

**MWRA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
JANUARY 17, 2002  
WILMINGTON TOWN HALL  
121 GLEN ROAD, WILMINGTON, MA**

**MINUTES APPROVED AT THE FEBRUARY 28, 2002 MEETING**

Nineteen members were present: Phil Farrington, ARLINGTON; Charles P. Barry, BROOKLINE; Joe MacKay, EVERETT; Albert Renzi, FRAMINGHAM; J. R. Greene, GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEE; Ralph Pecora, LEXINGTON; Bruce Kenerson, LYNNFIELD; Dana Snow, MARBLEHEAD; Gabriel Federico, MEDFORD; Peter Hersey, MELROSE; Katherine Haynes Dunphy, MILTON; Ted McIntire, READING; Thom Donahue, SOMERVILLE; Jeanne Fleming, STOUGHTON; Silvio Baruzzi, SWAMPSCOTT; Richard Stinson, WAKEFIELD; Earl Forman, WESTON; Bradley Hayes, WEYMOUTH; Robert Antico, WILMINGTON.

Also present: Andrew Pappastergion, MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS; Jim Miller and Larry Barrett, STOUGHTON; Daniel Annaccone, WEYMOUTH; Jarrett Selig, SEA CONSULTANTS; Ron Joseph, Carl Erickson and Steve Estes-Smargiassi, MWRA STAFF; Joe Favaloro, Cornelia Potter, Ryan Ferrara, Nathalie Grady and Mary Ann McClellan, MWRA ADVISORY BOARD STAFF.

**A. WELCOME**

Chairman Katherine Haynes Dunphy called the meeting to order at 7:36 p.m. and introduced Advisory Board member Robert Antico, who welcomed everyone to Wilmington.

**B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM OCTOBER 18, 2001 AND NOVEMBER 15, 2001**

Motions were made **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 18, 2001 AND NOVEMBER 15, 2001 ADVISORY BOARD MEETINGS.** The Motions were seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

**C. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Joe Favaloro reported that at the last MWRA Board of Directors meeting, the Board voted to participate in an Early Retirement Incentive Program. There are approximately 370 MWRA and former MDC employees eligible, though not all will participate. It is hoped that this program will allow the MWRA to fall within the staffing ranges specified in the Black and Veatch review without layoffs.

The State House News Service is currently reporting that the FY02 State Budget may need additional cuts of \$250 to \$400 million, jeopardizing debt service assistance for the remaining five months of the fiscal year.

Numbers being projected for the FY03 budget are an additional \$1.2 to \$2 billion of reductions from the bottom-line. Staff will monitor the situation very closely for impacts to Debt Service Assistance. The best indicator will be the Governor's House 1 budget, which is due for release on January 23<sup>rd</sup>.

As part of the final FY02 State Budget, the MDC Budget (including the Watershed Division) has been revamped to reflect the Legislature's concerns regarding MDC accountability. Cuts of \$400,000 to \$500,000 have been made. One problem that could arise due to state mandated cuts in overtime spending is the Authority's ability to harass the gulls at the Reservoir to control fecal coliform levels. If the fecal coliform levels put the MWRA in violation, the EPA could have the MWRA back in court in pursuit of filtration. The Advisory Board may need to mobilize the communities to send a strong message to the Executive Office of Environmental Affairs (EOEA) and the state that since 100% of the overtime is paid by the MWRA ratepayers, why should the state be allowed to determine how that money is spent?

EOEA has begun to assemble a group of state agencies to look at moving the Watershed Division out of the MDC and closer to the Secretary of EOEA.

The System Expansion Committee, chaired by Katherine Haynes Dunphy, has held five meetings. The Committee has reviewed both the water and wastewater policies. A final version of the wastewater policy is near completion, with strengthened language on accountability. The Committee continues to work on criteria for the water policy.

**D. PRESENTATION: MWRA'S PROPOSED FY03-05 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – Ron Joseph, Director – Rates and Budget, and Carl Erickson, Budget Manager**

Carl Erickson, MWRA Budget Manager, gave an overview of the changes from the final FY02 Capital Improvement Program (CIP) to the proposed CIP. The total CIP is \$6.8 billion, of which \$5.1 billion has been spent through December (83% has been awarded and 17% is yet to be awarded).

Of the \$1.1 billion of unawarded contracts remaining in the proposed CIP, 20% are scheduled to be awarded in FY03. Major contracts include the replacement pump station and the siphon contract for the Braintree-Weymouth Project; Union Park Detention facility as part of the CSO program; and the first construction contract as part of the New Connecting Mains Between Shaft 7 and WASM3. In total, of the \$1.1 billion of unawarded contracts remaining, 55% will be awarded by the end of FY05. Over the next three fiscal years, spending is projected at \$820 million and \$1.5 billion over the next ten fiscal years. Spending is split evenly between Wastewater and Waterworks improvement projects. Remaining spending on the Boston Harbor Project is for closeout and turning over of records, which will be done by the end of calendar year 2002.

