representatives; Kevin Cotter, Henry Vitale and Brian Swett, City of Boston Representatives; Jack Walsh, City of Quincy Representative; Paul Flanagan, Town of Winthrop Representative.

## **Report of the Chair**

No Report.

## **Report of the Executive Director**

Executive Director Fred Laskey gave a storm recap and explained that a number of facilities reached full capacity; the record was 60 hours on backup generation in Houghs Neck down in Quincy and 59 hours at the Caruso Pump station. The silver lining is that the MWRA set a record on February 9<sup>th</sup> of 32,237 kilowatt hours of electricity that was produced; so it was a record day for the MWRA.

Mr. Laskey explained that DCR had a public meeting last night on the Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) report. It was very positive meeting and the report was embraced; the process will now move forward with a public comment period that ends on March 15<sup>th</sup>.

Mr. Laskey stated that staff successfully negotiated through impact bargaining the implementation of GPS/AVL on all MWRA vehicles. Staff will be going out to bid for this technology soon. Staff has had all five bargaining units sign off on the "rules of the road" and how it is going to work.

Staff is in the process of installing ultraviolet (UV) as a secondary disinfectant at the Carroll Water Treatment Plant (CWTP); the secondary disinfectant is a requirement of federal law that has a deadline that could be impacted by an issue that was recently discovered at the plant. A steel plate that is separating from the wall by a quarter of an inch must be repaired before testing of the UV can begin. The engineering firm

believes it has a fix that won't impact the deadline. Mr. Laskey stated that he believed the Board should be aware of this early on. Deputy Chief Operating Officer John Vetere and Project Engineer Charles Scott presented a model and described the issue to the Board.

Board member John Carroll asked how important it was to meet the deadline. Mr. Hornbrook stated that it was a federal regulation for the second treatment process for unfiltered areas. The MWRA has received a two-year extension on the deadline, which is allowed under federal regulations and that's the deadline staff would not meet.

Mr. Carroll asked if there was any damage to the concrete walls and how big the concrete wall is. Mr. Hornbrook stated the wall was three feet thick. Mr. Vetere stated that staff does not believe there was any damage to the concrete wall but staff is going to take it apart and there will be some forensics done by examining the bolts, the collar and the concrete. Mr. Laskey stated that it is a huge challenge involving a confined space; the contractor may not have anticipated the expansion and contraction of that metal when the temperature varied from a very warm or cold day in the winter; it appears there was no give or ability to be flexible with the expansion or contraction of that metal. Mr. Hornbrook stated that staff will come back to the Board with a proposed fix and schedule implications at the next Board meeting.

If you are interested in viewing the presentation on the John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant UV Disinfection Facilities (120-inch Header Repair), please click <u>here.</u>

### **Approvals**

#### FY14 Proposed Current Expense Budget

The Board voted to approve the transmittal of the FY14 Proposed Current Expense Budget to the MWRA Advisory Board for its 60-day review and comment period.

If you are interested in viewing the FY14 Proposed Current Expense Budget presentation made at the Board of Directors meeting, please click <u>here.</u> For additional details, you can also check out the February Board materials in detail by clicking <u>here.</u>

#### **Adoption of Investment Policy**

The Board voted to adopt the MWRA Investment Policy, in compliance with the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Finance Advisory Board's regulations (976 CMR 2.03), substantially in the form presented and filed with the records of the meeting.

Staff explained that the MWRA developed an Investment Policy, which provided guidance for the management of its funds. Similar to MWRA Debt Policy, the Commonwealth's Finance Advisory Board (FAB) regulation requires that all state entities have an Investment Policy, which is formally adopted by its governing body every two years. Debt policies require approval by March of even-numbered years and investment policies are to be approved by March of odd-numbered years. The Debt Policy was last approved in March of 2012. Now, staff is seeking adoption of the Investment Policy to be submitted to the FAB in March of 2013.

