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MWRA Advisory Board Summary
of the
MWRA Board of Directors Meeting
Wednesday, February 21, 2018

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority was held on Wednesday, February 21, 2018, at the Charlestown Navy Yard. Present: Secretary Beaton, Gubernatorial Appointee; John Carroll and Andrew Pappastergion, MWRA Advisory Board Representatives; Henry Vitale, and Austin Blackmon, City of Boston Representatives; Paul Flanagan, Town of Winthrop Representative; John J. Walsh, City of Quincy Representative. Absent: Jennifer Wolowicz and Brian Peña, Gubernatorial Appointees; Joseph Foti, MWRA Advisory Board Representative; Kevin Cotter, City of Boston Representative.

Report of the Chair

There was no Report of the Chairman.

Report of the Executive Director

Mr. Laskey presided over the presentation of the Extraordinary Service awards. He opened his remarks by saying it was a privilege and honor to present these awards. All members of the Authority staff can nominate an individual or a team that went above and beyond routine responsibilities for service to the MWRA. The nominations were reviewed by a committee of Labor and Management representatives.

Bill Hanley

In recognition of his quick actions on May 5, 2017, that saved the lives of 2 men who overdosed in the parking lot outside of the Cottage Farm facility in Cambridge. He called the OCC and State Police, who were able to revive them with Narcan.

Paul Porter, Michael Patenaude, and Richard Sudanowicz

In recognition of the quick actions of these individuals who gave first aid to Michael McCarthy, who was injured by a falling valve handwheel at the new Spot Pond Pump Station on October 20, 2017.

Jerry Sheehan and Alejandro Alvarez

In recognition of their exceptional work with on the Northern Intermediate High Pipeline Project and their extraordinary efforts working with the project's neighbors - at all hours - during difficult conditions.

Deer Island Valve Replacement Team

In recognition of their resourcefulness and teamwork in devising an alternate method to accomplish the work which negated the need for over 50 shutdowns of the North Main Pump Station and resulted in a savings of approximately \$500,000 for MWRA and its ratepayers. The team of 34 included staff from: Deer Island operations and engineering, the water valve crew; Water Engineering, Wastewater Operations, and Engineering and Construction. Representatives here today are: Kathleen Pearson, Joe Perryman, Joe Duplin, and Tom Derosier.

Deer Island Valve Team

Mark Johnson	Ethan Wenger	Charles Ryan
Nicholas Metta	Thomas Derosier	James MacPherson
Anthony Grasselli	Charles Evans	Brian Kubaska
Joseph Giangregorio	Joseph Duplin	George Bacon
Michael Patenaude	William Carter	Kathleen Pearson
Charles Bonanno	Peter McGee	Ling-Yu Chu
Michael Shackford	Christopher Fittante	Douglas Kempe
James Burke	Louis Mingoia	Kevin Olson
Steven Considine	Peter Kares	Caitlin Hunt
Joseph Perryman	Paul Govoni	John Colbert
Richard Sudanowicz Jr.	Richard Adams	
Michael Hughes	Stephen Cullen	

Mr. Laskey recognized Michael Hornbrook who will be stepping down from his position as the Chief Operating Officer later in the month. He noted that Mr. Hornbrook has been the consummate professional, and as he moves on to the next phase of his life, he has left the MWRA a better place. Mr. Hornbrook, in his remarks, thanked the Board of Directors, and noted that the foundation of the success of the MWRA has been an engaged and active Board of Directors in the agency's operations. He noted that the Board has given the staff the appropriate prodding, the appropriate encouragement (and appropriate criticism). The Board has set the policy and direction that staff implements and that is the fundamental reason that the Authority has been so successful. In summary, he thanked all the Board of Directors, past and present, for their service and their support to him and to all the staff.

He also thanked Mr. Laskey and his leadership and guidance, but his friendship as well. He thanked the staff, and he stated that he was "always amazed at the dedication of the MWRA staff, the extra mile you go, the hours you work, the commitment you have, the care you have for what you do. Over the years, it has been encouraging and invigorating to know that this staff is so dedicated and talented." He thanked all of the staff for all the hard work, the long hours, working through holidays and personal events that were delayed or missed. It has been inspiring and the adventure of a lifetime.

Mr. Beaton also presented an award from the Governor and Mr. Laskey presented a plaque from the Authority.

Approvals

Approval of Minutes

Board voted to approve the minutes from the January 17, 2018 Board of Directors meeting.

Approval of Local Water System Assistance Program – Water Loan Program Guidelines Revision for the City of Peabody

The Board voted to approve a one-time exemption to the Program Guidelines for the Local Water System Assistance Program to waive the annual allocation restriction for the City of Peabody to allow the City to borrow up to its entire \$2,756,000 MWRA water loan allocation, contingent upon a Peabody City Council water bond authorization to meet this request.

