

MWRA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
OCTOBER 15, 2009
BRADLEY ESTATE
2468B WASHINGTON STREET, CANTON, MA 02021 – 11:30 A.M.
Minutes Approved at the January 21, 2010 Meeting

Forty-four people were in attendance, including twenty-seven voting members: E. A. Maguire, ASHLAND; Peter Castanino, BELMONT; John Sullivan, BOSTON; Ed Sullivan, CANTON; Andrew DeSantis, CHELSEA; J.R. Greene and Barbara Wyatt, GUBERNATORIAL APPOINTEES; Ed Demko, HINGHAM; Bill Hadley, LEXINGTON; Jay Fink, LYNN; Bruce Kenerson, LYNNFIELD; Ed Bates, MAPC; Doran Crouse, MARLBOROUGH; Katherine Haynes Dunphy, MILTON; Wiff Peterson, NATICK; Lou Taverna, NEWTON; Bernie Cooper, NORWOOD; Peter Tassi, READING; Carol Antonelli, SOMERVILLE; J. P. DeAmicis, STONEHAM; Ana Singleton, STOUGHTON; Richard Stinson, WAKEFIELD; Pat Fasanello, WALPOLE; Walter Woods, WELLESLEY; Zig Peret, WILBRAHAM; Michael Woods, WILMINGTON; Anthony Blazejowski, WOBURN.

Also present: John Carroll, MWRA BOARD OF DIRECTORS; Michael Bishop, BELMONT; Avril Elkort, CANTON; William Hammell, Jr., STOUGHTON; Robert O'Brien, WALPOLE; Lexi Dewey, WSCAC; Dan O'Brien, Carl Pawlowski, Marcis Kempe, Kathy Soni, Michael Morris and Tracy Wadsworth, MWRA STAFF; Joe Favaloro, Cornelia Potter, Matthew Romero, Christine Hevelone-Byler and Mary Ann McClellan, MWRA ADVISORY BOARD STAFF.

A. WELCOME

Chairman Dunphy called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. and introduced Canton Selectwoman Avril Elkort. Ms. Elkort welcomed everyone to Canton and thanked members for their efforts.

B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 18, 2009 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING

A Motion was made **TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 18, 2009 ADVISORY BOARD MEETING.** It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

C. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Joseph Favaloro, MWRA Advisory Board Executive Director, stated that former Advisory Board member Frank Lagrotteria passed away. Frank was a long-time DPW employee in the Town of Weymouth and was an extraordinary advocate for ratepayers. A moment of silence was offered in Mr. Lagrotteria's memory.

The meter program that MWRA had hoped to get from the "green category" of stimulus funds was eliminated. EPA determined that water meters were not a "green" project but offered that MWRA could make a base case on why the meters should be considered as such. Because there is a stricter deadline on how the green category projects funds are used MWRA chose to

go for another solar panel. The Advisory Board has gone back and forth with EPA over the past week and will be doing a conference call with the appropriate people in the beginning part of next week with the goal of revisiting the meter program.

D. PRESENTATION: BIO-SOLIDS PROCESSING – WHERE WE ARE AND WHAT IS NEXT – Dan O'Brien, Deputy Director, Operations

Chairman Dunphy said the current contract for the New England Fertilizer Co. (NEFCo) is set to expire in fiscal 2015.

Dan O'Brien, Deputy Director of Operations at Deer Island, said his job includes the responsibility for oversight of the pellet plant in Quincy, which is a privatized operation but is managed day to day by MWRA employee Carl Pawlowski, Manager of Residuals Operations.

Mr. O'Brien said there are close to 17,000 pellet plants in the United States; only 41 of those plants process more than 100 million gallons per day (MGD). NEFCo is second in the country with a peak capacity at 1,270 MGD, exceeded only by Chicago. As staff looks at technologies to fit MWRA's needs, it wants to ensure that they are proven technologies and proven at a scale that is acceptable to the MWRA.

