



News & Notes

A Publication of the
MWRA Advisory Board

November 2016

Advisory Board Raises Concerns over Mountain Biking

*Editorial from
Executive Director Joe Favaloro*



As part of its watershed management plan, DCR has established clear rules and regulations that allow for passive recreational use of watershed lands – activities such as hiking, which do not jeopardize these protected waters. Activities that may endanger this protection have been clearly, and strictly prohibited. In recent years, however, mountain bikers have begun encroaching upon the watersheds. Moreover, some have begun altering those lands for their own purposes by cutting trees and building structures to facilitate this illicit use of watershed lands.

The mountain bikers have been aggressively pushing for a change in regulations to utilize watershed lands for bike trails. Up until now the answer has been a loud and decisive “NO.”

[Continue to full editorial here](#)

REMINDER! Water Redundancy Meeting Coming December 8th

*Learn about how the largest project in MWRA
history could affect your community*

The AB meeting/workshop on MWRA long-term water redundancy is **NEXT WEEK.**

It is important for your community - from your CEOs and elected officials to your finance staff and technical/operations staff - to be aware of this project. The challenges are big: costs for this project could exceed \$1.5 billion, and different construction methods would create different levels of impacts to communities. Yet, the economic cost of not completing this project could be far greater.

Join us on December 8 at the Yawkey Center at Boston College. All of us will have an opportunity to learn, listen, ask questions, and weigh in on a potentially significant MWRA project.

RSVP [here](#) today!



Advocacy & Accountability
Representing Over 2.2 Million People in Massachusetts Communities Since 1985

November 18, 2016

Dear Stakeholder,

Each decade there is one construction project that sets the stage for decades to come - a generational decision the impacts and benefits of which are felt for the next 50 years or beyond. For the MWRA, these projects have included the Boston Harbor Cleanup, the Carroll Water Treatment Plant, and the MetroWest Tunnel. Today, the generational decision for the MWRA is how to best ensure potable drinking water for all of its cities and towns all of the time. The project that will accomplish this for Greater Boston is the MWRA's Metropolitan Water Redundancy Project.

Ensuring water system redundancy has been a major goal of the MWRA since that infamous day in May 2010, when a water distribution gate burst in Weston at Shattuck St., pouring millions of gallons of water into the Charles River. Throughout the MWRA water system, residents were forced to boil water to ensure the safety of their families, and businesses either scrambled to provide bottled water to customers or shut down completely. Through yeoman efforts by MWRA staff, the boil order only lasted a few days; however, the lessons learned and the all-too-real impacts of this water break drive this discussion today. The Metropolitan Water Redundancy Project presents many challenges; costs for this project could exceed \$1.5 billion, and different construction methods would create different levels of impacts to communities. Yet, with the memory of the 2010 water break's impacts fresh in our minds, the economic cost of not completing this project could be far greater.

On December 8 at the Yawkey Center at Boston College, all of us will have an opportunity to learn, listen, ask questions, and weigh in on a potentially significant MWRA project. Hosted by the MWRA Advisory Board - the voice of the MWRA's communities and ratepayers - the opportunity to shape this project starts with this half-day session.

It is important for your community - from your CEOs and elected officials to your finance staff and technical/operations staff - to be aware of this project. We will be inviting our state officials and legislators as well.

Secretary of Economic Development Jay Ash will keynote our meeting to discuss the economic impacts of this project - both pro and con. MWRA staff led by Executive Director Fred Laskey will outline options, timing, and costs.

If there is one meeting you should attend - this is it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joseph Favaloro'.

Joseph Favaloro
Executive Director, MWRA Advisory Board

Chatham Square Yard
200 First Avenue, Building 19 - 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02129

Joseph F. Favaloro
Executive Director
www.mwraadvisoryboard.com

Telephone: (617) 788-2000
Fax: (617) 788-2009
Email: mwra.ab@mraadvisoryboard.com

Diverse Perspectives to Prepare for the Future

Notes from the Stormwater Finance Forum

Fresh from attending the
Stormwater Finance Forum at
the University of New

Hampshire, the Advisory Board is energized about helping our communities continue to address their stormwater needs.

Our goals are to be an advocate for our communities, stay up-to-date on the latest strategies to comply with the MS4 permit, and **provide a comprehensive list of resources to guide planning and implementation.**



The Stormwater Finance Forum, hosted by the New England Environmental Finance Center, could not have come at a better time. The two-day event was attended by professionals from every New England state, ranging from federal to local government, and private firms to non-profits. **Click [here](#) to read more.**

Upcoming Events

For the month of [December](#)

December 8 | [9:00 am - 12:00 pm, AB meeting on MWRA Long-Term Water Redundancy, Yawkey Center at Boston College](#)

December 14 | [MWRA Board of Directors meeting \(Charlestown Navy Yard\)](#)

December 26 | AB office closed

Lastly, the Advisory Board staff wishes all of you and your families a happy and safe holiday season!



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