Staff reported that the proposal is to approve a one-time exemption to the Program Guidelines for the Local Water System Assistance Program to waive the annual allocation restriction to allow the City of Peabody to borrow up to its entire \$2,756,000 MWRA water loan allocation, contingent upon a Peabody City Council water bond authorization to meet this request.

Staff reported that the City wants to eliminate unlined pipe by moving it out of the travel lanes and over to the sidewalks and breakdown lane. This action would allow the City access to all of its Phase III money for this project. Approval of similar exemptions have been made previously for other communities (Reading and Winthrop).

Approval of the Affirmative Action Plan

The Board voted to approve the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority's Affirmative Action Plan effective for a one-year period from January 1, 2018 through December 30, 2018.

Mr. Riley commented on the challenges of meeting hiring goals at a time of an increasing number of retirements and some resignations. The Authority have a "deep bench" of candidates and continues to find candidates from outside the agency, but the numbers of retirements represents an ongoing challenge to meet the hiring goals of the agency. Mr. Laskey also spoke to the importance of the affirmative action program and acknowledged that the program has been indispensable, particularly in addressing the area of meeting new and changing hiring requirements.

Approval of PCR Amendments – February 2018

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

Staff reported on the three PCR amendments. Two reflect organizational changes in the Operations and Administration Divisions. The third is due to a union settlement in the Administration Division.

Approval of Chief Operating Officer

The Board voted to approve the Executive Director's recommendation to appoint Mr. David W. Coppes to the position of Chief Operating Officer (Non-Union, Grade 18) at an annual salary of \$180,612, commencing on a date to be determined by the Executive Director. Mr. Coppes will also be paid a \$700 per month (taxable) car allowance in lieu of an MWRA vehicle.

Mr. Laskey commented on the importance of the changes for the Chief Operating Officer staffing, noting the upcoming retirement of Michael Hornbrook and the selection of David Coppes to fill the position. Mr. Laskey commented on the experience and qualifications of Mr. Coppes, saying that he "brings to the table the skills that we need."

Approval of Appointment of Senior Program Manager, Energy, Deer Island Treatment Plant

The Board voted to approve the Executive Director's recommendation to appoint Mr. John Dunn to the position of Senior Program Manager, Energy, Deer Island (Unit 9, Grade 30) at an annual salary of \$126,607.94, commencing on a date to be determined by the Executive Director.

Approval of Director, Toxic Reduction and Control

The Board voted to approve the Executive Director's recommendation to appoint Ms. Rebecca M. Weidman to the position of Director, Toxic Reduction and Control (Non-Union, Grade 15) in the Operations Division, at an annual salary of \$135,553, commencing on a date to be determined by the Executive Director.

Approval of Transmittal of the FY19 Proposed Current Expense Budget to the MWRA Advisory Board

The Board voted to approve the transmittal of the FY19 Proposed Current Expense Budget to the MWRA Advisory Board for its 60-day review and comment period.

[See the related Staff Summary in packet for the Board of Directors meeting. Further discussion is anticipated for the March meeting of the Board of Directors.]

Approval of the Seventy-Seventh Supplemental Resolution and Award of Direct Purchase Agreements

The Board voted to approve the recommendation of the Selection Committee to award Direct Purchase Agreements in the principal amount not-to-exceed \$50,000,000 to U.S. Bank, N.A and in the principal amount not-to-exceed \$50,610,000 to TD Bank N.A.; and to adopt the Seventy-Seventh Supplemental Resolution authorizing the issuance of up to \$100,610,000 of Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Multimodal Subordinated General Revenue Refunding Bonds and the supporting issuance Resolution.

[See related Staff Summary in the packet of materials for the Board of Directors meeting.]

Proposed Amendments to the Management Policies of the Board of Directors

The Board voted to adopt amendments to the Management Policies of the Board of Directors to clarify the Executive Director's delegated authority when award is recommended to other than the lowest bidder, substantially in the form presented and filed with the records of the meeting.

[See related Staff Summary in the packet of materials for the Board of Directors meeting.]

Contract Awards

Supply and Delivery of Hydrogen Peroxide to the Deer Island Treatment Plant: U.S. Peroxide, LLC, Bid WRA-4459

The Board voted to approve the award of Purchase Order Contract WRA-4459, Supply and Delivery of Hydrogen Peroxide to the Deer Island Treatment Plant, to the lowest eligible and responsible bidder, U.S. Peroxide, LLC, and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute said purchase order contract in an amount not to exceed \$1,656,000 for a period of two years, from April 2, 2018 through March 31, 2020.