Many of these plants just collect the sludge and have someone take it away; only 2,000 actually process the sludge at their facility; of that, a smaller segment (500) have digestion. This is a key process that MWRA has on Deer Island. MWRA's process generates methane gas that meets a lot of the treatment plant's heating demand. Only 100 of the plants that have digestion use the methane gas; the other plants burn off the gas. Methane gas is the same as natural gas and the MWRA feels that this would be wasted fuel. MWRA is already ahead of others in the re-use of items that would otherwise be wasted, especially at Deer Island.

As far as distribution of the end product, most people still spread it on farms, mainly in the Midwest and West; 30% just continue to bring it to landfills to use as cover; 17% incinerate it. MWRA is in the 9% that do beneficial use by turning it into pellets and returning it to the market to be re-used as fertilizer on farms and other areas.

Every day Deer Island generates 240 dry tons of sludge that is initially sent to the digester where the volume is greatly reduced through the digestion process; MWRA reduces it down to 106 tons per day. That remaining volume is pumped to NEFCo in Quincy through a pipeline under the harbor about four and one-half days per week. This process produces close to 200,000 cubic feet of gas per hour and MWRA uses 98.6% of the gas produced to heat Deer Island 70% of the days; there is no need to supplement the heat at Deer Island. From a heating standpoint, the value is \$15 million per year off the bottom line.

The gas fires the boiler and the boiler generates steam, which feeds the heating loop. Between the boiler and the heating loop, MWRA has a steam topping turbine that generates its own power and extracts energy from the steam, which has a value worth nearly \$3 million. MWRA generates two types of sludge – primary sludge from the primary treatment and secondary sludge from the secondary treatment process; it is about two-thirds to one-third.

Primary sludge is digestible and can provide a lot of gas. Secondary sludge is harder to digest and is where the MWRA might try to focus in the future to try to squeeze more gas out of the secondary sludge.

The sludge sits in the digesters for 15 to 18 days where a lot of the organic matter is destroyed; 65% is generated to gas, which goes to the MWRA's storage tanks, then to the boilers. The sludge is pumped to NEFCo at the Fore River Plant. At NEFCo the sludge is de-watered, dried and then turned into pellets, which are used in different applications such as turf, farms, golf courses, fertilizer, blenders and also as supplemental fuel for cement kilns in Baltimore, MD.

MWRA has pelletized since 1991 as a privatized operation; NEFCo's contract is for fifteen years. The only MWRA employee on site is Carl Pawlowski. NEFCo has won the contract twice and has been the only firm that MWRA has dealt with. MWRA owns the building but NEFCo operates, maintains and is responsible for the building.

Once the sludge reaches NEFCo, they own it. It is their problem to get rid of 100 tons of sludge per day, seven days a week, 365 days a year. NEFCo has to market it and dispose of it. It is a structured contract and MWRA guarantees NEFCo 90 tons per day. It has a fixed price of \$412 per ton and anything over the 90 tons is called variable and MWRA pays \$300 per ton. NEFCo's labor and the capital don't change regardless of how much sludge is sent to them. The only things that changes are the chemicals and the utilities and those are all tied to different escalators. MWRA gets the same bill every month and on month 12 the bill is "trued up" for actual totals because the sludge goes up and down.

NEFCo has been a reliable operation with very little down time. About one year ago, however, there was a major problem with a fire in the ductwork; it was basically a chimney fire on a major scale. Essentially NEFCo had a couple of hundred feet of ductwork that had a build up from lack of maintenance and it caught on fire; it was very tough to put out. It was eventually extinguished using a piece of MWRA sewer cleaner equipment with a self-propelled hose that staff sent down the line. The MWRA crew ran the machine and the firefighters manned the hose. Without that equipment, the fire would have smoldered for days.

The fire department shut NEFCo down for two days and then said the hot side of the plant couldn't start up again until safety improvements were made. The backup plan that was always in place was to dewater. During that period, which wound up being 40 days, they had to truck 15,000 tons of sludge to get rid of it, all at NEFCo's expense.

