

**MWRA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
SEPTEMBER 21, 2000
BRADLEY ESTATE
ROUTE 138, CANTON, MA**

MINUTES APPROVED AT THE OCTOBER 19, 2000 MEETING

Twenty-five members were present: E. A. Maguire, ASHLAND; Janet Mainiero, BOSTON; Darrin McAuliffe, BRAINTREE; Timothy MacDonald, CAMBRIDGE; Ed Sullivan, CANTON; Al Renzi, FRAMINGHAM; J. R. Greene, GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEE; Ed Bates, MAPC; Dana Snow, MARBLEHEAD; Doran Crouse, MARLBOROUGH; Peter Hersey, MELROSE; Katherine Haynes Dunphy, MILTON; Jay Fink, NEWTON; Bernard Cooper, NORWOOD; Ted McIntire, READING; Donald Goodwin, REVERE; Joe Foti, SOMERVILLE; Phil Farrington, STOUGHTON; Stephen Casazza, WAKEFIELD; David Savoy, WALTHAM; Walter Woods, WELLESLEY; Jean Thurston, WESTON; Brad Hayes, WEYMOUTH; Michael Woods, WILMINGTON; Fred Russell, WOBURN.

Also present: Norman Jacques and Andrew Pappastergion, MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS; Ernest Williams, CANTON; Rob Antico, WILMINGTON; Representative William Galvin; Claire Miranda, Canton Chairman of the Board of Health; Diane Gustafson, Canton Chairman of Finance; Stephen Corbett, Pam Heidell and Lorraine Downey, MWRA STAFF; Joe Favaloro, Cornelia Potter, Ryan Ferrara, Nathalie Grady and Mary Ann McClellan, MWRA ADVISORY BOARD STAFF.

A. WELCOME

The meeting was called to order at 11:50 a.m. by Chairman Joe Foti. Secretary Ed Sullivan welcomed everyone to Canton.

Mr. Foti offered a moment of silence in honor of MWRA colleague, Michael Kuklinski, who passed away suddenly on Sunday. A fund has been established in Mr. Kuklinski's name and contributions can be made through Ron Joseph or Elaine Milo at the Authority.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM MAY 18, 2000 AND JUNE 15, 2000

A Motion was made **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MAY 18, 2000 AND JUNE 15, 2000 ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS**. It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

C. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joe Favaloro reported that the Authority recently opened the Outfall Tunnel at the Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (DITP). The only remaining work on the Boston Harbor Projects includes the completion of Battery C and miscellaneous landscaping. Festivities at Deer Island marking the opening of the Outfall Tunnel also commemorated individuals that had been involved with the project from 1989 to present. The Authority acknowledged members of the Advisory Board and presented certificates for the "Deer Island End To End Club" to Phil Farrington, Tim Walsh, Peter Hersey, Ed Sullivan, Bernie Cooper, Ed Maguire,

MWRA Advisory Board Minutes – September 21, 2000

Andrew Pappastergion, Stanley Stanzin, Andrew de Santis, Walter Woods, John Carroll and Norman Jacques.

Mr. Favaloro outlined some of the Advisory Board's accomplishments in FY00. Though the Advisory Board has advocated a capital-spending cap for several years, the Advisory Board achieved success in FY00. MWRA will have a spending cap from 2001 on, which will help to manage rate increases. The Authority's proposed budget included a 6.7% increase for FY01, which was reduced through the Advisory Board review and support of communities to 3.5%.

Three sections of the NPDES permit were successfully appealed. Language related to the disposition of surplus property was approved in the state budget by the Governor, despite the active efforts of DCAM and MDC to have the Governor veto the language.

Part of the reason the Advisory Board was successful in FY00 was the increased support of the communities. Staff had the opportunity to visit many of the Mayors, Boards of Selectmen and City Councilors, resulting in 43 communities signing a rates management petition. The petition sent a clear message to the MWRA Board of Directors and was the compelling reason for the 3.5% rate increase and the capital-spending cap.

A special Task Force, led by Steve Casazza, was instrumental in the development of the Local Water Infrastructure Loan Program, which will distribute \$25 million a year for the next ten years for the relining and replacement of water mains.