Staff noted that the agency uses hydrogen peroxide as a pretreatment chemical to control hydrogen sulfide coming into the plant. The chemical is added at two points just downstream from the pump stations (at North and South Pump Stations). It helps control the hydrogen sulfide levels that feed into the primary clarifiers and related operations.

Community Leak Detection Survey Services: LDT Solutions, LLC, Contract W322; Vital Services, Contract W322A; Arthur Pyburn & Sons, Inc., Contract W322B; and Liston Utility Services, Contract W322C

The Board voted to approve the recommendation of the Consultant Selection Committee to select four firms to provide leak detection survey task order services for MWRA's water communities, and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute four task order contracts, each for a not-to-exceed amount of \$350,000 and a term of three years from the date of Notice to Proceed, to the following firms: Contract W322, LDT Solutions, LLC, Comprehensive Listening Surveys; Contract W322A, Vital Services, Comprehensive Listening Surveys and Lead Correlation Surveys; Contract W322B, Arthur Pyburn & Sons, Incorporated, Leak Correlation Surveys; and Contract W322C, Liston Utility Services, Leak Correlation Surveys.

The MWRA's leak detection regulations require that each community that uses MWRA water to do a leak detection and repair program at least every two years. This is one method for communities to use (although its use is not required; communities can use their own services contracts). There are two methods that can be used: listening surveys and correlation surveys. Three of the contractors are from the local area; the fourth is from the Baltimore area.

Workers' Compensation Legal Services: Tentindo, Kendall, Canniff & Keefe LLP, Contract A614

The Board voted to approve the recommendation of the Consultant Selection Committee to select Tentindo, Kendall, Canniff & Keefe LLP to provide Workers' Compensation Legal Services and execute and deliver Contract A614 with Tentindo, Kendall, Canniff & Keefe LLP in an amount not to exceed \$350,000 for a term of three years from the Notice to Proceed.

In response to a question about whether the Authority performs an analysis to ensure that it is not more appropriate to conduct the work in-house, staff noted that such an analysis had been conducted and the agency does not have the expertise in-house and it is less expensive to outsource the work.

[See related Staff Summary in the packet of materials for the Board meeting.]

Groundskeeping Services – Metropolitan Boston: C&W Services, Inc., Contract OP-365

The Board voted to approve the award of Contract OP-365, Groundskeeping Services – Metropolitan Boston, to the lowest eligible and responsible bidder, C&W Facility Services, Inc., and authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute and deliver said contract in the bid amount of \$355,000 for a term of 730 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed.

[See the related Staff Summary in the packet for the Board of Directors meeting.]

Contract Amendments/Change Orders

[Chelsea Creek Headworks Upgrade: BHD/BEC 2015, A Joint Venture, Contract 7161, Change Order 8](#)

The Board of Directors voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Change Order 8 to increase the amount of Contract 7161 with BHD/BEC 2015, A Joint Venture, Chelsea Creek Headworks Upgrade, in an amount not to exceed \$937,267.00 with no increase in contract term; further, to authorize the Executive Director to approve additional change orders as may be needed to Contract 7161 in amounts not to exceed the aggregate of \$250,000, in accordance with the Management Policies and Procedures of the Board of Directors.

Staff opened the report with a note that there is a painting portion of the contract as part of this work. Staff summarized that the some of the field painting components of the project have additional components. These items must be added to the contract (and, if not for the omission, would have been included in the original bid cost and paid for by MWRA.) The second item addressed the influent channel openings and removable covers and hatches to seal the openings and provide access for installation of new stop logs in a safe manner (and to be consistent with current practices). Staff also reported on the status of the painting and piping systems and other systems. Staff also reported on relocation of the Section 37 water main which serves Chelsea, Boston and the Headworks. The goal is to get the pipeline activated by May 15.

Information

Recent Storm Impacts on MWRA's Wastewater System

Authority staff gave a presentation on the impacts of the recent storms on the agency's wastewater system, with particular reference to high tide impacts and with coastal flooding. Mr. Hornbrook referred to three storms. On January 4th and 5th, there was an astronomical high tide with a storm surge. On January 11th – 13th, there was a rain event with just under 2 inches of rain with snow melt. The third storm was on January 29 - 30 which also had a high tide, but no rain event so staff were able to contrast the storms. The January 4th storm was forecasted as a northeaster/ blizzard with 12 – 18 inches of snow in the Boston area. There was moderate coastal flooding in the Plymouth/Dennis and the Marshfield areas and a 2-4 foot coastal surge in the Boston area although major flooding was not predicted. On a day when a prediction was made, it was 12.04 feet while the actual tide that was verified was at 15.12 feet. Impacts on the MWRA were flow related. There was no relative damage to the facilities but there were flow impacts at a number of facilities.