#### **Appointment of the Proxy for the Fore River Railroad Corporation**

The Board voted that the MWRA Board of Directors, as holder of all voting rights of all the issued and outstanding shares of stock in the Fore River Railroad Corporations, appoints Kathy Soni, with the power

of substitution, to vote as proxy at the next annual meeting and any special meeting of the stockholders for the Fore River Railroad Corporation in accordance with the form of proxy presented and filed with the records of the meeting. In addition, the Board of Directors directs the proxy to elect the following board members:

Frederick A. Laskey John J. Walsh Joel A. Barrera Michael J. Hornbrook Rachel C. Madden Michele S. Gillen John P. Vetere Steven A. Remsberg Lisa R. Grollman

Godfrey O. Ezeigwe

#### **Approval of the MWRA Affirmative Action Plan**

The Board voted to approve the MWRA Affirmative Action Plan effective for a one-year period from January 1, 2013 through December 31, 2013.

Board member Andrew Pappastergion asked if there were any highlights regarding the report. Mr. Laskey stated that there is a disparity in the number of women hires; women are very well represented at the MWRA facilities in Charlestown and Chelsea but in other locations there are challenges finding qualified candidates. Mr. Pappasterion asked if this was the norm of the industry. Mr. Laskey stated that it's not unique to the MWRA. Staff stated that it has difficulty finding women for certain positions because they are usually snatched up by other agencies and private firms. Mr. Pappastergion stated that if the MWRA does not have an internship program, how will this change? Staff stated that usually when people are brought into the MWRA system, they tend to stay.

Board member Henry Vitale gave an example of the accounting firm KPMG that was just approved for services to the MWRA. Could it be outsourced or given to a minority owned firm or female firm? Is this monitored here? Staff stated that they looked at the procurement and this would all have to do with the scope of the contract. There are quite a few contracts that have these goals and they are submitted to management.

#### Appointment of Regional Manager, Toxic Reduction and Control Unit

The Board voted to approve the Executive Director's recommendation to appoint Matthew Dam to the position of Regional Manager, Toxic Reduction and Control Unit, Operations Division (Unit 9, Grade 29) at an annual salary of \$85,999.44 effective February 16, 2013.

#### Appointment of Security Services Administrator, Office of Emergency Preparedness

The Board voted to approve the Executive Director's recommendation to appoint Donald Martel to the position of Security Services Administrator in the Office of Emergency Preparedness (Unit 6, Grade 10), at an annual salary of \$85,221.00 effective February 16, 2013.

#### PCR Amendments-February 2013

The Board voted to approve amendments to the Position Control Register, as presented and filed with the records of the meeting.

#### **Contract Awards**

#### **Audit Services: KPMG, LLP, Contract F223**

The Board voted to approve the recommendation of the Consultant Selection Committee to select KPMG, LLP to provide Audit Services to the Authority and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute Contract F223 with KPMG, LLP in an amount not to exceed \$119,000 for a term of one year from April 1, 2013 to March 31, 2014. Further, to authorize the Executive Director, under delegated authority, to extend the term for an additional three-year period in an amount not to exceed \$382,550, for a total amount of \$501,550.

#### <u>Security System Improvements at Various Facilities-Design and Construction</u> Administration Services: EDA2, Inc., Contract 6760U

The Board voted to approve the recommendation of the Consultant Selection Committee to select EDA2, Inc. to provide design and construction administration services for security system improvements at various MWRA facilities and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute Contract 6760U with EDA2, Inc. in an amount not to exceed \$197,800 for a term of 730 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed.

Staff explained that there was a significant amount of time and effort dedicated to physically "hardening" MWRA's facilities with the addition of gates, barriers, intrusion alarms, motion detection sensors, closed-circuit television surveillance cameras, card access readers, a public address intercom system, a card access and printing system, and the associated software, recorders and servers. Senior Engineer Carmine DeMaria explained that staff has taken some time to look at facilities that do not have surveillance and card access. Staff is looking to get these facilities in line with the other MWRA facilities.

Mr. Pappastergion asked about the process and how the firm was selected? Staff explained that they were very explicit on scoping out what work needed to be done.

#### Janitorial Services at the Deer Island Treatment Plant: WRA-3575Q, S.J. Services, Inc.

The Board to approve the award of Contract WRA-3575Q, Janitorial Services at the Deer Island Treatment Plant, to the lowest eligible and responsible bidder, S.J. Services, Inc., and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute and deliver said contract in an amount not to exceed \$427,171, for a term of eleven months.