The ductwork was cleaned and additional inspection ports and access platforms were added; internal fire suppressing equipment was added to the ductwork so it would be extinguished more quickly in the future if it ever happens again. All of this work was completed at NEFCo's cost.

Carl Pawlowski, Manager of Operations at the NEFCo plant, stated in order to distribute fertilizer in the United States you must abide by the "503", which is essentially the same thing as a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit but it is applied to bio-solids. Sludge is what goes into a digester and bio-solids is the term used when it comes out of the digester because it has some value because it has nutrients in it.

NEFCo's product goes to many places. The biggest customer in calendar year 2008 was the cement kiln in Maryland, which is an important customer because use of fertilizer is seasonal and during fall and winter it is difficult to distribute fertilizer because there is just not as much demand. Currently, EPA has hit the Maryland operation, focusing on mercury as a big concern and the kiln had to go through a bit of re-permitting that should be finished soon and should be

back online at the end of November. Additionally, NEFCo has customers in Connecticut, Rhode Island and Ohio.

Bay State Fertilizer is a program that MWRA maintains to use the product more locally. MWRA has the local market so it can turn to people who would say why are you bringing it to Maryland and New York, it can say it is bringing it to Massachusetts too. MWRA also distributes it to MWRA customers for free (the customer has to pick it up or MWRA can deliver it for a fee).

MWRA has hired AECOM to do a facility condition assessment. Because it is a privatized operation, NEFCo is in charge of all operations and maintenance; MWRA wants to make sure it is being done right and that the facility is in good shape through the eyes of an outside party. With this study, MWRA is trying to find out what the condition of the facility is, how much remaining useful life is in the facility, and look at the maintenance program, are things being done right, are their maintenance procedures adequate. The main focus of the study is to make sure the facility is in good shape.

The second part of the study is to do a utility reliability assessment because MWRA does need natural gas, water and power and the ability to have wastewater because the sludge is dewatered and sent back to the sewer system. The utilities must be reliable to process everything from Deer Island. That study began in May and should be completed in January.

Mr. O'Brien provided an overview conceptualizing the long-range planning components. The study that Carl mentioned will give us an idea of the value of the asset, which will certainly factor into any decision making for the future.

Seven national firms were brought in for a "brown-bag" discussion on the residuals industry. MWRA is doing residuals planning once every fifteen years; these firms do it all year long for different clients. The firms gave staff insight on what different clients are doing; what technologies seem to be emerging; which technologies seem to be faltering; what is happening on the regulatory side of things; all of these elements could be factors in decision making.

Technology/regulatory peer review has just begun the procurement process. Once it starts it will be about a six-month study with three primary tasks. One is to screen technology options. There are a number of steps in the residuals processing train, including thickening, digesting, dewatering and pelletization; staff wants to look at each of those steps and find out what technologies are out there to help optimize the process. Staff hopes to look at the whole landscape of technology options and screen them down with pre-stated criteria to a more manageable number to get a general idea of where the MWRA will be heading.

The second element will be to review regulatory issues. What is happening at the federal and state levels, local ordinances and things that could affect the distribution of the product to see how much they may impact the decision making in terms of technology choices.

The third element is to do mini case studies of 20 other major utilities, such as Chicago, New York, DC-WASA, Dallas and Los Angeles – what are they all doing? (Especially those that have recently gone through this.) Let's see what they have already learned. Within this report will be 20 mini-reports on the 20 largest utilities around the country to help MWRA set its direction.

The next step will be a presentation to the MWRA Board of Directors to get some general direction. Board members may have some bias on what technologies they want to see or what they don't want to see. MWRA's facilities impact Quincy and Winthrop so those communities will always be outspoken about the impacts to their communities for anything done at those locations. From there staff hopes to go to the normal planning/design/construction process.

