



News & Notes

A Publication of the
MWRA Advisory Board

May 2018

Budget Update

MWRA Meets Advisory Board Challenge to Lower Capital Spending Cap



On May 30, Advisory Board staff presented to the MWRA Board of Directors the Integrated Comments and Recommendations on the MWRA's proposed FY19 capital and current expense budgets.

(Find the presentation [here](#).) The recommendations called for a 21% reduction in both the FY19 CEB - bringing combined assessment increases down to 3.07% from 3.91% - as well as in the MWRA's proposed capital spending cap - bringing the five-year total down from \$1.2 billion to \$950 million.

MWRA presented its responses to our comments and recommendations, which achieve the Advisory Board's FY19 CEB goal of 3.07% assessment increases, though using different tools to get there. The Authority managed to bring the FY19-23 capital spending cap below the \$1 billion mark at \$985 million, which was the Advisory Board's primary goal. They have proposed and secured an extension to the pension's funding schedule, that allows them to move the official full funding deadline up to 2028, from 2024, which was another of the Advisory Board's key recommendations and priorities. Adopting this recommendation alone saves the Authority almost \$13 million during the most challenging years rates-wise - FY19-23 - and provides them their first "Save It Forward" tool to work toward the Advisory Board's new rates challenge to the MWRA: "2.4 by '24." This challenge asks the Authority to reduce rates below 3.5% between FY19-23, and achieve flat rate increases of 2.4% beginning in FY24. We look forward to working with Authority staff to work toward this goal in the coming years.

Charles River Earns A- Water Quality Rating

Second Time in Past Five Years

For the year 2017, the Charles River has earned an A- rating from EPA for its bacterial water quality. This means the river almost always met standards for boating and swimming last year.

The A- grade serves as a stark contrast from the Charles' 1995 D grade, which met some boating standards but no swimming standards. Report cards for the Charles (found [here](#)) demonstrate a trend of improved water quality over time. This is largely due to reducing combined sewer overflows and detecting and eliminating illicit discharges. MWRA has worked tirelessly to reduce CSO volumes in the Charles and Mystic Rivers, Boston Harbor, and Alewife Brook. These surface waters are likely to experience even lower nutrient pollution as the MS4 stormwater permit takes effect in July.



Have You Registered for the Advisory Board Climate Change Forum?

Time is Running Out



To date, over 125 people have signed up for our Community Climate Change Forum. We have an [outstanding lineup](#) of speakers and panelists. It's not too late to register - fill out the form by following [this link](#). The last day to sign up is June 11.

The forum at Boston College also serves as the Advisory Board's regular meeting for June. Our meeting will be short, and it will be sandwiched between our morning speakers and afternoon panelists. **The one and only agenda item is to elect an Advisory Board representative to serve on the MWRA Board of Directors. It is critical to achieve a quorum of 33 voting members to validate the election. Please note that the election for the Board of Directors is one vote for each community.**

If you are a voting member and are unable to attend, please send an alternate with a letter signed by your CEO allowing that person to vote on behalf of your municipality.

Our workshop provides a wonderful opportunity to hear perspectives about climate change from all levels of government. We welcome you to learn more about this topic, have lunch, and vote in our short Advisory Board meeting. We look forward to seeing you on June 15 at Boston College!

Upcoming Events

For the Month of [June](#)

June 7 | 1:00 PM, [Stormwater Opti-Tool Workshop](#) at Woodard & Curran
June 8 | 8:30 AM, [Executive Committee Meeting](#) at Advisory Board offices
June 15 | 9:00 AM, [Advisory Board Meeting and Climate Change Forum](#) at Boston College
June 20 | 10:00 AM, [MWRA Board of Directors Meeting](#) in MWRA Board Room

VISIT WEBSITE >

Connect With Us!



MWRA Advisory Board | 617-788-2050 | mwra.ab@mwraadvisoryboard.com