## **Contract Amendments/Change Orders**

## <u>Primary and Secondary Clarifier Rehabilitation-Deer Island Treatment Plant: CDM Smith, Inc., Contract 6965, Amendment 2</u>

The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Amendment No. 2 to extend the term of Contract No. 6965 with CDM Smith Inc., Primary and Secondary Clarifier Rehabilitation-Deer Island Treatment Plant, by 212 calendar days to September 12, 2013, with no increase in contract amount. Further, to approve a change of name of the consultant for Contract 6965 from Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc. to CDM Smith, Inc.

#### Lynnfield/Saugus Pipeline: Albanese Brothers, Inc., Contract 6584, Change Order 27

The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Change Order No. 27 to decrease the amount of Contract No. 6584 with Albanese Brothers, Inc., Lynnfield/Saugus Pipeline Construction, for a net lump sum credit amount of (\$20,315.26), decreasing the contract amount to \$6,336,685.17, with no increase in contract term.

Further, to authorize the Executive Director to approve additional change orders as may be needed to Contract No. 6584 in amounts not to exceed the aggregate of \$250,000, in accordance with the Management Policies and Procedures of the Board of Directors.

#### **Information**

#### **FY13 Second Quarter Orange Notebook**

Mr. Hornbrook gave a presentation on several key performance indicators in the Orange Notebook. Mr. Hornbrook first highlighted the system yield of the reservoir systems. There is a long-term average of twenty-eight years for precipitation entering into the reservoir system, which is included in the Orange Notebook. The flow in the reservoir has been lower than the long-term average over the last ten months, which is due to lack of snow melt during the last winter and some of the timing during rain and precipitation as well as how it is received.

The Quabbin Reservoir is in the normal range, even with less water going into the reservoir. Staff does not see any threat with the ability to supply MWRA's customers with water. If there were to be a dry spell, staff is predicting it can continue to supply more than adequate water without falling into any type of restrictions.

MWRA Director of Planning Steve Estes-Smargiassi stated that there has been the equivalent of two inches of rain sitting out there and as we move into the spring, the melting snow will move down into the reservoir and will replenish it. We are fortunate here, that the snowmelt is used but the MWRA has big reservoirs around Massachusetts so that no matter how much snowmelt we get or when it happens, it will be recaptured. Folks out West rely on snowmelt as a reservoir and if it melts too soon, they actually don't have water for that summer. The folks who built the Quabbin Reservoir gave this state a great gift.

Mr. Hornbrook stated that we are in our normal range for source water quality even through reduced yields required more transfers from Quabbin to the Wachusett Reservoir with its longer detention time, Quabbin water is normally less reactive than Wachusett water, and transfers serve to improve Wachusett water quality. As a result of the transfers of the Quabbin water, the water quality in Wachusett is much better. On the wastewater side, over the last six months, staff indicates that flow is below the eleven-year average at Deer Island. December is the first month of that six-month period that substantially went over the long-term average for rain. There have been lower flows at Deer Island; some records have been set including a record low of the 365-dry-day-flow average.

Staff is trying to optimize the amount of digester gas that is generated on Deer Island, therefore, reducing the electricity purchases; staff is trying to optimize the percent solids that are generated and sent over to the pellet plant. Staff is starting to track the detention time in the digesters. If the time is increased in the digesters, are we going to get more solids destruction and do we generate more gas? Staff has been able to increase the digester detention time, resulting greater destruction of suspended solids. What can staff do in running the plant, without spending its capital dollars to increase the energy generation and reduce sludge?

Staff is tracking digester gas production and the percent that is utilized. It seems that keeping the detention time a little higher is producing an increase in the digester gas; there are many factors involved but it does seem to be having an impact to generate some more gas. Also, during the time period between October and November, staff conducted boiler maintenance; boilers were brought down for inspection one at a time; the percent of gas dropped from 100 to 93 and when all the boiler maintenance was completed in the beginning of December, it shot right back up to 100. Staff is trying to keep track and optimize. Also, staff is going to reschedule boiler maintenance away from around the November period and into the warmer periods so staff can use more digester gas.

Mr. Carroll asked what percentage of heat is being received out of digester gas. Director of Deer Island Dan O'Brien stated about ninety-eight percent.

