



# Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, June 15, 2017  
11:35 AM

Wellesley Free Library  
530 Washington Street  
Wellesley, MA

**Attendees (Voting Members)**

Mike Rademacher	Arlington	Andrew Fisk	CRC	John Cosgrove	Needham
David Manugian	Bedford	Ernest Lariviere	Everett	Lou Taverna	Newton
John Sullivan	Boston	Blake Lukis	Framingham	Bernie Cooper	Norwood
Michael Bishop	Belmont	J. R. Greene	Gubernatorial Appt	Brendan O'Regan	Saugus
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Barbara Wyatt	Gubernatorial Appt	John DeAmicis	Stoneham
John G. Sanchez	Burlington	Bob Higgins	Hingham	Eric Sherman	Wakefield
Tim MacDonald	Cambridge	Moe Handel	MAPC	Walter Woods	Wellesley
Lou Mommolette	Chelsea	Steve McCurdy	Milton	Joe Lobao	Wilmington

**Other Attendees**

Sam Corda	Cambridge	Fred Laskey	MWRA	Matthew Romero	AB Staff
John Carroll	MWRA BOD	Louise Miller	MWRA	Cornelia Potter	AB Staff
Andy Pappastergion	MWRA BOD	Kathy Soni	MWRA	Lenna Ostrodka	AB Staff
Joshua Das	MWRA	Andreae Downs	WAC	James Guidod	AB Staff
Tom Durkin	MWRA	Lexi Dewey	WSCAC		
Matt Horan	MWRA	William Shaughnessy	Wellesley		
Michael Hornbrook	MWRA	Joseph Favaloro	AB Staff		

42 people were in attendance, including 24 voting members.

**THURSDAY, JUNE 15, 2017  
WELLESLEY FREE LIBRARY  
530 WASHINGTON STREET  
WELLESLEY, MA 11:30 AM**

**Draft Minutes**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 11:30 am.

**A. PRESENTATION: FY17 IN REVIEW – FRED LASKEY, MWRA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Favaloro introduced the Executive Director, noting that the Advisory Board has for many years started each fiscal year with a presentation in September on the challenges for the year ahead, with a report in June summarizing projects and issues that had been addressed during the fiscal year.

Mr. Laskey started by discussing the drought in Massachusetts which was a concern for the Authority throughout the past year. While the Authority water supply in the Quabbin is in the normal range, it is interestingly still below where the water supply was at this point last year. The local systems which the Authority has supplied throughout the drought are now full and there should be less impact on the reservoir going forward.

A cross-harbor cable settlement was reached and the issue evolved from a major headache at the beginning of the fiscal year, into a major positive for the Authority by the end of the year. We were able to negotiate a settlement with EverSource which gave the Authority a substantial credit towards the number of unused years of the cable.

The system continues to be below the lead action levels and we are in the process of organizing our second lead forum for MWRA communities. Three communities have taken from the \$100 million lead loan assistance program so far (Quincy, Newton, and Winchester). Somerville and Marlborough now have applications in as well. The Authority remains in a very strong position to combat lead related issues.

The Authority has continued to make strides with North Reading and Ashland with respect to system expansion. Both communities are exploring supply options.

This year was the tenth consecutive year that Deer Island did not have a permit violation. The ongoing efforts to maintain and enhance the treatment plant have been successful. This will be an ongoing process.

The Authority is hopeful that progress will be made regarding the railroad that crosses the through the watershed. The Authority must consider if it wants to use public funds to enhance a private asset. There are many pros and cons to this consideration.

There was a special Board of Directors Meeting as well as an Advisory Board forum on metropolitan redundancy. The northern and southern redundancy projects are continuing to progress as well.

Phosphorus removal at the Clinton plant is on track to be completed before it's permit deadline. The Chelsea Creek headworks renovation is in progress and it proving many learning experiences for the future renovations at other headworks locations.

Based on the recent retirement fund actuarial study, we are expecting a shortage which will need to be funded in the coming years. This projection report was released after the late stages of the FY18 budgeting process.

## **B. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Mr. Favaloro echoed Mr. Laskey in stating that the relationship between the Advisory Board and the Authority is a very productive relationship.

Mr. Favaloro then went on to note upcoming Advisory Board events. Mr. Pappastergion and his community of Brookline will be receiving an award for their work on the Muddy River. Mr. Carroll will be sworn in to his eleventh term by Governor Baker on July 11, 2017. This summer the Advisory Board website enhancement will continue into phase two. This will include the digitization of the rate survey submission process and an interactive retail rate calculator for ratepayers. We will also be hosting an intern for the Summer that will be uploading historical Advisory Board documents into the website archives. The Advisory Board Field Trip will be August 17, 2017. We will be taking a harbor cruise from Deer Island. First notices for the field trip will be going out shortly.

## **C. CIP/CEB BUDGET REVIEW UPDATE**

Mr. Romero summarized the final stretch of the FY 2018 budgeting process. The Advisory Board recommended a rate increase of 3.19% in response to the Authority's proposal of 3.79%. The Authority has met the Advisory Board at 3.19% although with some different allocations. This included changes in the legal fund allocation and the vacancy rate.

Mr. Favaloro pointed out the changes in the CIP for the Nut Island Headworks odor control that occurred after a majority of the FY18 budgeting process had already occurred. Mr. Favaloro questioned why the Nut Island facility needed two forms of odor control as a belt and suspenders approach when the Chelsea Creek facility which is now be rehabilitated does not have the same. Mr. Favaloro explained that the Advisory Board had strong concern with the facility differences and the lack of discussion on the changes in general.

**D. CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT – JOSH DAS, PROJECT MANAGER, PUBLIC HEALTH**

Mr. Das explained that this year's Consumer Confidence Report is out and will be arriving to MWRA communities shortly. Extra copies will also be going to community DPWs. The report this year was initially designed with conservation in mind as the main theme. This theme was collaborated with the issue of lead as well. Spanish versions of the report are available for every community as well if needed. The next lead forum will be held on June 29, 2017. This will be a follow up from last year's forum.

**E. ADJOURNMENT**

A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 12:50 pm. It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael W. Rademacher, Secretary