D. PRESENTATION: NORTH MAINTENANCE CENTRALIZED FACILITY – Steve Corbett, Director, Central Support

Steve Corbett, Director of Central Support, spoke regarding the new North Maintenance Facility (NMF) being built in Chelsea, which is scheduled for completion on May 1, 2001. The NMF is comprised of an administration building, a maintenance building and a radio tower, which will handle all communications.

Updates on construction progress are provided to employees via the MWRA web site, including updated photos of the site; who to contact if there are concerns; directions to the site by public transportation and automobile; and amenities, such as restaurants, day-care centers, banks, etc. that will impact the quality of employees' lives.

The Authority plans to consolidate ten facilities from the Greater Boston area, including building 36 in the Charlestown Navy Yard (CNY), and relocate 570 employees into two buildings on 15 acres of land. These buildings will house the TRAC unit, MIS, Engineering & Construction, Transport, Waterworks, Sewer Field Personnel, 24-hour a day OCC/EOC monitoring facilities (monitoring both water and sewer systems), water quality labs, warehouse, vehicle maintenance facility, indoor parking garage for equipment, and a covered storage area for pipes, valves, etc.

A private developer, Suffolk Construction, is building the project, which has a 30-year lease at very competitive rates. The two buildings are 217,000 square feet. Rent starts off at approximately \$15 a square foot and increases slightly over the 30 years. MWRA also has two ten-year options at the end of the lease. The benefits of the NMF include the savings of rent payments for other facilities; better efficiency by consolidating personnel from ten facilities into one; and better utilization of equipment and vehicles. A fuel facility will be located on the site as well.

MWRA Advisory Board Minutes – September 21, 2000

Walter Woods inquired on what the financial advantage to the Authority is in leasing land rather than ownership. Mr. Corbett responded that no community had any interest in a public agency coming into their community and taking over a 15-acre piece of property and not paying any taxes. It was either do it this way or not at all. After 30 years, the building may outgrow its usefulness.

Ryan Ferrara asked how the new facility would provide better services for the communities. Mr. Corbett replied that by having the equipment, supervisors, field and supply personnel under one umbrella, work could be better coordinated with improved supervision and utilization of equipment.

An Advisory Board member asked how the Authority would deal with 24-hour/7-day-a-week operations during the move. Mr. Corbett responded that MWRA plans to move MIS and the warehouse first. Once the systems are up and running properly, the Administrative and MIS personnel from CNY will be relocated. Building 36's lease terminates as of July 1, 2001. Field personnel will be transferred in small units, with the final moves scheduled for September. Additionally, a temporary SCADA system will be installed in Southborough to monitor everything through the moving period until the new OCC is operational. Monitoring can occur from DITP as well.

Cornelia Potter asked what the implications for staffing levels are. Mr. Corbett stated that the MWRA expects to have 200 less people in a period of ten years.

Mr. Favaloro stated that MWRA will award a contract in mid-October to do a competitiveness study. The consultant will review all nineteen function areas of the MWRA over the next four to eight months to determine what range of staffing is needed today and over the near and long term.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Executive Committee - Joe Foti

❖ ACTION ITEM: NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF FY01 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The following slate was submitted by the Nomination Committee for consideration by the full Advisory Board:

<u>Chairman:</u>	Joseph Foti, Somerville
<u>Co-Vice Chair of Finance:</u>	Katherine Haynes Dunphy, Milton Phil Farrington, Stoughton
<u>Vice Chair of Operations:</u>	Andrew DeSantis, Chelsea
<u>Secretary:</u>	Edward Sullivan, Canton
<u>Treasurer:</u>	Guy Carbone, Belmont
<u>At Large:</u>	*Steve Casazza, Wakefield Bernard Cooper, Norwood Jay Fink, Newton William Hadley, Lexington Peter Hersey, Melrose Timothy MacDonald, Cambridge *Ted McIntire, Reading *Dana Snow, Marblehead Stanley Stanzin, Needham John Sullivan, Jr., Boston Walter Woods, Wellesley

*New members for FY01

A Motion was made **TO ADOPT THE PROPOSED FY01 SLATE AS THE FY01 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**. It was seconded. There being no nominations from the floor and no discussion, a vote was called. It passed unanimously.