Board member Jack Walsh asked if there was a maximum point to show how much gas could be used. Mr. Hornbrook stated that this information would be available next month with the overall residuals update. One of the things that staff looked at is bringing in more organic material (co-digestion). Staff is going to do a cost-benefit analysis, which is going to be pushed out to next month. Mr. Laskey stated that the technology chosen for residuals is going to be one of the most important long-term strategic decisions to make in the next several years.

Mr. Hornbrook stated that the MWRA received the platinum award from the National Association for Clean Water Agencies at Deer Island and the MWRA will be eligible for it again this year. Staff is trying to optimize even more and is hoping to get the platinum award again this year.

Director of Administration and Finance Rachel Madden highlighted that during the course of the next five years, staff will be borrowing less and paying off more principal so MWRA's total indebtedness will actually decrease over the next five years.

If you are interested in viewing the presentation made at the Board of Directors meeting for the FY13 Second Quarter Orange Notebook, please click <a href="here">here</a>.

#### Fiscal Year 2013 Mid-Year Capital Project Spending Report

Mr. Laskey stated that this report is an update on the cash flows and the projections of spending so when staff says overspending, that doesn't necessarily mean the project is over budget, it means the spending or underspending during that time did not match what staff projected. A lot of time, over spending can sometimes be a good thing because it means projects are being finished ahead of schedule.

Ms. Madden explained that at the mid-year point in the fiscal year, staff comes back to the Board with a much more extensive status update of the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), beyond what staff presents to the Board on the monthly financials. This report actually incorporates not only the projected cash flows and where the MWRA stands as far as spending on projects, but also speaks to the level of awards and the status of ongoing initiatives. This report will reflect a current overspending of \$14.8 million but highlights that staff anticipates by the end of the fiscal year to be below budget.

The CIP is a fluid thing in terms of the timing of projects. MWRA has benefited from the economy. Some of the project awards have come in lower; some of the projects are ahead of schedule. The biggest driver year-to-date is overspending, which is relative to the community assistance programs both on the Local Water Pipeline and Infiltration and Inflow programs. Staff had requests higher than anticipated from the communities for loans and grants. That is really driving what is being documented here for overspending year-to-date but staff anticipates that by the end of the fiscal year to be back on budget and actually be below budget in keeping with current trends. Staff is currently projecting that over the five year cap period

that the cash flows will be \$841 million worth of spending, which is \$302 million below the original baseline cap period spending of \$1.14 billion.

Mr. Vitale asked over the last three to five years on average, has staff spent 70% or 80% of the budget. Ms. Madden stated that staff has traditionally seen underspending in the range of anywhere between 15-20% below budget. Mr. Vitale also asked if that causes arbitrage issues. Ms. Madden stated no. Mr. Laskey stated that it takes longer to get shovels in the ground. A lot of the projects that staff is working on right now are difficult because it takes time to get all the permits and MEPA documents. Ms. Madden stated that the majority of the lower awards are an enhancement of the scope and change of the schedule, really beefing up the specifications and that can really drive the process. Mr. Hornbrook stated that there have been a lower number of projected awards in that year based upon this and that it appears to be more realistic scheduling based on our actual experience. MWRA Budget Director Kathy Soni stated that there are so many variables that can be changed. Some of these variables are under staff's control and some are not. This year or even last year, this wasn't something out of line with historical spending, and it's pretty consistent over the years that staff is underspending the budget. Ms. Madden also noted that if you took out the community assistance grants, staff would actually be showing \$8 million dollars underspending or 11% below budget right now so that's really driving the process. Staff anticipates being at or below budget by the end of the fiscal year.

#### FY13 Financial Update and Summary as of January 2013

Ms. Madden gave some highlights and variances through January 2013. Ms. Madden stated that two things are going on in this particular report. First, the report is giving the status update through January and the second component of this report is that staff is coming to the Board for the first time this fiscal year with projections for year-end. Year-to-date staff has deposited \$7.3 million into the defeasance account and in addition to that, staff is showing a \$5.1 million favorable variance in the other line items so in total year to date, there would be a surplus of \$12.4 million. Staff currently projects that by the end of the fiscal year if trends continue, the defeasance account deposits could grow to \$15.6 million. As it is the policy of the Board, these funds will be immediately utilized to defease debt.

