



Advocacy & Accountability

Representing Over 3 Million People in Massachusetts Communities Since 1985

Friday, February 11, 2022

Remote Connection via Zoom

10:00 AM

Attendees

Michael Rademacher	Arlington	Lou Taverna	Newton
David Manugian	Bedford	Brendan O'Regan	Saugus
John Sullivan	Boston	Richard Raiche	Somerville
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Sam Stivers	Southborough
John Sanchez	Burlington	John DeAmicis	Stoneham
Lou Mammolette	Chelsea	Joseph Foti	MWRA Board of Directors
David Pavlik	Lexington	Andrew Pappastergion	MWRA Board of Directors
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Joe Favaloro	Advisory Board Staff
Yem Lip	Malden	Matthew Romero	Advisory Board Staff
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	James Guidod	Advisory Board Staff

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING SUMMARY

A. Opening Roll Call

A commencing roll call was voted as follows:

Name	Community	Vote
Michael Rademacher	Arlington	Yes
David Manugian	Bedford	Yes
John P. Sullivan, Jr.	Boston	Yes
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Yes
John G. Sanchez	Burlington	Yes
Sam Corda	Cambridge	
Lou Mammolette	Chelsea	Yes
David Pavlik	Lexington	Yes
Yem Lip	Malden	(arrived after roll vote)
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Yes
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	Yes
Jeremy Marsette	Natick	
Lou Taverna	Newton	Yes
Nicholas J. Rystrom	Revere	Yes
Brendan O'Regan	Saugus	(arrived after roll vote)
Richard Raiche	Somerville	Yes
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Yes
John P. DeAmicis	Stoneham	Yes

B. Approval of Executive Committee Meeting minutes from January 14, 2022

Maurice Handel moved for the approval of the drafted January 14, 2022 Executive Committee minutes. David Manugian seconded the motion and it was added to the omnibus roll call vote for the end of the meeting.



Advocacy & Accountability

Representing Over 3 Million People in Massachusetts Communities Since 1985

C. Report of the Executive Director

Executive Director, Joe Favaloro, explained that former MWRA Advisory Board Chair, Katherine Dunphy passed away. Mr. Favaloro and Chairman, Lou Taverna, reflected on her great service to the Advisory Board. Service details will be shared as soon as they are available.

D. Preliminary FY23 Community Assessments

Executive Director, Joe Favaloro, noted that the Preliminary FY23 Community Assessments were anticipated to be transmitted by the MWRA Board of Directors on February 16. There is a combined retail rate requirement adjustment of 3.42% (3.93% water and 3.14% sewer).

E. Regionalization/Entrance Fee Discussion

Chairman, Lou Taverna, began the conversation by stressing the importance of Executive Committee members reviewing the available information and weighing all the pros and cons before making any decisions.

Executive Director, Joe Favaloro, reminded members that the requested materials from the January Executive Committee Meeting were now available in the Executive Committee Dropbox Folder online. The materials include:

- reporting on operational costs associated with the MWRA selling more water
- the methodologies for calculating the water and sewer entrance fees
- reporting on entrance fee costs if the pay-off period was extended to 40- or 50-year time frames

Staff briefly reviewed these materials.

Mr. Favaloro noted that staff recently met with MWRA legal counsel and bond counsel to discuss any possible concerns that could arise from changes to the entrance fee policies with respect to the Authority's Enabling Act and Bond Resolution. It was determined that "The Authority could determine that in light of these circumstances (and possibly others), it is an appropriate time to revisit its admission policy." Additionally, that "The Authority should consider clearly setting forth the reasons for the changes, and the changes should apply to all potential entrants equally (unless there is a reasonable basis for creating different classifications of entrants). If the Authority were to conclude that it benefitted all Local Bodies (both existing and new) to change the policy, it should consider having a sound economic model that supports this conclusion."



Advocacy & Accountability

Representing Over 3 Million People in Massachusetts Communities Since 1985

Brendan O'Regan asked for a breakdown of revenue related to increased water use from system expansion in comparison to revenue from entrance fees. Using an example of a new community entering the system with a water use of 1 MGD, staff explained that the MWRA would receive an annual revenue of approximately \$1.6 million dollars regularly from water use and approximately \$196 thousand a year from entrance fees (for a 25-year period). Maurice Handel noted that with the removal of an entry fee could be the removal of a barrier for some communities contemplating joining the MWRA, which would yield the previously discussed water use revenue. Mr. Favaloro noted that in the late stages of deciding whether to join the MWRA, North Reading decided that the entrance fee costs were not worth the value of entering the system. Mr. Handel continued that removal of the entrance fee had a collective benefit for all communities and the region as well.

John Sullivan asked how the Authority would address communities that have already paid an entrance fee or are in the process of paying an entrance fee. Maurice Handel suggested that those costs had already been assumed and budgeted. Elena Proakis Ellis asked if there were any communities paying entrance fees. Staff noted that Ashland is in the process of paying entrance fees and that Burlington will soon begin entrance fee payments as well. Bedford, Dedham-Westwood Water District, Stoughton, Reading, and Wilmington have paid of entrance fees already.

John Sullivan noted that there was a potential fairness issue if a community were to enter the system without an entrance fee. He noted that there would be an environmental justice issue, as well, if a prospective community had the means to pay the entrance fee but was unwilling to do so.

Noting that that the MWRA believes it has a capacity of approximately 50 MGD of water for system expansion, Brendan O'Regan suggested that there should be an upper limit restraint included in any system expansion policy changes.