From the Final FY02-04 CIP to the Proposed FY03-05 CIP, total project costs have increased by \$99 million, or 1.5%. Unawarded work accounts for 86% of this increase, of which \$30 million accounts for new work, including inspections of the Quabbin transmission system, Sudbury and Weston Aqueducts; rehabilitation of unlined pipes in the Southern Extra High Service System as part of an ongoing effort to line pipes; and continuing asset protection at Deer Island. Inflation accounts for \$29 million.

The East Boston Branch CSO project increased by more than \$20 million (almost doubled in cost); therefore, staff is revisiting the base assumptions used in this project to determine if it still provides the best benefits for the cost.

Increases are expected for equipment and security improvements as part of MWRA's ongoing efforts to improve security at MWRA facilities.

There is a significant shift in spending between FY05-07, largely related to the cost increase for the East Boston project and other projects that have been delayed from earlier years.

As a result of repayments of community loans for the Local Pipeline Improvement and Inflow and Infiltration Programs, the out years of FY11-12 have negative capital spending as those repayments offset new spending on capital projects.

By using the CIP spending cap to establish three and ten-year spending limits, staff can develop and assess future capital needs. The cap is set each year by removing the current fiscal year's spending, carrying forward any unspent monies and adding a new tenth year to the timeframe, plus inflation. As a whole, the CIP is \$97 million below the recalculated \$1.8 billion cap. A number of projects within the CIP that are in the planning stage could result in additional capital needs and costs.

Operations Planning staff are updating the wastewater and water master plans. Reviewing projects that are in the study phase might identify other needs. Together with the master planning process, staff will continue to use the annual CIP budget process to develop long-term capital needs and assess total spending.

Cornelia Potter noted that nearly 30% of all capital spending in the next ten years is for the CSO program.

#### E. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Executive Committee** - Katherine Haynes Dunphy

##### ❖ **PRESENTATION: STOUGHTON'S APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION TO THE MWRA WATERWORKS SYSTEM – Jeanne Fleming, Town Administrator, et al**

Jeanne Fleming, Stoughton Town Manager, thanked the Advisory Board for the opportunity to make this presentation. Ms. Fleming introduced Lawrence Barrett, Superintendent of Public Works; James Miller, Town Engineer; and Jarett Selig, SEA Consultants.

Mr. Miller stated that Stoughton is a medium-sized community of 29,000 people. There are seven existing ground water gravel packed wells with a maximum average production capacity of 1.9 million gallons per day (mgd). The Town has one of the lowest per capita

uses (58 gallons per day) in the state. DEM projects a demand deficit of 1.15 mgd per day by the year 2020.

Stoughton has been in a state of water emergency since 1987 and has had year round water restrictions since that time. A DEP consent order to select a regional water supply was received by Stoughton in January 2001. All local sources have been exhausted.

Over the summer of 2000, Stoughton conducted a series of studies to determine whether purchasing water through the Taunton River Desalinization Project (formerly called BlueStone) or joining the MWRA would be most beneficial for Stoughton. MWRA appears to be the best source for two reasons: availability and cost. The Desalinization Project has potential, but is still not yet on the drawing board.

At Stoughton's Annual Town Meeting this past May, approval was given to apply for MWRA membership. Stoughton currently has an existing emergency connection through Canton, which is used regularly. Construction is projected to be complete for a dedicated pipeline in July 2003 for Island Street in Stoughton, which was selected because it can provide dual connections via a 16-inch main.

Stoughton has qualified for a 0% interest SRF loan, but to be eligible for the loan, the project must be under construction in June of this year. The MEPA process is complete and a certificate has been granted. Negotiations for further permits are underway.

The Town has a very aggressive conservation program, including a mandatory outdoor watering ban that is in effect on a regular basis.

Any new business or industry has been required to conduct a four to one gallon savings project within the town. Most of the larger projects that were available have been done. Right now it is difficult for a new business to achieve this four to one savings. There are a few small projects left, but nothing substantial. All of Stoughton's municipal buildings, including the schools, are metered. Stoughton does not allow irrigation systems to be connected to the water distribution system. New residential construction is required to provide a total water supply with private wells.

Unmetered usage, such as hydroflushing, fires and fire training are monitored. An Annual I/I Program for Stoughton's sewer system has been ongoing since 1994 and since that time I/I in the system has been reduced by approximately 50%.