Mr. Laskey stated that staff is doing due diligence on the bond deal that the Board authorized at the last meeting. Mr. Laskey stated he believed that there was some enthusiasm about the CIP and the fact that staff is starting to pay off more debt than is being added; and MWRA's total bond indebtedness is going to go down. The use of the surpluses to defease debt has been well received.

Ms. Madden stated that the MWRA has traditionally received a very solid rating by rating agencies and there has also been some positive feedback from the rating agencies relative to the strategy of the defeasance account, and the additional deposits to the pension to pay off that liability with a plan to address MWRA's OPEB liability, as well as a few other components. There have been a number of positive reviews on the actions staff has been taking.

Mr. Gove asked what the guidelines were for the transfer on the defeasance account. Ms. Madden explained that at the end of last fiscal year, staff did a very sizeable defeasance of \$24.4 million of variable rate savings in our capital finance toward defeasance but then at the end of the fiscal year, staff had a \$9.8 million surplus in addition to that and then came back to the Board and requested authorization to complete a second defeasance in the fall and did so. Staff anticipates that it may come back to the Board at the June meeting with the suggestion of potentially increasing the existing defeasance that is planned, which will be presented in the proposed FY14 budget or to deposit that into rate stabilization; staff would do the cost-benefit analysis as to whether or not to give it to the pension fund. Mr. Laskey noted that the structure of

the defeasance account and the surplus created by the low interest rates shall go into that account, not the other pieces of the surplus. The intent is to use that total defeasance to bring down future obligations.

#### FY13 Water Assessment Adjustment

Staff explained that the Water Assessment Adjustment represents a prior year adjustment for the City of Boston for decreasing its water use in calendar year 2011 by 91 million gallons and represents about \$178,000 worth of savings for them or a reduction in their assessment, which is then redistributed across the other communities. It is also adjusted in the proposed FY14 assessments, rather than retroactively going back and changing a community's assessment but staff incorporates those specific reductions in the future fiscal year.

#### **Preliminary FY14 Water and Sewer Assessments**

Ms. Madden explained that staff is currently projecting a rate revenue requirement of \$631 million, which is an increase of \$23.7 million over FY13. One thing that is unique is that it represents a 3.9% increase combined but it's a rare occasion where the water and the sewer increase are also individually at the same number of 3.9%. That's a little different than previous fiscal years. Staff usually sees a 6.2% versus a 2.6% for a combined total of a 3.9%. This also represents an average household increase to 61,000 gallons of \$15 per household.

Mr. Walsh asked about the high strength factor versus high strength user; is there an additional fee for the strength of the flow? Staff responded that it measures the strength of flow at Deer Island and it assumes a uniformed strength for all communities, and then on top of that, there are the permanent high strength users and staff measures the flow and strength of flow right at the source; that flow is charged separately and added on to the community's assessments. However, there is not a double charge; it's deducted from the flow. Staff applies the same unit cost but whatever the cost is for that high strength user, its added back to that particular community's assessment that is a high strength user.

Ms. Madden also noted that the flow and strength represents about 53% of the assessment on the sewer side and 47% is population driven.

#### **Draft CSO Annual Progress Report for 2012**

Mr. Carroll asked what progress is being made with Cambridge. Senior Program Manager David Kubiak explained that the project is currently on schedule. The challenge that Cambridge is facing is being able to perform a major sewer separation at the same time on the major roads without traffic congestion. Cambridge is taking a look at sequencing the projects. Mr. Hornbrook explained that last time staff was before the Board, Cambridge did not think they would be able to meet the schedule. At the direction of the Board, staff started to meet with Cambridge on a regular basis and now the contract for 2013 is on schedule. Since the last meeting staff had with Cambridge, they indicated that there are still some challenges in the design but they said they would meet the deadline. Mr. Hornbrook stated that the last time that staff was before the Board, the schedule remained the same; Cambridge had prorated due to the utilities in the streets, the total project cost. Staff needs to see the details of the design and see if it is eligible. Staff is meeting with Cambridge on Thursday to see a cost estimate along with the design. Mr. Carroll asked if Boston is on schedule. Mr. Hornbrook stated that Boston is ahead of schedule.

If you are interested in viewing the Draft CSO Annual Progress Report 2012, please click here.