There are a number of considerations MWRA will have to think about. The Authority has invested a lot in Deer Island and NEFCo. The tunnel system that brings the flow from Deer Island to NEFCo was a large investment. MWRA has a split operation; some consultants say the MWRA could do so much more if the operation was not split. Siting of these facilities originally was quite contentious. A lot of commitments were made in legal documents. Staff needs to review all agreements made with the communities involved. There is not a lot of land at either site so it limits what can be done. Deer Island is a very big plant that needs proven solutions that have been proven at a reasonable scale.

In terms of drivers, MWRA would like to reduce the volume of sludge because reducing it would create more gas, which would impact the energy equation and reduce costs.

Operating options – are we going to keep privatizing or bring it back in house? Are we going to do conventional design/bid/build or are we going to design/build? There are a lot of variations.

A big project that is happening now and is the talk of the residuals community is in Rialto, California. This process would separate the sludge and make it into a synthetic fuel, which they are calling E-Fuel. They are subjecting the sludge to high pressure and temperature, breaking it apart; it becomes easier to de-water and reduces the volume, and it is not complete combustion so the resulting product is actually a fuel. Rialto just started it in June so there is not much data on it so far. The first commercial one was in Australia and it shut down after 16 months; it wasn't cost effective. The early word on this is that the unit rates are much higher than they thought and they are in a 20-year contract.

One of the big project technologies is called cambi and it enhances gas production from sludge. Again, high pressure, high temperature – it ruptures the cell walls and exposes the inside of the cell, which is the digestible material that provides better gas production and greater energy recovery. A lot of installations overseas use cambi, but not a single one in the United States. DC-WASA, the Washington DC Authority, which is a large 300 MGD plant has decided to go with cambi. It will be the largest installation in the world; the design has just begun.

PMC Envirotech is a very aggressive local firm that the Authority has met with three or four times. Their process uses high pressure and temperature but also introduces a chemical to help weaken the cell walls and split them apart. PMC Envirotech claims it has a very small footprint and is a simple operation. They have had a number of pilot units and somewhat full scale units in Ireland. Seabrook had been hiring a firm to take away its sludge for \$200,000 per year. PMC Envirotech told Seabrook they would design/build/finance and operate the facility for the \$200,000 per year. Seabrook signed a 20-year contract. This was going to be PMC's showcase installation with 1 MGD. After six months, Seabrook is trying to terminate the contract. This is the plant that is supposed to sell this technology and right now it is not working.

Another option is melting the sludge into glass at 2500 degrees; this option is also running into trouble. It is used in the Chicago area and has been in operation for a couple of years. This process produces glass beads that are used in roadway construction but is classified as re-use.

Cell destruction, micro-sludge or ultrasonic has some legs. This process attacks the sludge before it goes into thickening and digestion. Again, high pressure and addition of a chemical and they also tackle it with ultrasonic to break down the cell walls. This is a Canadian firm that has had a couple of decent size operations in Vancouver and Los Angeles; they have both shut down. A number of these processes start off with grant assistance; when the grants go away, a lot of these operations shut down. Currently their big site is Des Moines; staff is waiting to see what happens with that location. Ultrasonic was tried in Orange County, California but was shut down as well. The micro-sludge option might have some merit and is one that staff will look at.

An Advisory Board member asked how much the MWRA pays NEFCo. Mr. O'Brien responded that MWRA pays NEFCo \$14 million to \$15 million per year.

Mr. Taverna asked what the dollar value of the AECOM contract is going to be and when will the report be ready. Mr. O'Brien said the value is about \$0.5 million and a draft report should be available by the end of the calendar year.

Pat Fasanello of Walpole asked how the MWRA's pellets compare to milorganite produced in Milwaukee. Mr. Pawlowski said they are the same thing except that milorganite has a bit more nutrient value because of brewery waste in the Milwaukee area. Because of transportation costs, milorganite costs are going through the roof. At Lowes you would pay \$13.99 per bag of milorganite and MWRA could sell it to Lowe's for \$3.99 per bag.