At the Chelsea Creek Headworks and Columbus Park Headworks flows increased 60 and 65 mgd as compared to dry weather flows. Also shown were a number of areas (including the Chelsea Creek Headworks and nearby hotel) that were impacted by the tides and flooding at those events or locations. Yet there was no impact on service and hydraulic capacity was not reached.

At the Columbus Park Headworks in South Boston, the Fort Point Channel area, Dorchester, and the North End area were all tributary to that headworks and experienced tidal impacts. There was an increase of 60-65 mgd and then a rapid decline as the tide went down.

In the south system, at the Braintree-Weymouth Pump Station, water also came up to the foundation of the building. There was a 5–22 mgd tidal influence with about an hour to 1-1/2 hour time difference. The facility did run below capacity and there were no impacts on wastewater service. The experience at the Squantum Pump Station in Quincy was about the same. Sewer lines to both facilities run through wetlands.

At Deer Island, flow was running at about 200 mgd when the event hit. It went up to about 420 mgd, not close to capacity but it did coincide with high tide. Access to Deer Island was impacted. There was flooding in several locations.

Staff pointed that the review of events during these storms demonstrate higher impacts in the south system than any other parts of the MWRA's system. The flow at Nut Island went from below 100 mgd to 320 mgd, due to the snow and rain. This experience has occurred historically before. Overall, it is the tidal impacts that are of considerable influence. Staff plan to refine the tide elevations and to work with communities to learn about the tidal inflows.

The Authority had, in the past, when looking at procedures for flood protection, been looking at facilities based on hurricanes and other events. Staff now feel that more attention needs to be paid to the storm surge forecasts than the hurricane or big storm forecasts.

[See also copy of the presentation, including discussion of the second storm as part of the meeting materials.]

Emergency Repairs to Gravity Thickeners 5 and 6, Deer Island Treatment Plant

Staff opened the remarks with an explanation of the role of the gravity thickeners, followed by a review of how the thickeners operate. Mr. Duest, Director of the Deer Island Plant, explained that five thickeners are required for operation; because of failures, just three thickeners are available. He also provided a review of how and when the failures developed as well as related impacts on the equipment. Furthermore, the equipment is being utilized more due to increased use of the operable thickeners (which are fewer than design operation assumed). Inspections and monitoring have been increased, as well as increased in testing of the operations and increased management of the inventory (a lot “tighter”) to relieve some of the “high points” that some of the thickeners might see because there are not more than the three thickeners available. Also being implemented is a cross connector between the primary sludge line that goes to the gravity thickeners and the centrifuge thickening operation. He also described corrective actions and adjustments to the preventative maintenance schedule. Also described were corrective actions.

The rehab project is on the street with an expected bid opening date of March 20th. Staff expect an April Board meeting approval and a May notice to proceed. The repair of gravity thickener #1 will be scheduled first completion expected by the end of December 2018. It is a three-year construction duration.

Regarding the emergency repairs, Gravity Thickener #5 was the one that failed in mid-December, a waiver from DCAM was obtained January 2nd, the bid opening on January 31st. The award has been issued under delegated authority and the notice to proceed is the third week of February. For Gravity Thickener #6, a bid is expected during the current week.

[See also power point presentation.]

Second Quarter FY2018 Orange Notebook

Staff highlighted several performance indicators: Deer Island plant flows, Deer Island sodium hypochlorite use, Community Support Programs, and bacteria and chlorine residual results in community systems.

[See related Staff Summary and the quarterly Orange Notebook (Key Indicators of MWRA Performance, Second Quarter FY2018).]

Delegated Authority Report – January 2018

Staff addressed several questions regarding the vehicle fleet and the role of electric vehicles in the fleet, diesel generator maintenance and several other questions.

[See related Staff Summary on Delegated Authority in the packet of materials for the Board meeting.]

FY 2018 Financial Update and Summary as of January 2018

Staff highlighted elements from the monthly report, noting that January is the month that the practice continues of setting aside favorable Capital Finance variances into the Defeasance Account with the intention of using these funds to defease debt and provide rate relief in future years. Targeted defeasances are a critical component of the Authority's multi-year rates management strategy. As the fiscal year progresses, staff will continue to refine the year-end projections and update the Board accordingly.

[See related Staff Summary on the January Financial Update in the packet of materials for the Board meeting.]

FY2018 Sewer Assessment Adjustments

[See related Staff Summary and attachment.]

Preliminary FY2019 Water and Sewer Assessments

Staff noted that the staff summary provides information on preliminary FY19 wholesale water and sewer assessments. Staff plan to transmit preliminary FY19 assessments to MWRA communities on or before Thursday, February 22, 2018.

[See related Staff Summary and attachments in the packet of materials for the Board meeting.]

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.