



# Advocacy & Accountability

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MWRA Advisory Board Summary  
of the  
MWRA Board of Directors Meeting  
Wednesday, April 18, 2018

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority was held on Wednesday, April 18, 2018 at the Charlestown Navy Yard. Present: Secretary Beaton, Jennifer Wolowicz, and Brian Peña, Gubernatorial Appointees; John Carroll and Andrew Pappastergion, MWRA Advisory Board Representatives; Henry Vitale and Austin Blackmon, City of Boston Representatives; John J. Walsh, City of Quincy Representative. Absent: Secretary Beaton, Gubernatorial Appointee, Kevin L. Cotter, City of Boston; and Joseph Foti, MWRA Advisory Board Representative.

The meeting was called to order at 1:02 pm, with John Carroll, Vice Chairman, presiding.

## **Report of the Chair**

Due to the absence of the Chairman, there was no Report of the Chair.

## **Report of the Executive Director**

Mr. Laskey opened his remarks with the introduction of Ms. Kathy Murtagh, the recommended candidate for the position of Director of the water redundancy program. Ms. Murtagh discussed her background and experience and how, with the Board's support, she looks forward to the challenge. He noted, next, that the Authority had received a notification that the agency would be receiving a special award from the state Department of Environmental Protection regarding drinking water for the school water testing program. He referred, next, to the publication of a "sewer CCR" (consumer confidence report), that will be starting to go out the next week (at the low bid amount of \$268,000). All the member communities have been informed that the report will be distributed.

He stated that a report on cyber security will be coming out, regarding an issue that remains important for the Authority. Next, he noted that he had been in discussions with Boston College and the Friends of Chestnut Hill Reservoir on the opening of what is known as "Beer Can Hill" on the walking path. There appears to be consensus from the neighbors at Boston College as well as the water contacts. He reported that the City of Boston has been supportive of this effort, and he has also talked with representatives in Brookline. All the costs will be borne by Boston College. There will be a written MOU; the Authority will maintain ownership of

the property and retains the right to cancel the agreement if it impacts the Authority's waterworks operation in any way.

Mr. Laskey reminded the Board there is a different schedule for Board meetings this year – there will be one meeting later in May (Wednesday, May 30) and one meeting in June (Wednesday, June 20), resulting in one less meeting during June. He also directed the Board's attention the requirements of the Accountability and Transparency Act, calling for the Personnel and Compensation Committee to meet independent of management; the recommendation is that that meeting occur as part of the May 30 meeting. In the past, that meeting has occurred as a Committee of the Whole.

He also noted that the Advisory Board is hosting a Climate Change Workshop at Boston College, Friday, June 15, 2018. The Advisory Board's Executive Director, Mr. Favaloro, reported that Mr. Laskey and Mr. Blackmon and Secretary Beaton from the Board, will be participating, as well as a number of other speakers. (See ~~xxx~~, [reference/website the Advisory Board's website](#).) It is designed to provide a community perspective on what communities can do regarding climate change issues and challenges. Board members were encouraged to attend.

## **Approvals**

### **Approval of Minutes**

The Board voted to approve the minutes from the March 21, 2018 Board of Directors meeting.

### **Approval of PCR Amendments**

The Board voted to approve amendments to the Position Control Register, as presented and filed with the records of the meeting.

Staff highlighted three of the amendments -- three to reflect organizational changes in the Operations Division, and a fourth, also reflecting an organizational change in the Administration Division. Mr. Laskey pointed out that the changes allow for a transition to a more decentralized structure for these data functions and reflect the changing nature of data management.

### **Appointment of Senior Staff Counsel**

The Board voted to approve the appointment of Donna McMahon as Senior Staff Counsel for Labor/Employment in the Law Division at an annual salary of \$109,341.22, effective on a date to be determined by the Executive Director.

Staff noted that the recommended candidate had been employed at the Authority, in positions of increasing responsibility, since 2001.

### **Appointment of Program Manager SCADA Engineering**

The Board voted to approve the appointment of Mr. Norman Green to the position of Program Manager, SCADA Engineering (Unit 9, Grade 29), at an annual salary of \$110,228.55, commencing on a date to be determined by the Executive Director.

The position was posted both internally and externally. The candidate is a long-term MWRA employee (since 1990), and has worked in the SCADA department since that time. He also has a number of certifications and wastewater licenses.

