



# Executive Committee Meeting

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 2018  
8:30 AM

Advisory Board Conference Room  
100 1<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Building 39-4  
Boston, MA 02129

**Attendees**

Lou Taverna	Chairman, Newton	Yem Lip	Malden
Michael Rademacher	Arlington	Lou Mammolette	Chelsea
John Sanchez	Burlington	John Carroll	MWRA Board of
Bernie Cooper	Norwood	Directors	
John Sullivan	Boston	Andy Pappastergion	MWRA Board of
Rob King	Somerville	Directors	
John DeAmicis	Stoneham	Joe Foti	MWRA Board of
Moe Handel	MAPC	Directors	
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	Joe Favaloro	Advisory Board staff
Ralph Pecora	Lexington	Travis Ahern	Advisory Board staff
Brendan O’Regan	Saugus	James Guiod	Advisory Board staff
David Manugian	Bedford	Lenna Ostrodka	Advisory Board staff
Nick Rystrom	Revere	Cornelia Potter	Advisory Board staff

**DRAFT MINUTES**

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 8:37 am, and welcomed members and other attendees.

**Approval of Executive Committee Minutes for September 14, 2018**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee for September 14, 2018. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

In addition, the Chairman recognized Rob King, from Somerville, who announced that it would be the last meeting he will be attending – he has recently accepted a position with MassPort (as Program Manager for Strategic Projects). As a result, he will be leaving Somerville and will no longer be serving as the Advisory Board representative from the City of Somerville.

**Preview of the 2018 Water and Sewer Rate Survey**

James Guiod opened the report of the rate survey results with a thank you to all the members and committee representatives who helped provide the data used in the survey. This report provides a preview of the data; a second presentation will be provided at the next meeting of the full Advisory Board on November 15. He noted that the data has been used from the last 20 years, using the data of the 120 HCF combined rate. The wholesale rate increase was at 3.7% and the retail rate increase was a little bit higher from last year, at 3.59%.

Before proceeding with the presentation, Mr. Favaloro noted that the “retail rate calculator didn’t do what it was supposed to do.” The goal was for the calculator to have complete automation, but at this time data still needs to be manually incorporated. Staff ran into “pretty much of a wall” with the consultant. Discussions have been under way to either make the survey live up to the standards of the contract with the consultant or to find a solution that can be accepted.

With regard to the survey this year, the staff started with a 3.19% (the fiscal year number, wholesale). The retail rate was 2.20%, which results in an average combined rate of 2.20% retail rate, or just over an average combined rate of just over \$1500 (based off an industry standard of using 120 HCF per year). The wholesale assessment this year was lower at 3.07%, and the retail rate increase, combined, was a little bit higher than last year, at 2.9% combined (yet, it was still below the wholesale rate). Next week, at the Advisory Board meeting, the report will address the more local usage for all of the communities.

Looking out over the last 20 years at the combined rate, the data show a gradual increase over what is called “the ten-year difference” when the difference was 37%. Yet, the last ten-year difference is a declining number. While there are different ways of interpreting the meaning of the ten-year difference, it is declining overall, from the view of the ten-year gap.

Looking at just the water rates alone, the communities in the service area that receive just water services from the MWRA shows a 3.2% increase. Reviewing sewer-only costs, staff reported an average of \$1,034 or a 2.82% increase. Weymouth reported a number that is the average for sewer costs. As a more extreme example, Woburn reported a 21.8 % decrease. Natick reported a 9.8% increase, with an increase of just under \$1600, or 2.59% combined increase. Staff also reported on the second-lowest increase for the combined increase, since 1994.

Staff also noted that the results were compared with other communities in Massachusetts. Staff reported the latest levels of communities and suggested that, going forward, there should be action plans for communities.

Staff also included remarks regarding stormwater and status of communities that do collect stormwater fees. He pointed out that during this period, that it is a good time to make action plans for the communities. Going forward, Mr. Favaloro noted that this is the most requested report from the Advisory Board. The state is almost one year through the stormwater issues. Going forward, there will be interest in hearing about the second year. He challenged the communities to decide how to address rates going forward.

[See Prezi presentation and updated presentation scheduled for the Thursday, November 15 meeting of the full Advisory Board.]

### **Legislative Strategy for 2018-2019**

The Executive Director provided a strategy for the legislative agenda for 2018-2019. He pointed out that staff will be working with the various members of the legislature.

He noted the importance of working through the legislative budget process. He also noted the importance of working with the legislative staff, as well as working with the Speakers’ office and caucus chairman. The important redundancy funding discussion will be part of these conversations.

### **Upcoming OMSAP Meeting**

There will be an all-day meeting in the coming week sponsored by Save the Harbor Save the Bay for discussion of the Outfall Monitoring Science Advisory Panel (OMSAP). Mr. Favaloro noted his concern that it will become a thinly

veiled attempt to force the MWRA to increase non-outfall monitoring efforts on the dime of MWRA ratepayers. It's our next opportunity to work with OMSAP to review what research is necessary. Staff will be working to review the next steps by DEP in the upcoming months.

### **December "Spaghetti Session"**

Staff reported on the proposal for a special session of the Executive Committee, to discuss subjects (including leak detection) as members suggest. A specific date will be determined and announced.

### **TRAC Fees**

Mr. Favaloro noted that MWRA has not increased the TRAC fee schedule since 2012 (as compared to the current year, 2018). This has been a recommendation of the Advisory Board for a number of years. The Authority staff, for a number of years, has been engaged in discussions with the Advisory Board staff, but there is still a major schism as it relates to what they believe they need to be doing and what we believe what they should be doing. We never believed we would be recovering 100% of all of those costs because it would be impossible to do so. But there were specific things and related costs that could be recovered. We continue to work to develop the appropriate level of cost recovery.

### **Approval of the Advisory Board Meeting Agenda for November 15, 2018.**

A motion was made and approved to accept the proposed agenda for the Advisory Board meeting for November 15, 2018.

### **Adjournment**

A motion was made **TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 9:45 A.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michael W. Rademacher, Secretary