Walter Woods said he would like to see tests made from the material on a playground. He is concerned that over a ten-year period the build up of hard metals like chromium and lead are insoluble and could be resting on the surface and could build up to a toxic level. Mr. Pawlowski said the 503 study has been called the most comprehensive risk assessment ever done by EPA. MWRA has recently started using the product at its facilities, which might be the way to test the product because they are following the directions and have been using it for a few years; the soil could be tested every year, however, there is a cost associated with that. Mr. O'Brien said staff will follow up on that; it is a good point.

Wiff Peterson of Natick asked if the costs include the cost of pumping the sludge from Deer Island to the NEFCo plant. Mr. O'Brien said no. Mr. Peterson asked if they knew the cost on a dry ton basis to get the sludge to the plant. Mr. O'Brien said staff could figure that out but he didn't have the number at hand for the whole residuals stream. Mr. Peterson said if you are paying NEFCo \$15 million per year and \$15 million in heat and \$2.8 million in power, in essence you are getting sludge treatment for free. Mr. O'Brien said you could look at it that way.

Cornelia Potter said staff talked about new technologies to break down the materials before final processing; what about source reduction before it gets to Deer Island? Mr. O'Brien said that is not currently an element of the study. Ms. Potter said there has been a certain amount of talk about food-based waste and trying to reduce what disposal based waste might come into the system. Mr. O'Brien said there are a number of food processors or waste haulers that are talking about trying to bring this waste directly to Deer Island to try to get them out of the sewer system and bring them directly into the digester because fats, oils and grease are terrific for

breaking down. Of course you would have to find a way to get them there through Winthrop and then find a way to inject them into the digester.

Chairman Dunphy asked at what point in time does the Authority have to make a decision to look in a different direction or to stay with what it has. Mr. O'Brien said staff is targeting this spring to get the Board's attention and get some sense of a direction, which gives MWRA six years to implement whatever plan it chooses.

Mr. Pawlowski said one of the encouraging things for staff was that five out of the seven national firms that came in to speak with the Authority said the MWRA was where everyone else is trying to get to. Mr. O'Brien said that is a good point. MWRA already produces Class A and many people are trying to get to Class A, the Authority has been producing it for twenty years.

E. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Operations Committee – Jay Fink

❖ **PRESENTATION: NEW DEP EMERGENCY RESPONSE REGULATIONS** – Marcis Kempe, Deputy Director, Operations and Director of Operations Support

Deputy Director of Operations/Director of Operations Support Marcis Kempe stated that the water department in each community received a letter from the Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) announcing that each community had to have an emergency plan update done by the end of the year and a checklist into DEP with some fairly heavy new requirements.

DEP made some changes to its regulatory requirements that require certain things to be done in emergency plans. There has always been a requirement to have emergency plans but the contents of those emergency plans were hazy. Certain major categories had to be covered but they weren't nearly as stringent as the new requirements. DEP has now added new regulations; they went to start sanitary surveys on a lot of systems and some communities were cited for not having an adequate emergency plan according to the terms of the complex changes.

A series of events led up to these changes. One of the most meaningful events was a chemical feed error in the Town of Spencer, near Worcester. Spencer has a corrosion control system that uses caustic soda with a high pH that will burn skin. While doing some work, their staff put the chemical feed system on manual so it could continue to add supply; they completed the work but forgot to put the switch back on automatic. A couple of the tanks typically shut down at night in small towns but the chemical pump continued to put this chemical into the line. When the pumps kicked on in the morning, almost pure caustic went out into the system as a slug and burned numerous people, including a baby.

The second failure in this incident was that an alarm on this system that cues an operator that something was wrong had an auto dialer that was set up to call an operator that had since retired to Florida. The phone call was going no where and they didn't know about it until the next morning and it was already two hours into when the pumps had kicked on. As a result, changes were made in the chemical safety side; a whole safety initiative went out. There are now immediate action levels on certain chemicals because of this, especially fluoride and pH and the common ones that are dealt with for water supplies.

