



# News & Notes

A publication of the **MWRA Advisory Board**  
September 2006

## **Big Dig vs. Boston Harbor Clean Up ... See What They're Saying**

“What made the clean up [of Boston Harbor] run so much more smoothly than the Big Dig? In a word, oversight ... Area officials and citizens participated on boards that helped oversee MWRA's efforts ... It's one thing, after all, to pledge accountability and something else to have people who actually demand it. The Big Dig lacked such a board, as well as the citizen advisory council that MWRA listens to.” – Governing Magazine, September 2006.

What led to a far different outcome for the Harbor Clean Up was an active and visible Advisory Board of citizens and environmentalists. “Those groups assured no one could operate with the secrecy and arrogance that often marked the leadership of the Central Artery operation. That board served as the place where the accountability was delivered,” stated former MWRA Executive Director Douglas MacDonald – State House News Service, July 29.

(To view the Governing Magazine article, go to:  
<http://66.23.131.98/archive/2006/sep/observer.txt> )

## **Master Plan Document Emerging**

As repeatedly requested by the MWRA Advisory Board, the Authority is in the process of developing an agency-wide Master Plan.

An update on the Master Plan was provided at the September MWRA Board of Directors' Meeting. MWRA staff are projecting \$2.4 billion (in current dollars) for wastewater and water system needs in the FY07-FY28 timeframe. Over the next two months, the Authority will provide a presentation on anticipated wastewater (October) and waterworks (November) capital needs.

## **State Auditor to Review Division of Water Supply Protection Operations**

At the urging of the MWRA Advisory Board, the State Auditor will initiate a performance audit of the Division of Water Supply Protection to ensure that the Department of Conservation & Recreation (DCR) is accurately accounting for watershed costs and properly billing MWRA for operating charges.

“The FY07 Budget for the Water Supply Protection Trust is \$24.8 million (\$13.2 million for Operations; \$5.6 million for Debt Service for prior land purchases; \$6.0 million for Payments in Lieu of Taxes); 100% is paid entirely by MWRA ratepayers. It is critical that every dollar is accounted for,” stated Katherine Haynes Dunphy, MWRA Advisory Board Chairman and member of the Board of Trustees for the Water Supply Protection Trust.

## **Did You Know?**

Since January 2006, the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority released over 64.9 billion gallons of water from the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs. To put that into perspective, that is equal to the entire capacity of the Wachusett Reservoir. MWRA could provide every man, woman and child on the planet with five gallons of water.

The MWRA Advisory Board maintains there is ample water supply to support reasonable system expansion. To that end, the Advisory Board, at its June 15, 2006 meeting, overwhelmingly approved a motion to recommend MWRA develop a plan to market and make available up to 36 million gallons of water per day to non-MWRA communities who meet the criteria established in MWRA Policy OP.10, Admission of a New Community to the MWRA Water System. The scope of the supply being made available to non-MWRA communities shall be revisited in five years when MWRA staff will provide an update to the MWRA Board of Directors on current and projected demand for member and non-member communities.

### **Upcoming Meetings/Events**

**September 26 – Water Supply Protection Trust Meeting** – 10:00 am –  
Quabbin Reservoir

**October 11 – MWRA Board of Directors' Meeting** 10:00 am – Charlestown

**October 13 – Executive Committee Meeting** 8:30 am – Boston

**October 19 – MWRA Advisory Board Meeting** 11:30 am – Lexington

**November 9 – Executive Committee Meeting** 8:30 am – Boston\*\*

**\*\*Note: Meeting date changed due to Veteran's Day**

*If you have any questions regarding topics raised in this newsletter or any other MWRA issue, please contact:*  
**Mary Ann McClellan • Phone:** 617-742-7561 • **Fax:** 617-742-4614 • **Email:** [maryann.mcclellan@mwra.state.ma.us](mailto:maryann.mcclellan@mwra.state.ma.us)  
**Web Site:** [www.mwraadvisoryboard.com](http://www.mwraadvisoryboard.com)