



News & Notes

A Publication of the
MWRA Advisory Board

December 2016

#MuniWorks Recap

Planning for the Future



On December 8, 2016, the Advisory Board held a workshop at Boston College for its communities on the subject of MWRA long-term water redundancy. With over 120 participants, the event was an outstanding opportunity to learn from MWRA staff about the history of the water system, why redundancy is needed, what are the potential impacts to

communities, and how this project would be financed. Highlights included a keynote from Secretary of Housing and Economic Development Jay Ash, as well as reflections from Waltham Mayor Jeannette McCarthy to provide a community perspective.

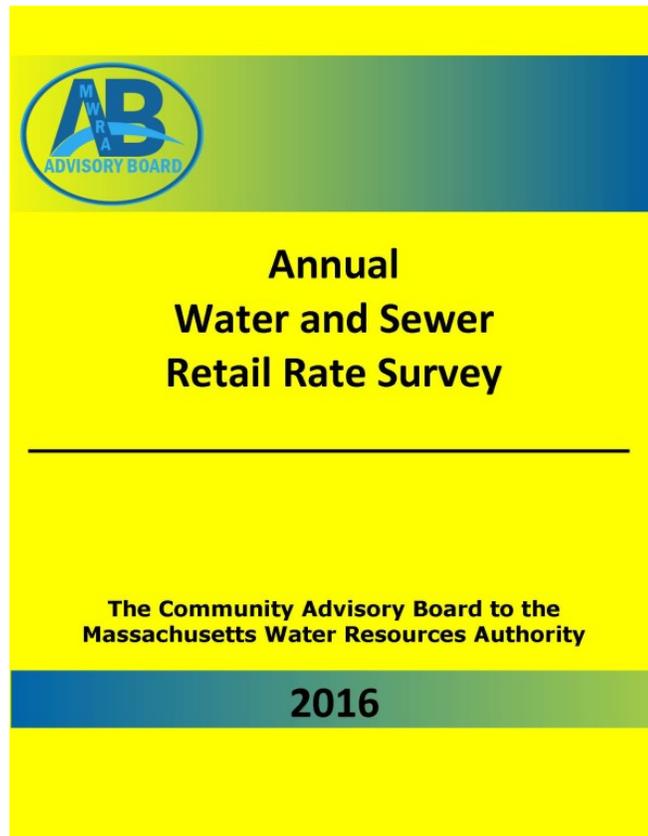
Advisory Board staff presented a [suite of recommendations](#) as approved by the Executive Committee, which the full Advisory Board will be able to vote on at the [January meeting](#). With the next major phase of system improvements upon us, it's critical to let your community's voice be heard.

Full presentations from this #MuniWorks event can be found [here](#).

Annual Water and Sewer Retail Rate Survey

Now Available!

It is our pleasure to announce that our most requested publication, the Annual Water and Sewer Retail Rate Survey, is now available! You'll be able to compare costs per household between MWRA communities, as well as explore other national systems. For example, in calendar year 2016, MWRA communities increased an average of 3.4% compared to the national systems, which increased an average 4.5%. New to this year's survey is a section detailing stormwater management fees for national community pages and a more enhanced stormwater index.



Check out an overview of the rate survey in this month's [Green Sheet video](#). This year's rate survey, along with previous editions of the rate survey, are available on [our website](#).

Stormwater Resources Page

New on Our Website

FAST FACTS

- Of the approximately 1600 stormwater utilities across the US, 13 are in New England (Western Kentucky University 2016 survey)
- The main drivers of stormwater spending? Regulatory compliance, flood control, and community expectations, in that order (Black and Veatch 2016 survey)
- Not just rain gardens and permeable pavers anymore - there are over 30 BMPs to increase stormwater infiltration (University of New Hampshire Stormwater Center)

Welcome to the Advisory Board's Stormwater Resources page!



While we maintain that the MWRA has no responsibility for stormwater issues, we at the Advisory Board strive to help our communities prepare for meeting the MS4 permit requirements. Here you will find links to all things stormwater, from financing to public outreach. We'll continue to update as we find more items of interest. Thanks for checking in!

Massachusetts MS4 Permit



Regulated Massachusetts MS4 Areas



Now, live on our website, is the brand new [Stormwater Resources page!](#) Here you will find everything from financing tools to online training to case studies in and around the New England area. You'll find links to numerous examples of best management practices (BMPs), along with ideas for building community



support through outreach. We will continue to update the site as more resources become available, including [EPA's Opti-Tool](#) for BMP planning, which is slated to debut in January 2017.

As always, we welcome your feedback - this site is intended to be useful to you, our communities! Similarly, we would love to feature more examples of communities' stormwater management programs on our site. Send us your photos at mwra.ab@mwraadvisoryboard.com

Upcoming Events

For the Month of [January](#)

January 13 | 8:30 am, [Executive Committee Meeting](#)

January 18 | [MWRA Board of Directors Meeting](#)

January 19 | 11:30 am, [AB Meeting](#) at Canton Public Library

Apologies Once Again

Once again, we do apologize about the onslaught of blank emails sent over the holidays. Below, you'll find a statement from our contractor, KnoxWeb, on the issue. We strive to send you meaningful, useful content, and we do not wish to flood your inboxes with unnecessary clutter. Thank you for letting us connect with you online through newsletters such as this one.



KnoxWeb would like to take ownership of an error we caused while working on the MWRA Advisory Board website. The site was being testing multiple times for newsletter sending functionality, and as a result multiple messages were sent to subscribers in error. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused, and can assure you that it was not an intentional sending by the Advisory Board. We will not be doing any further newsletter testing.

Wishing you all the best for the New Year!

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Connect With Us!



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