The Public Works Department inspects and evaluates each well annually and makes recommendations on the types of maintenance or rehabilitation that is required. That work is done within the following year. Leak detection surveys are done annually and Stoughton has a cement-lining program for older mains. Additionally, any service older than 25 years is replaced.

In conclusion, Stoughton needs water. Not only is it a hardship on the citizens, it makes new commercial and industrial development almost impossible without adequate water supply. If

Stoughton becomes a member, it could be used as a model for other member communities on how to conserve water.

Thom Donahue asked if the new connection would supplement or replace Stoughton's existing system and what sort of protection does Stoughton have on its wells in case future growth impacts the ground water and possibly contaminates it. Mr. Miller stated that MWRA would supplement Stoughton's wells. There is an aquifer protection bylaw in place that was approved by DEP that restricts certain businesses and development inside the aquifer protection zones. There are some commercial areas and a fairly large industrial area developed with land-wasteful businesses like construction yards, rock crushing operations and asphalt plants. If an additional water supply were available, some of those areas might be developed into a cleaner, more environmentally friendly category of industry or business.

Brad Hayes asked if older residential homes have been retrofitted for water conservation devices. Mr. Barrett replied that Stoughton gave out tank saving devices to residents that requested them. For any new additions to a house, the Town requires that the house be retrofitted with new low flow toilets before giving an additional permit.

MWRA membership cannot take place until all of the other permits are obtained. Easements with other communities are underway. An administrative review with the Massachusetts Highway Department for a permit to cross Interstate 95 is complete and technical review is underway. The original plan was to tunnel under I-95, but the plan now is to suspend the pipe on a bridge, which will be quicker and less costly. The railroad crossing plans have been submitted to the MBTA and are awaiting approval.

The biggest concern is the Water Resources Commission (WRC) and the Inter-Basin Transfer Permit. The application was submitted with the Final Environmental Impact Report in October. It generated some comments that didn't seem to be significant and were responded to. Last week the WRC notified Stoughton that the response was incomplete, which delayed the application as being considered complete from January to February. The process requires an advertising period in the *Environmental Monitor*, a staff recommendation, two public hearings, and a vote by the WRC. Completion of the review process is estimated in April or May.

As far as bidding and being under construction by June, indications are that Stoughton can probably advertise the contracts but cannot award the contracts until the Inter-Basin Transfer Permit is issued. At a meeting with Mark Smith and Michelle Drury of the WRC last Tuesday, promises were made to expedite this schedule and that they would also speak with DEP and the SRF Division about making the schedule more flexible so that Stoughton doesn't lose the 0% interest loan.

**❖ ACTION ITEM: SIX-MONTH EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT BETWEEN MWRA AND THE TOWN OF STOUGHTON**

A Motion was made **TO APPROVE A SIX-MONTH EMERGENCY WATER SUPPLY AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE MWRA AND THE TOWN OF STOUGHTON.** It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

❖ **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

The Governor's budget (House 1) will be released on January 23<sup>rd</sup>. The MWRA Legislative Caucus is scheduled to meet on January 30<sup>th</sup> to discuss the budget.

The legislative agenda has been scaled back significantly. Staff is working specifically to save the debt service assistance that MWRA already has and to ensure that there are no specific hits elsewhere.

**Finance Committee** - Phil Farrington

❖ **ADVISORY BOARD CIP BUDGET REVIEW PROCESS**

Ms. Potter stated that staff is into the third week of the Advisory Board's sixty-day review process. Staff is meeting with various members of the Authority staff over a series of 14 meetings into the next several weeks. Information memos that give a sense of various components of the budget will be sent to Advisory Board designees on a regular basis. Assumptions on this year's spending will affect how the Authority defines what next year's carryover will be, as well as provide guidance in setting the cap.

By the end of February, staff will have a draft for Advisory Board members consideration that will have been reviewed by the Executive Committee at its meeting in February. Following consideration of the draft, it will be submitted to the MWRA and eventually to the Board of Directors for its consideration in early March.

**Operations Committee** - Andy DeSantis

❖ **UPDATE**

Mr. Favaloro stated that the Operations Committee agenda included discussion on Stoughton's six-month extension. Additionally, Advisory Board staff made a presentation on the Authority's proposed FY03-05 CIP.

Reading is another system expansion issue that will be dealt with through the Operations Committee meeting. Ted McIntire stated that Reading has hired Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc., who expect to have their work completed by the end of March. Reading anticipates taking this information to Town Meeting in November.

F. **ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 8:43 P.M.** It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Sullivan, Secretary