John Sullivan raised the idea of bringing the entrance fee discussion to the full Advisory Board, without the Executive Committee voting on it, and let additional communities be a part of the conversation before any decisions are made. Maurice Handel explained that he thought that after all the time the Executive Committee has put towards the topic, it would be irresponsible for it to go to the full Advisory Board without an Executive Committee recommendation. Lou Mammolette noted that all the community opinions, beyond the Executive Committee, matter and should be heard. David Manigian echoed Mr. Mammolette's remarks noting that he believed the topic could move to the full Advisory Board without a recommendation. Richard Raiche noted that while the topic could indeed go forward without a recommendation, it would waste the time and efforts already put forward by the Executive Committee.



Advocacy & Accountability

Representing Over 3 Million People in Massachusetts Communities Since 1985

Brendan O'Regan moved for the regionalization/entrance fee topic to be moved the full Advisory Board for discussion, without a recommendation from the Executive Committee. David Manugian seconded the motion.

David Manugian asked the that a pros/cons list be developed for the Advisory Board. Moe Handel explained that he believed any progress on this topic would fail without a recommendation. Elena Proakis Ellis noted that it would be helpful for the Advisory Board to know where the Executive Committee stands, even if support was not unanimous. Richard Raiche added that without a recommendation, the process could unnecessarily be dragged out. John Sullivan suggested that the Executive Committee vote on the proposed motion and that an adjusted motion could be made if it is voted down. Mr. Handel added that he believed to discuss the topic and send it in a circular process would not be helpful.

A roll call vote for the motion was voted as follows:

Name	Community	Vote
Michael Rademacher	Arlington	No
David Manugian	Bedford	Yes
John P. Sullivan, Jr.	Boston	Yes
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Yes
John G. Sanchez	Burlington	No
Sam Corda	Cambridge	
Lou Mammolette	Chelsea	Yes
David Pavlik	Lexington	Yes
Yem Lip	Malden	No
Maurice Handel	MAPC	No
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	No
Jeremy Marsette	Natick	
Lou Taverna	Newton	No
Nicholas J. Rystrom	Revere	No
Brendan O'Regan	Saugus	Yes
Richard Raiche	Somerville	No
Sam Stivers	Southborough	No
John P. DeAmicis	Stoneham	No

With 6 yes-votes and 10 no-votes, the motion failed.



Advocacy & Accountability

Representing Over 3 Million People in Massachusetts Communities Since 1985

Richard Raiche moved for the regionalization/entrance fee topic to be moved to the full Advisory Board for discussion, with a recommendation from the Executive Committee to endorse the removal of the entrance fee as drafted in the meeting packet. Maurice Handel seconded the motion.

Brendan O’Regan asked if capacity restrictions should be added to the language. Staff noted that such restrictions would be covered under the MWRA safe-yield policies and would include these in future documents and discussion. Mr. O’Regan added that to participate in decisions related to revenue loss, he would need approval from his Town Manager and possible his Water Commissioner as well (which would require a town meeting vote). He noted that should this topic be voted on by the full Advisory Board, that Advisory Board members should confirm they have the authority to vote on it. Andrew Pappastergion noted that there was no indication that current revenue would be lost from system expansion without entrance fees since it was not actually guaranteed revenue. Mr. O’Regan noted that if a community were to come in and not have an entrance fee to pay, the MWRA would not receive the entrance fee revenue. Maurice Handel suggested that without the entrance fee being waived, there may be no new community at all.

A roll call vote for the motion was voted as follows:

Name	Community	Vote
Michael Rademacher	Arlington	Yes
David Manugian	Bedford	Yes
John P. Sullivan, Jr.	Boston	No
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Yes
John G. Sanchez	Burlington	Yes
Sam Corda	Cambridge	
Lou Mammolette	Chelsea	No
David Pavlik	Lexington	No
Yem Lip	Malden	Yes
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Yes
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	Yes
Jeremy Marsette	Natick	
Lou Taverna	Newton	Yes
Nicholas J. Rystrom	Revere	No
Brendan O’Regan	Saugus	No
Richard Raiche	Somerville	Yes
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Yes
John P. DeAmicis	Stoneham	Yes

With 11 yes-votes and 5 no-votes, the motion passed.

F. Approval of February 17, 2022 Advisory Board Meeting Agenda

David Manugian moved for the approval of the proposed February 17, 2022 Advisory Board Meeting Agenda. John DeAmicis seconded the motion, and it was added to the omnibus roll call vote for the end of the meeting.



Advocacy & Accountability

Representing Over 3 Million People in Massachusetts Communities Since 1985

G. Approvals and Adjournment

John DeAmicis moved for the adjournment of the meeting following the omnibus roll call vote. David Manugian seconded the motion.

A roll call vote for:

- Approval of Executive Committee Meeting minutes from January 14, 2022
- Approval of February 17, 2022 Advisory Board Meeting Agenda
- Meeting Adjournment

was made and was voted as follows:

Name	Community	Vote
Michael Rademacher	Arlington	Yes
David Manugian	Bedford	Yes
John P. Sullivan, Jr.	Boston	Yes
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Yes
John G. Sanchez	Burlington	Yes
Sam Corda	Cambridge	
Lou Mammolette	Chelsea	Yes
David Pavlik	Lexington	Yes
Yem Lip	Malden	Yes
Maurice Handel	MAPC	
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	Yes
Jeremy Marsette	Natick	
Lou Taverna	Newton	Yes
Nicholas J. Rystrom	Revere	Yes
Brendan O'Regan	Saugus	Yes
Richard Raiche	Somerville	Yes
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Yes
John P. DeAmicis	Stoneham	Yes

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.