### **Appointment, Director of Tunnel Redundancy Program**

The Board voted to approve the appointment of Ms. Kathleen M. Murtagh to the position of Director, Tunnel Redundancy Program, (Non-Union, Grade 17), at the recommended annual salary of \$180,000, and to authorize the Executive Director to enter into an employment contract with Kathleen M. Murtagh to provide her services to the Authority for a three-year period commencing on a date to be determined by Executive Director. Ms. Murtagh will also be provided with \$700 per month car allowance in lieu of an MWRA vehicle.

Staff stated that Ms. Murtagh has served as a Vice President at CDM Smith since 1997 and has more than 28 years of geotechnical engineering experience overseeing a broad range of civil engineering projects. She has extensive tunneling experience, having worked on at least 50 projects of varying size and methods. Among many other accomplishments, she provided critical technical expertise on issues involved with the May 2010 water main break and was instrumental in the repair of the Charlestown wind turbine's sinking foundation.

[She is a P.E. in Massachusetts, and in 13 other states.](#)

Mr. Laskey noted that the water redundancy tunnel project is critically important, and is the completion of a water system that was envisioned in the late 1800's and was built out over a period of decades. There has always been a glaring weakness in the system – that there is no redundancy to the City Tunnel. It comes in from Weston to Boston College and Chestnut Hill. On any given day, up to 60% of the water flows through that tunnel. ~~So, it has always been a weakness.~~ Great amounts of money have been spent on the improvements to the Harbor, and to the rivers and the drinking water (bringing it into compliance with the covered storage tanks, and treatment and massive investments in protecting the watersheds). ~~She is a P.E. in Massachusetts, and in 13 other states.~~

There have always been these two glaring weaknesses: the need for redundancy from the Wachusett Reservoir and the need for the Wachusett Pump Station; and ~~the remaining weakness has been~~ from Route 128 into Boston – a critically important job. ~~It and it~~ is very important that there is a highly qualified staff [focusing solely on this massive group of projects](#) to run what is really a “generational program,” now about \$1.5 billion worth of spending. ~~It was thought a special group of people that are focusing solely on this massive group of projects was needed.~~ Hired has been Beth Card from DEP, to look at the regulatory requirements, and now the proposed hiring of Ms. Murtagh. She also comes with a glowing recommendation from Dick Fox, and first-hand experience addressing the challenges of the MWRA water main break in 2010. She also has experience with MWRA (when she was at CDM) with the Sudbury-Aqueduct project and the WASM 3 project. ~~Sh~~He referred to this being meaningful, challenging and rewarding work. It should be a very, very strong team. The group is expected to have 15 staff, with probably five staff to start.

### **Appointment of Warehouse Manager**

The Board voted to approve the appointment of Ms. Mary Lisa Freeman to the position of Warehouse Manager, Deer Island (Unit 6, Grade 12) at the recommended salary of \$82,158.69 on a date to be determined by the Executive Director.

Staff highlighted that the recommended candidate has 23 years of experience working in warehousing, and had joined the Authority staff in 2015. She has demonstrated the ability to handle all aspects of warehousing, as well as personnel issues.

#### **Appointment of Deputy Director of MIS, Administration**

The Board voted to approve the appointment of Ms. Paula Weadick to the position of Deputy Director, Management Information Systems (MIS), Non-Union, Grade 15 at an annual salary of \$143,000.00, commencing on a date to be determined by the Executive Director.

The selected candidate has over 29 years of experience in the information technology industry, of which the last four years have been with the MWRA as the Manager of IT Security, Architecture and Engineering. ~~She~~ she oversees the Cyber Security Awareness program and the IT Architects and the Senior Program Manager, IT Security. She holds a bachelor's degree from UMass, and numerous certifications.

#### **Appointment of Manager, Compensation**

The Board voted to approve the appointment of Ms. Natalie Wadzinski to the position of Manager, Compensation, Human Resources (Non-Union, Grade 14) at an annual salary of \$116,000.00, commencing on a date to be determined by the Executive Director.

The position was posted internally and externally. The recommended candidate has extensive experience managing classification and compensation functions and worked at the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Human Resources Department for more than 22 years; she comes highly recommended.

#### **Approval of Amendment 1 to Memorandum of Understanding with the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game for Public Access Fishing Pier at Deer Island**

The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute Amendment 1 to an existing Memorandum of Understanding with the Massachusetts Department of Fish and Game, and other fisheries offices, substantially in the form attached to this staff summary authorizing the Department to undertake and fund the permitting, design and construction of a fishing pier and associated lighting, security improvements, and 20 pier parking spaces within the public access portion of Deer Island and to further authorize the Authority to fund lighting, security improvements, and to authorize MWRA to provide general oversight and monitoring of the use of the fishing pier and parking areas.