Prior to September 11, 2001, everyone was concerned about environmental contaminants rather than intentional disruption to the water supply; it is a whole new world. Handling incidents involving unknown contaminants, even if it is just a backflow or something that has a legitimate

explanation, trying to find out what an unknown contaminant is is a challenge. There are new procedures and equipment needed to analyze these contaminants. MWRA has developed the talent and the equipment and made it its business to be good at this.

Emergency plans must have continuity of operations requirements, succession plans for staff if managers are unavailable; pandemic planning is a version of this. It was one of the initiatives that the federal government jumped on immediately, which was a mutual aid kind of support during an incident and they tried to make it an actual initiative, without any further resources from the federal government. They didn't do anything differently to change how the Federal Emergency Management Agency works.

The regulations are structured with a heavy requirement on water quality, monitoring for contamination, special sampling and response, plus the usual earthquake, hurricane and natural disaster plans. Another addition is that communities must train their staff and document that they are trained. The early version required ten hours of training for all staffers and didn't distinguish the staffers to water supply professionals. Staff must know the elements of the plan and be able to implement them. All communities must have their plan by the end of the year.

Since this is so water quality focused and post-September 11 focused, staff has developed the resources to aid communities. MWRA got grants from the federal government and other places to buy the equipment that most communities cannot get because it is out of reach financially.

Staff's solution is a template type model that will cover the different elements, such as a water contamination scenario, how to handle a big break or how to handle a coliform rule violation.

There are numerous new notification requirements and new forms. A lot of it is kept in your office until DEP comes along with its sanitary surveys to check up on it. MWRA will have in your plan all of the things covered.

There is a major emphasis on water quality and water treatment; about one-third of communities in the MWRA system run some version of local treatment for sources, which must be covered because the Spencer incident is fresh with DEP. MWRA will need specific information from communities, beginning with notification lists that include the town government, the police, fire and emergency services, etc. System specifics will also be needed for all of the assets and procedures for the recovery from the failure of those assets must also be in the plan.

DEP is looking for a compliance checklist by December 31 and training starts next year. The training program will have quarterly meetings covering particular topics and there will be frequent sessions.

Bernie Cooper asked when the Authority plans to be in touch with the communities. Mr. Kempe said within the next week or so. This is strictly voluntary. If a community wants help, MWRA will be there; some communities may wish to hire a consultant.

Mr. Favaloro said he gives Mr. Kempe and the Authority a lot of credit and thanks for offering their assistance to communities to get the emergency plans done. The attempt here is to try to get as much of it done with the Authority staff so that communities can avoid having to use a consultant and or trying to put it together themselves.

❖ **UPDATE: INVASIVE SPECIES**

Mr. Favaloro said fishing season at the Quabbin ends this Saturday. DCR and MWRA decontaminated 650+ boats this season. The Board will have discussion on this topic at its November meeting. There will be a lot of discussion over the off season on how to make the program better or different so when it opens next spring first and foremost will be the protection of the drinking water of 2.5 million consumers.

Chairman Dunphy said the State of Utah is so aggressive that they have billboards along the interstate highway telling people how to avoid aquatic hitchhikers moving to their lakes and rivers. Western states are concerned. The Advisory Board is not over reacting; this is a real problem that must be worked on over time.

Mr. Favaloro noted by the end of the month there will be massive layoffs occurring at DCR. Watershed staff are insulated and protected; the layoffs will not impact them because they are off budget and funded through the Water Supply Protection Trust. However, watershed staff could be significantly impacted because all employees of DCR have bidding and bumping rights. Staff of the watershed division could be significantly impacted by those individuals with seniority who could bid into jobs that are currently held by existing watershed employees. In many ways a laborer is a laborer but a mechanical engineer is not an aquatic engineer or biologist. That could potentially impact invasive species and protection.