❖ **PRESENTATION: CANTON/INTER-BASIN TRANSFER ACT – Town of Canton Local Consultant And Officials**

Ed Sullivan reported that Canton has been involved in an extended process trying to find an alternative source of water. As a result, the town has run the gambit of rules and regulations and dealt with many agencies and might be an excellent case study because of its dealings with state, federal and local regulations relating to the extension of sewer lines, joining the system and seeking alternative sources of water.

Tony Zuena of SEA Consultants stated that the Town of Canton relies on its local water sources, as well as the MWRA, each supplying 50% of the town's everyday demand. Canton has an agreement with MWRA to purchase water, which is subject to five-year renewals that cap the amount of water that can be drawn from the Authority. The town is approximately 70% sewerred to the MWRA.

The site for Well No. 9 was subject to a local investigation in 1967, but for various reasons the project languished. In 1989, the MWRA reopened this process with a Local Source Feasibility Study. In the course of those investigations, fourteen sites throughout eastern Massachusetts were thoroughly evaluated and ranked in terms of viability to be brought back into existence. Well 9 was ranked first in terms of value, technical merit and feasibility. Prolonged tests were completed and the site was approved in 1993 for a yield of 1.1 million gallons per day, at which time Canton began regulatory efforts to get the site approved.

The most significant hurdle was the Inter-Basin Transfer Act, which was issued in 1999. Upon successful completion of getting that permit, the Conservation Law Foundation (CLF) sued the Commonwealth and the Town of Canton over this project saying that the Inter Basin Transfer Act regulations and guidance were not strictly adhered to by the Water Resources Commission (WRC). Last month the suit was withdrawn because Canton agreed to a written acknowledgment that all the prior permit conditions would be enforced.

The WRC required that Canton do everything that was technically feasible and economically viable to minimize withdrawal from Well No. 9, so as not to cause further stress to the Neponset River Basin. Coupled with that, there is an effort through the permitting process to minimize the export of wastewater from the donor basin to the receiving basin by substantially limiting the amount of I/I currently in the town's local sewer system. Canton has agreed that for every gallon of water withdrawn from the well, they will initially remove one gallon of I/I and eventually remove two gallons of I/I. At the end of a time-phased sequence, there would be a net increase of water remaining in the basin even when the well is being used.

A moratorium on new sewer connections has been declared until a Comprehensive Water Resource Management Plan (Plan) is completed. The town agreed to a very aggressive water conservation program including residential per capita demand less than 80 gallons per person per day; public education programs on the awareness of the watershed concept; and a drought and emergency plan. Additionally, if the Neponset River drops below certain levels during the year, the town agreed to immediately turn the well off. Based on statistical analysis in an average year, this well will be off 22% of the time simply because of the stream flow threshold issue.

MWRA Advisory Board Minutes – September 21, 2000

Furthermore, the town needs to evaluate the use of a satellite wastewater treatment facility as a way of further achieving the two-to-one goal. All of these goals will become part of the basic scope of work that the town must complete pursuant to the Plan prior to doing any additional expansion of their sewer system.

John Hannigan of Baldwin Associates stated that the water regulations have had a substantial effect on what the town can and cannot do with the sewer system. A satellite treatment facility would require the town to reconfigure and rebuild the entire sewer system within the town, even though only 30% of the town needs to be sewerred. Canton has had an active and comprehensive I/I program for the past ten or twelve years. This in fact reduces the amount of water that goes out of the town and into the MWRA system and helps reduce the actual costs that they have to pay the MWRA.

Ernie Williams, the Canton Director of Public Works, stated that as a member of the MWRA, Canton is already paying for the DITP and should not have to build a wastewater treatment plant.

Mr. Williams' direct recommendation is a review of the regulation process. A committee needs to be established to review the process and streamline it. The search for an additional waste treatment plant site should not be required of MWRA communities.