Staff summarized the context of the amendment, and reviewed the background of the MOU to allow Fish and Game to build a fish pier at Deer Island and on the public access to the Island at their cost. Assumptions were made at the time for the addition of some parking spaces to reflect the additional public access facilities that were being provided. Since the original approval, the design process has begun. There have been additional public meetings and public hearings on the proposal with the introduction of the consideration of additional lighting and security improvements. The change that is being asked for, in the revised version of the staff summary, is to eliminate the additional parking spaces that had been proposed years ago, and allow Fish and Game to build their original proposal, and to permit the additional lighting and security improvements (and work in concert with the security and lighting at the public access facility at the

entrance to the Island). The current estimate for the MWRA share of the project is \$260,000 of what is an estimated \$1.3 million project for Fish and Game.

## **Contract Awards**

### **Occupational and Medical Services: AllOne Health Resources, Inc., Contract A615**

The Board voted to approve the recommendation of the Consultant Selection Committee to select AllOne Health Resources, Inc., to provide medical services and consultation for occupational health programs and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute a contract with AllOne Health for an amount not to exceed \$124,825.00 for a contract term of 36 months.

Staff highlighted the services to be provided under the contract including medical evaluations and pre-employment physicals to determine employees' ability to perform their job duties, and respirator certifications. The procurement process resulted in the unanimous recommendation to approve AllOne based on the number of locations (with facilities throughout the state), their key personnel, and their experience with public sector clients, including the MWRA. The firm is the current vendor.

Mr. Laskey also noted that recent changes in state law have resulted in additional requirements in meeting OSHA rules. This may warrant the creation of a position of Occupational Safety.

### **Technical Assistance Consulting Services – Hazardous Materials, Geosphere Environmental Management, Inc., Contract 605TA; and Green Seal Environmental, Inc., Contract 606TA**

The Board voted to approve the recommendation of the Consultant Selection Committee to award two separate contracts to provide Technical Assistance Consulting Services for Hazardous Materials, and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute Contract 605TA with Geosphere Environmental Management, Inc. and Contract 606TA with Green Seal Environmental, Inc., each for an amount not to exceed \$450,000, with a contract term of three years from the Notice to Proceed.

Staff highlighted elements of the contracts, and noted that each contract has a term of three years. The contracts are used as needed, authorizing task orders to assist the agency with environmental regulatory compliance matters. The services are not in the area of spill cleanup, but, in the instance of a spill, the company would be providing the license site professional services required by the Massachusetts DEP to oversee the type of cleanup.

### **Renewable and Alternative Energy Portfolio Services, Next Grid Markets, LLC, Contract RPS-68**

The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Contract RPS-68, Renewable and Alternative Energy Portfolio Services, with Next Grid Markets, LLC in accordance with the pricing established under Massachusetts State Contract FAC 109, and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute said contract in an amount not to exceed \$77,600 and for a term of 713 days from April 18, 2018 through March 31, 2020.

Staff stated that the contract is to manage the sale of the renewable energy certificates which are earned from operating the renewable energy assets, such as the wind turbines and solar facilities. The contract will pay Next Grid Markets about 3% for the renewable energy certificates, about 1.5% for the solar renewable energy certificates. Over the two years, staff anticipates a total cost of \$77,000 of the anticipated \$1.6 million in total revenue (based on current market prices and projections for REC generation). Staff noted that, at this point, the agency is maximizing the economic benefit for the ratepayers until new regulations go into place regarding meeting greenhouse gas requirements. Staff also noted that energy activity takes place over a variety of departments including Budget, Finance, and Operations.

**Maintenance and Support of the Integrated Financial, Procurement and Human Resources/Payroll Management System: Infor Global Solutions**

The Board voted to approve the award of a sole-source purchase order contract for the annual maintenance and support of the integrated financial, procurement and human resources/payroll management system to Infor Global Solutions (formerly Lawson Associates, Inc.), and to authorize the Executive Director to execute said purchase order contract in an amount not to exceed \$427,162.80 for a period of one year, from June 1, 2018 through May 31, 2019.

Staff highlighted elements of the contract, including reasons for the 6% increase in costs for the contract, a level that has been the case in recent years. While the contractor is in the 3-4% range, there also are other charges that raise the cost of renewing the contract. It was also pointed out that staff is about to undertake a study that looks at options for continuing with the next version of the Lawson system, or whether the agency should consider going to the next enterprise system. Staff plans on reporting to the Board on this issue in the coming months. In addition, Mr. Vitale commented that a 6% increase can be considered reasonable, and that the Boston Water and Sewer Commission is experiencing significant increases as they relate to these services.

