Governor Baker Includes DSA in House 1

Debt Service Assistance for Communities

As part of House 1 (FY20 State Budget), Governor Baker has included $1.1 million in the Sewer Rate Relief Fund (line item 1231-1000). Last year, the Governor included $500,000 in his FY19 budget and did not veto the $1.1 million included in the final House and Senate version. We will work with all branches of government to ensure that DSA remains a piece of the FY20 State Budget.

Thank you, Governor Baker, for keeping the DSA line item alive. Any debt service assistance received directly reduces community assessments.

MWRA Updates Master Plan

Long-Term Outlook for the Authority

MWRA updates its water and wastewater Master Plan every five years to reflect changing water and wastewater needs, updated asset conditions, evolving regulatory requirements, required climate change adaptations, and the need to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions, among other parameters. The Authority has identified $3.2 billion in wastewater needs and $2.6 billion in water needs, as described in its presentation to the Advisory Board.
To complete the picture, Advisory Board staff will be contacting communities to ascertain local needs for community water and wastewater systems. Our goal is to develop an MWRA area-wide estimate for infrastructure needs as we move towards this year’s workshop: Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Financing.

For this workshop, we will be reaching out to local, state, and federal leaders in business, government, and environmental advocacy groups. Our aim is to provide a variety of perspectives on making the most of financing strategies. We want to make these resources more available to our communities as they plan for the future. Remember to save the date for June 21!

Thank You for Your Service

Wishing Cornelia Well

Since 1985, Cornelia Potter has been a vital member of the Advisory Board staff. Her contributions to our communities have been immense. Cornelia’s input actively reshaped MWRA’s CSO plan, as well as many projects on Deer Island, including the number of digesters. Her analysis saved ratepayers hundreds of millions of dollars.

As Cornelia has moved on from Advisory Board staff, her next chapter will allow her more time with her husband, daughters, and most especially her three grandchildren. We all owe a debt of gratitude to Cornelia and wish her the very
best. From the whole Advisory Board, our Executive Committee, and present and former staff, thank you and enjoy!

New Green Sheet Video

FY19 Quarter 2 in Review

Check out our latest video going over Q2 spending at the MWRA for FY19.

Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

Revised Approach to BOD Minutes

As a part of our revised approached to Board of Directors meeting minutes, the Advisory Board will be providing a summary voting sheet that includes links to pertinent staff presentations. The January summary can be found here.

We will also use a section of News and Notes to highlight issues of particular interest discussed at the Board meetings. At the January meeting, Steve Estes-
Smargiassi, MWRA Director of Planning and Sustainability, went over 2018 water use trends and reservoir status. He outlined that both the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs have reached 100% capacity and have been spilling over - 18.3 billion gallons spilled at Quabbin since October 12 and 17.3 billion gallons spilled at Wachusett since that date. As of today, MWRA is spilling 181 million gallons per day (MGD).

Clearly, 2018 was an extremely wet year, and so far the trend has continued into 2019. Some things to note:

- Water consumption for calendar year 2018 by MWRA communities was 186.8 MGD, 2.1% higher than 2017
- Maximal day demand was 297.5 million gallons on July 10
- Lowest day demand was 146.5 million gallons on December 25 (a record low day since the creation of the MWRA)

What’s the Advisory Board’s take? There has to be a better solution. Wet weather has left the MWRA with no other option than to release an average of 181 MGD down the Connecticut and Nashua rivers. This means that at MWRA’s wholesale rate, $3963 per million gallons, there’s a whole lot of potential revenue floating down the river.

Maybe it’s time to convene a meeting of all potential stakeholders: MWRA, the Advisory Board, MWRA water communities, state groups (Economic Affairs, EOEEA, DEP, DCR), watershed advocates, and potential water users. Wouldn’t it be worth seeing if we could collectively find a better solution? The Advisory Board believes this is worth pursuing.
Upcoming Events

*For the Month of* February

**February 15** | 8:30 AM, [Executive Committee Meeting](#) at Advisory Board offices

**February 18** | Presidents Day (office closed)

**February 20** | 10:00 AM, [MWRA Board of Directors Meeting](#) at MWRA Board Room

**February 21** | 11:30 AM, [Advisory Board Meeting](#) in Needham

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**Go Pats!! Beat LA!**

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