The impact of this process on senior citizens and the residents has to be recognized. Canton needed a well and had an approved source, and yet it has taken all these years to get to this point. It would be nice if the regulators could help make a site work, rather than make this process more difficult and costly for the ratepayer. Title V systems cannot be sustained in poor soil conditions.

Bernie Cooper, Assistant Town Manager of Norwood, stated, "It is unbelievable that after this amount of time, the number one source in the area still hasn't been permitted. Three times in the last seven or eight years, Norwood's connection to MWRA has ruptured. Fortunately it has ruptured at a point where Canton was not impacted. If MWRA staff hadn't been able to repair those breaks in a timely manner, Norwood would have been out of business. That resource [Well No. 9] should have been brought on line five or six years ago. It is unforgivable that the bureaucracy has stalled this. MWRA did the research regarding local treatment plants and concluded that the DITP should be built, which was ratified by the federal court and agreed to by the Commonwealth. The DITP is 96% complete and Canton has contributed to the funds to build it."

Mr. Favaloro noted that sewer rate methodology specifically relates to partially supplied communities that are paying a full vote based on their entire population versus their sewerred population. The rationale was that DITP was built to take all of their flow in the event they were fully sewerred. The message from the WRC and the other regulators is that communities should build their own treatment plant. If that kind of rationale is adhered to, every partially supplied community, rightfully, will ask for their money back and all of the fully supplied communities are going to be in as much trouble as the partially supplied ones.

Phil Farrington stated that Stoughton's water supply is so thin that we are dependent upon Canton and the MWRA and have been for the past several years for normal usage during the summer months. Stoughton's permit and the opportunity to explore alternatives was denied. Mr. Farrington stated that he didn't think Inter-Basin Transfer permits would be approved anymore.

❖ LEGISLATIVE UPDATE/PREVIEW OF FY01

Mr. Favaloro stated that now that the MWRA has a capital-spending cap, the Advisory Board must develop a way to make the cap work for the communities and maximize the benefits of putting it in place. Between

MWRA Advisory Board Minutes – September 21, 2000

now and FY07, the Authority projects 7.2% assessment increases each year. The key task for staff, the Executive Committee and the full Advisory Board is to develop methods to reduce the proposed increases.

Also proposed for FY01 is the exploration of system expansion opportunities, such as whether the system should expand and if it is going to expand, how to do it in an environmentally sound yet economically feasible way for all the communities.

In an effort to maximize the Advisory Board's relationship with the communities and its members, five day and four evening full Advisory Board meetings have been scheduled for FY01. Additionally, the two "north" meetings have been scheduled for Wilmington and Wakefield to determine if attendance would be greater at a change of location. Feedback on the schedule changes would be appreciated.

Staff will continue to strive to get waterworks projects eligible for debt service assistance. Currently only the MetroWest Tunnel is eligible. Additionally, staff will once again try to have the Commonwealth pick up some of the costs for the MDC Watershed Division, which is currently supported entirely by the MWRA.

Regulators have an important role in how they impact the communities, the MWRA and costs. Developing a good working relationship with regulators is vital so that they are not working against us.

Between now and February when the Advisory Board's comments are submitted on the Authority's capital budget, a committee will be convened to review the I/I Grant/Loan Program to determine if changes are required.

Additionally, the Advisory Board will continue to provide the opportunity for healthy discussion related to the pros and cons of privatization.

Operations Committee - Andy DeSantis

❖ I/I TASK FORCE STATUS UPDATE

Jay Fink stated that the I/I Task Force was created 1½ years ago to develop a list of strategies, targets and issues in helping determine a regional approach to I/I. The Task Force is in the process of issuing the last draft and the final comments so that a final published document can go to the MWRA Board of Directors for a vote. With EPA, DEP, watershed groups and municipal representatives all sitting at the table, the Task Force has gone a long way in coming together and developing a consensus of what are realistic goals and dollar amounts the communities can put forward to reduce I/I.

EPA is in the process of issuing their I/I and SSO guidelines. It is imperative that the Task Force's final version be approved prior to EPA's plan being mandated.

F. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

G. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 1:36 P.M. It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Sullivan, Secretary