



# Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, June 19, 2014  
11:30 AM

Bradley Estate  
2468B Washington St.  
Canton, MA 02021

**Attendees (Voting Members)**

David Manugian	Ashland	William Hadley	Lexington	John DeAmicis	Stoneham
Roy Sorenson	Bedford	Katherine Dunphy	Milton	Pat Fasanello	Walpole
John Sullivan	Boston	Thom Donahue	Nahant	Walter Woods	Wellesley
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Craig Leiner	Natick	Jeff Bina	Westwood
John Sanchez	Burlington	John Cosgrove	Needham	Joe Lobao	Wilmington
Barbara Wyatt	Gubernatorial	Lou Taverna	Newton	James Gibbons	Winchester
J. R. Greene	Gubernatorial	Michael Coffey	Quincy	Thomas Reilly	Winthrop
Ed Demko	Hingham	Jeff Zager	Reading		

**Other Attendees**

Ed Dowling	Cambridge	Fred Laskey	MWRA	Phil Jasset	UCANE
Avril Elkort	Canton	Michael Hornbrook	MWRA	Andreae Downs	WAC
Bradley Perron	Marblehead	Rachel Madden	MWRA	Lexi Dewey	WSCAC
Tabor Keally	Milton	Pam Heidell	MWRA	Joseph Favaloro	AB Staff
Joseph Lynch	Milton	Carolyn Fiore	MWRA	Matthew Romero	AB Staff
Joe Welch	Norwood	Kathy Soni	MWRA	Cornelia Potter	AB Staff
Scott Gustafson	Walpole	Kevin McCluskey	MWRA	Travis Ahern	AB Staff
Bill Shaughnessy	Wellesley	Dave Whelan	MWRA	Mary Ann McClellan	AB Staff
Michael Woods	Wilmington	Joshua Das	MWRA		

Forty-nine people were in attendance, including twenty-three voting members.

**MINUTES APPROVED AT THE SEPTEMBER 18, 2014 MEETING.**

**A. APPROVAL OF THE APRIL 17, 2014 MINUTES OF THE ADVISORY BOARD**

Chairman Katherine Haynes Dunphy called the MWRA Advisory Board meeting to order at 11:49 a.m. A motion was made **TO APPROVE THE APRIL 17, 2014 MINUTES OF THE MWRA ADVISORY BOARD.** It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote. Chairman Dunphy introduced Avril Elkort, a member of the Canton Board of Selectmen, who welcomed everyone to Canton.

**B. REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

MWRA Advisory Board Executive Director Joseph Favaloro noted that DEP Commissioner David Cash had been in contact with him and asked to be moved to the end of the agenda because a personal issue came up; he was ultimately unable to make the meeting.

Mr. Favaloro noted that come September, the Advisory Board’s Executive Committee will be moving to a “paperless” system through the use of iPads. Though these devices cannot be purchased for all Advisory Board members, should members have their own iPad/tablet or laptop, staff can forward this information to members digitally as well. These direct communications will help to save money by reducing the use of paper and postage.

**C. MWRA YEAR IN REVIEW – Fred Laskey, MWRA Executive Director**

MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey noted that the American Water Works Association held their annual conference in Boston last week and 12,000 water experts from around the country and around the world were in town to debate the various issues, attend training sessions and see presentations. There is always something you can learn from the experience of others.

A number of MWRA staff made presentations and the reviews from people around the country were very positive as to the professionalism and knowledge of the MWRA staff. MWRA has proven to be a trendsetter, whether it be the management tracking systems, real-time monitoring or finance, the Authority is right at the forefront of this industry.

Mr. Laskey said he would be remiss if he didn't recognize the importance of the Ultraviolet (UV) system that is coming online at the John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant in the perspective of the overall history of the metropolitan water system. The Authority is now in full compliance, ahead of the deadline, with the federal law that requires two primary disinfection systems – ozone and UV.

UV at the Quabbin is well along to meet the October 1<sup>st</sup> deadline. The project is in the testing phase and a combination of chlorine and UV will be used. Initial testing is going well except for an issue with one of the valves, which has now been resolved.

The Spot Pond Storage Tank and Pump Station project in Stoneham will be part of the Advisory Board's annual tour. It is a 20 million-gallon storage tank and pump station and is now approximately 90% complete. This project is the last large piece of the MWRA's goal to have storage at the far end of its system. This storage tank joins the Blue Hills, Loring Road, Norumbega and the Fells tank for the high service to the north. This tank will provide ample storage for the low service area, which includes much of the City of Boston.

The CSO Program court-mandated deadline is December 2015. There is one remaining contract, in addition to projects that are already underway and are going well. The Boston Water and Sewer Commission is driving the Reserved Channel CSO project and is on schedule; the Cambridge Mystic/Alewife project continues to make great progress and Brookline has completed its projects. When the CSO Program is complete, there will be a period of time to assess the program and see what has worked.

Another major management initiative this year is the installation of the Automated Vehicle Locator system that is now in all MWRA vehicles. The initiative was negotiated with the bargaining units with certain conditions on how it would be used and how it would not be used. It allows the Authority to know where its workforce is and it allows staff to observe whether the most efficient routes are being taken to conserve gas. In an emergency, it allows staff to know who is the closest to respond to the emergency location.

A state-of-the-art real-time contaminant monitoring system has also been implemented this year. The monitoring system has been placed in 16 locations throughout the MWRA system and it feeds real-time information back to the water quality staff and reports on 12 to 16 attributes of the water. This system allows staff to have time to respond to emergency situations.

An aqueduct trail program has been implemented throughout five communities covering 15 miles of trails that have been permitted. Maintenance and monitoring of those trails will be the responsibility of the host communities and the MWRA will mow these areas once or twice per year.