**Agency-wide Technical Assistance Consulting Services, Hazen and Sawyer, PC, Contract 7498, and Kleinfelder Northeast, Inc., Contract 7604**

The Board voted to approve the recommendation of the Consultant Selection Committee to award two separate contracts to provide agency-wide technical consulting services, and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute Contract 7498 with Hazen and Sawyer, P.C., and Contract 7604 with Kleinfelder Northeast, Inc., each in an amount not to exceed \$2,500,000 and for a contract term of twenty-four months from the Notice to Proceed.

Staff reviewed a number of services (and locations) that will be addressed through the task order contracts.

**Repair of Three Digester Mixer Assemblies at the Deer Island Treatment Plant: Flowserve Corporation**

The Board voted to approve the award of a three-year sole-source contract for the repair of three digester mixer assemblies at the Deer Island Treatment Plant, with Flowserve Corporation, and authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute said contract in the amount of \$293,358 for a contract term of three years, from April 18, 2018 through April 17, 2021.

Staff reviewed key elements of the contract (including operational and location details), and also noted that it is a sole source contract. Staff also described the steps and sequence of the replacement process. [See also, power point presentation.]

### **Gravity Thickener Rehabilitation, Deer Island Treatment Plant, Contractor TBD, Contractor 7428**

The Board voted to approve the award of Contract 7428, Gravity Thickener Rehabilitation, Deer Island Treatment Plant, to the lowest eligible and responsible bidder, Walsh Construction Company II, LLC and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute said contract in the bid amount of \$19,633,050, with a contract term of 1,000 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed.

Staff reported that the work being proposed is long overdue, and that it is a critical project ~~and that~~ supports safe and efficient operation of the six gravity thickeners on Deer Island. There will also be some work on the DiStor tank. [See power point presentation.]

## **Information**

### **Delegated Authority Report – March 2018**

Staff reviewed highlights of the report, including clarification of two items, one relating to Infor/Lawson-MAXIMO technical and supplemental support for the agency, and the second relating to security updates and patches.

### **FY18 Financial Update and Summary through March 2018**

Staff reported on spending through the month of March (period 9), with spending about where the staff had expected. Overall, budget activity continues to progress as expected. The total variance for revenues and expenses is \$11.2 million, due to lower direct expenses of \$5.5 million offset by higher indirect expenses of \$257,000 and higher revenue of \$6.0 million.

In March, MWRA set aside \$1.7 million in favorable Capital Finance expense variance into the Defeasance Account, with the intent of using these funds to defease debt and provide rate relief in future years. The year-end favorable variance is projected at \$26.8 million, of which \$15.1 million is related to debt service. As the year progresses, estimates of the year-end variance will become more accurate.

### **Update on Fire at DCR-Quabbin Watershed Facility**

Staff gave a presentation on the fire that occurred at the DCR-Quabbin Watershed Facility (the North Salem field office) on April 5, 2018. [See also, power point presentation.] Staff described the losses including equipment, vehicles, generators, chain saws and more. There were no fatalities and no injuries and there was no release of any petroleum or hazardous materials to the watershed environment there. MWRA is offering assistance for recovery. No exact cause for the recovery is forthcoming, at the moment. Under consideration is an electrical problem or a wood stove.

The Division of Water Supply Protection is funded by MWRA through the Water Supply Protection Trust. Staff reported that the DCR is assessing the capital and operational financial impacts from the fire. They also noted that the

Commonwealth does not purchase property insurance for state-owned property and MWRA staff does not believe that there is an insurance reserve fund to cover potential losses. The Water Supply Protection Trust is expected to address the losses at an upcoming meeting.

### **Update on Wachusett Pump Station**

Staff provided a presentation on the status of the Wachusett Pump Station. [See Power Point presentation.] Staff reported that the project is ahead of schedule and the goal for the contractor is to have the system up and running by December (which would be two months ahead of schedule). The facility would represent a major milestone in the history of the metropolitan water system in that for the first time it would provide complete redundancy from Clinton all the way to Route 128. ~~It is a major step for the history of the water system.~~

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*This summary does not include every item discussed by the Board, nor the full extent of the discussions. Please contact the Advisory Board office with questions, comments or requests for more information.*