



Advocacy & Accountability

Representing Over 3 Million People in Massachusetts Communities Since 1985

Friday, March 15, 2019

Advisory Board Office

8:30 AM

Attendees

Michael Rademacher	Arlington	Brendan O'Regan	Saugus
Jay Hersey	Brookline	John DeAmicis	Stoneham
John Sanchez	Burlington	Brian Rozowsky	MWRA
Lou Mammolette	Chelsea	John Carroll	MWRA Board of Directors
Ralph Pecora	Lexington	Joe Foti	MWRA Board of Directors
Yem Lip	Malden	Andy Pappastergion	MWRA Board of Directors
Moe Handel	MAPC	Joe Favaloro	Advisory Board staff
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	Travis Ahern	Advisory Board staff
Bernie Cooper	Norwood	Lenna Ostrodka	Advisory Board staff
Lou Taverna	Chairman, Newton	James Guidod	Advisory Board staff
Nick Rystrom	Revere		

DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY

A. Approval of the Executive Committee Minutes for February 15, 2019

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes of the Executive Committee for February 15, 2019. The motion carried and the minutes were approved.

B. HEEC Cable Replacement Update

MWRA Internal Audit Director, Brian Rozowsky, updated the Executive Committee on the charges associated with the HEEC cross-harbor cable replacement, particularly the trench and easement costs of the project. Eversource/HEEC has assigned the MWRA an \$8 million charge for the costs of an easement established by Massport for the location of the replacement cable. As currently negotiated, the Authority would be required to pay \$4 million of this charge up front. The remaining \$4 million would be billed into the replacement cable's annual capacity fee, actually costing approximately \$9.5 million over the next 30 years. This makes the overall total for the easement approximately \$13.5 million. Executive Director, Joe Favaloro, noted that ratepayers are already paying over \$100 million to relocate the cable in the first place and asked why there was even a need for any easement assessment at all. Mr. Favaloro went on to say that the project only benefits Massport and this was no way for one quasi-agency to be treating another quasi-agency.

Mr. Favaloro explained that that the Advisory Board staff have been working on the issue through at least two different approaches. The first is the submission of a Freedom of Information Act request to Massport for documents related to the easement negotiation process. The second is through legislation that would recover costs from Massport. He also noted that Advisory Board staff are also looking at any other Massport/MWRA connections and interactions.

C. Process and Timeline to Elect an Advisory Board Representative to the MWRA Board of Directors

In the May 2019 meeting, the Advisory Board will vote for the election of a member to the MWRA Board of Directors. This meeting will require a quorum vote. Notices of the election will be posted and all interested candidates will begin the process by sending their credentials to the Executive Director. The Executive Committee will serve as a nominating committee at their May 2019 meeting, engaging with interested candidates at that time. The incumbent Board member, Joe Foti, intends to stand for reelection.



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D. **Advisory Board FY20 Budget Preview**

Executive Director, Joe Favaloro, reviewed a draft of the FY20 Advisory Board budget. The draft budget requests \$586,373, which is a 1.4% increase from FY19. This draft budget includes a summer intern, new memberships in industry organizations, and the next level of enhancements for the Advisory Board website. A more intricate preview of the budget will be available next month.

E. **Community Meeting Update**

Advisory Board staff, in addition to Fred Laskey and Sean Navin, have continued to visit communities to meet with municipal CEOs and community stakeholders. Nine community visits have been completed so far with more scheduled down the road. These meetings have prompted communities with no active representation at Advisory Board meetings to identify and appoint designees.

F. **Workshop Update**

With the lack of progress in the implementation of a federal infrastructure bill, the upcoming Advisory Board infrastructure conference will be postponed. The conference was designed to be an aid for communities on accessing and utilizing available infrastructure resources. With the anticipated federal resources still not available, it makes sense to delay the conference.

G. **MWRA Budget Review**

Finance and Policy Director, Travis Ahern, explained that Advisory Board staff is nearly through budget briefings with MWRA staff. Staff are still reviewing both the CEB and CIP and will have findings and updates available later.

H. **Approval of the Advisory Board Meeting Agenda for March 21, 2019**

A motion was made and seconded to approve the agenda of the Advisory Board meeting for March 21, 2019. The motion carried and the agenda was approved.

I. **Adjournment**

A motion was made **TO ADJOURN THE MEETING AT 10:05 A.M.**

Respectfully submitted,

Michael W. Rademacher, Secretary

These minutes reflect the discussion of the meeting. The Advisory Board maintains audio recordings of Executive Committee meetings that are available upon request.