The lawsuits relating to the 2010 water main break have been settled for \$3.1 million from eight different contractors, design firms and component manufacturers. The vast majority of the MWRA's direct incurred costs as a result of that water main break are covered by this settlement.

The retirement of key players has been a major challenge for the Authority. A standing committee of senior managers and human resources personnel has been put together to go through the process of determining which positions would be filled and which functions would be redistributed. It also allowed for the promotion of some very talented people.

The multi-year rate strategy and the use of the defeasance account, a strategy that was developed by MWRA and Advisory Board staffs, has worked well in addressing the “peaks” on future rate increases to keep them steady and moderate.

The Deer Island Treatment Plant has received the platinum award for seven straight years in a row without a permit violation.

The Boston Water and Sewer Commission came in first, and MWRA second, as the best drinking water in the country. The efforts to maintain the watershed and water system have resulted in the first and second place showings out of 31 water samples from throughout the country.

#### **D. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Executive Committee** – Katherine Haynes Dunphy

##### **❖ ACTION ITEM: RESOLUTION REGARDING CROSS HARBOR CABLE**

Mr. Favaloro provided members with a resolution relating to NStar/BECO/HEEC’s efforts to have the MWRA pay for the cross harbor cable that provides power to the Deer Island Treatment Plant for a second time. The energy companies built the cable and the MWRA paid for it. The funding of this cable was done at a time that interest rates were much higher that has resulted in a \$22 million cable costing \$104 million in principal and interest payments.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, working with the Army Corps of Engineers, has decided to dredge the harbor to make it possible for larger cruise ships and cargo tankers to enter Boston Harbor. The power cable is in the way and NStar/BECO/HEEC wants the MWRA to pay for it again.

The Advisory Board’s response is that the MWRA ratepayers have already paid for this cable once and will not pay for it again. This issue is noted in the Advisory Board’s *Comments and Recommendations on the Authority’s Proposed CIP and CEB* that will be voted on in June.

A motion was made **TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION REGARDING THE CROSS HARBOR CABLE**. It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

##### **❖ LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

Mr. Favaloro said this year’s theme was to put water and wastewater back on the radar screen. To that end, staff has been working diligently to obtain that goal.

Debt Service Assistance (DSA) was received for FY14 and the House Budget for FY15 increased by 10% to \$1.1 million statewide. A water and wastewater infrastructure bill will likely be approved by the end of this legislative session and includes, subject to appropriation, entrance fees, connection fees and Inflow/Infiltration reimbursement.

This bill could help to bring additional communities to the water works system through system expansion.

Staff is preparing a questionnaire/survey to go out to the gubernatorial candidates in regard to water and wastewater issues to see where they stand on these issues.

❖ **ADVISORY BOARD ANNUAL FIELD TRIP**

This year's field trip itinerary will include a tour of the Spot Pond Covered Storage Tank (with guests allowed to go into the tank)/Pump Station, the Gillis Pump Station, the community-based project on the detention basin at Fresh Pond. A barbecue lunch will be provided. The field trip is the third Thursday of August.

**Finance Committee – Bernie Cooper**

❖ **STATUS: MWRA/MWRA ADVISORY BOARD BUDGET REVIEW PROCESS**

Finance and Policy Analyst Travis Ahern provided members with a ["Green Sheet" video](#) recapping the MWRA Advisory Board's recommendations on the Authority's Proposed FY15 CEB.

Mr. Favaloro noted that the Green Sheet videos will be utilized throughout the year on a quarterly basis to keep members posted on budget issues. During the other months, staff will utilize the green sheet videos for educational purposes. The system expansion video was well received and those types of videos will remain on the Advisory Board's website in an educational section.

A video will be done on the Water and Sewer Retail Rate Survey. This year more emphasis will be placed on stormwater. The wholesale rate methodology for both water and sewer is another topic that will be covered.

If members have suggestions, staff will be more than happy to incorporate their ideas.

**Operations Committee – Lou Taverna**

❖ **CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT – Joshua Das, Project Manager, Public Health**

Public Health Project Manager Joshua Das provided members with a quick update on the annual Consumer Confidence Report (CCR). It is presently being mailed.

Mr. Das thanked members for their efforts in providing information for this report on the local level.

The report emphasizes the new UV plant and the two primary disinfection processes.

Discussion was held at the American Water Works Association's conference in regard to the CCR and its effectiveness and changes that are coming with the electronic delivery of the report. In general, drinking water issues are important to the public; more than 80% of the people surveyed thought it was very important or somewhat important.

This year, several communities provided a link within the CCR to give the readers more information than could fit on their page. MWRA is offering this function for communities for next year.

❖ **NEW GUIDELINES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF PHASES 9 AND 10 OF THE I/I GRANT/LOAN PROGRAM**

Mr. Favaloro said with the significant expansion of the I/I Grant/Loan Program, Advisory Board and MWRA staff, along with Chairman of Operations Lou Taverna, put together some guidelines for the smooth operation of this expanded program.

A community cannot use Phase 9 funds until it has exhausted funds from the previous phases. To help the Authority with its budgeting for the I/I program, a three-year projection on how these funds will be utilized is included in the guidelines. Further, if the request of the Authority is going to exceed \$2 million, the Authority must have 90 days notice so that these funds can be available.

These guidelines will create a level of assurance that these funds will be available when needed.

Further, a trigger mechanism will be in place that when communities utilize a certain portion of their Phase 9 funding, the Phase 10 funds will become available.

**E. PRESENTATION: DEP PERSPECTIVE** – David Cash, Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

This presentation was postponed because Mr. Cash was unable to attend the meeting.

**F. ADJOURNMENT**

**A MOTION WAS MADE TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 1:04 P.M.** It was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "William P. Hadley".

William P. Hadley, Secretary