Finance Committee – Bernard Cooper

❖ **DIRECTION AND LEVEL OF FY11 WHOLESALE RATE INCREASES FOR COMMUNITIES**

Mr. Favaloro said over the FY10 budget review Advisory Board staff used the phrase “the world has changed.” Staff put together tools for the MWRA to incorporate as it looked over its multi-year program on the operating and capital sides of the budgets, each offering a challenge to find \$100 million on each side (capital and current expense sides) over a multi-year period.

Today the MWRA will officially lose Debt Service Assistance (DSA). There will likely be an additional \$800 million in further cuts from the state budget. Staff doesn’t know what is going to happen with the FY11 budget as the stimulus monies and one time revenues that were used to balance FY10 begin to dry up.

To be fair to the Authority, the Advisory Board staff thought it was important to weigh in on a direction for the MWRA as its staff begins the process of putting together the FY11 operating budget. After discussion at the Executive Committee, which endorsed the approach, a letter was sent to Secretary Bowles and Executive Director Fred Laskey and all the members of the Board that said that the goal for the rate revenue requirement for FY11 increase is zero because cities and towns are facing great difficulties.

Because of falling retail water consumption levels, communities are having difficulties in meeting their revenue projections. Many communities have been forced to raise rates midyear. The topic was briefly discussed at the MWRA Board of Directors meeting yesterday and will be discussed more in the coming weeks and months. It will be on the Board agenda for next month. The Advisory Board wants to engage MWRA staff and the Board on the importance of controlling increases for FY11.

John DeAmicis asked if this is the first time the Advisory Board has sent a letter like this regarding a future budget. Mr. Favaloro said statutorily the Advisory Board always communicates with the MWRA but more specifically it is usually in the March/April/May timeframe that we formally weigh in on both the capital and current expense budgets. In an attempt to be fair and to allow the MWRA staff ample time to accomplish this yeoman's task, it would be inherently unfair to tell them in April to try to accomplish this task. By setting that bar and at least giving them that direction in October that gives them, and us, most of the remaining fiscal year to find ways to get to that number.

Mr. DeAmicis said he fully supports the move to get better control over the costs of the MWRA because, from his perspective, when you add everything up as a ratepayer and a taxpayer I can't live with that anymore.

Chairman Dunphy said this is different; this is much earlier than the kind of signals that we have sent in previous years.

Mr. Favaloro said it is also going to be critical, as much as we have the support of the Executive Committee and the support of the Advisory Board, to communicate back to your Town Managers and Mayors that we need their support to strengthen the argument to accomplish it.

Ed Sullivan said it is important to note that the Advisory Board is not just sending a letter saying get to a zero increase; it suggests that they aim for zero and here are some ideas that might help them reach that goal.

Mr. Favaloro noted that staff will still be doing its full review process and will bring forward the tools that were developed last year for the current year's Advisory Board Comments and Recommendations and further ideas and concepts. Staff will continue to work with the Authority. This is in no way meant to be an indictment on the MWRA; it is more a reality check on the condition of its customers and their need for some relief.

Barbara Wyatt said it is a great idea. Coincidentally I have the Wall Street Journal here with me with an article that says Massachusetts had the sixth biggest shortfall and they list what the states are doing and Massachusetts hasn't done anything. Somebody has to lead. The Advisory Board is not the state but it doesn't hurt for us to start.

Mr. Favaloro said that Mr. Laskey has an open mind. Staff will weigh out over the next couple of months opportunities and ideas, pros and cons. For everything you do there is a consequence. All of these things will be weighed through to determine where we will end up on June 30.

Executive Committee – Katherine Haynes Dunphy

❖ **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Favaloro said staff testified before the Legislature on the Bottle Bill last week where many advocates with varying points of view testified. The Bottle Bill has been a principal project over the last few months and will remain high on the Advisory Board's agenda.

❖ **OTHER BUSINESS**

Bill Hadley made a **MOTION TO NOMINATE JEFF ZAGER, DIRECTOR OF THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT IN READING, TO SERVE ON THE ADVISORY BOARD'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.** It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

F. ADJOURNMENT

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 1:52 P.M. It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Sullivan, Secretary