



News & Notes

A Publication of the
MWRA Advisory Board

May 2019

Welcome, Secretary Theoharides!

New Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs

The Advisory Board is pleased to welcome Secretary Katie Theoharides into her new role, as she presided over her first MWRA Board of Directors meeting on May 29, 2019. We had the pleasure of working with Secretary Theoharides last year when she presented on the [Commonwealth's](#)

[climate change initiatives](#) at our [Climate Change Forum](#). As the former Assistant Secretary of Climate change, Secretary Theoharides brings a wealth of experience to the position, having also worked as an environmental and climate change consultant. During the May 29th meeting, she emphasized the importance of investing in mitigation measures and resiliency, including addressing water and wastewater infrastructure needs. We look forward to working with the Secretary on these important issues for our communities.



Joe Foti Reelected

*Representing Advisory Board Communities on the
MWRA Board of Directors*



Joseph Foti was unanimously reelected to serve a 7th term as an Advisory Board representative on the MWRA Board of Directors. Joe's term runs from July 1, 2019, to June 30, 2022. He said to the Advisory Board, "For the past 18 years, I have worked alongside John Carroll and Andy Pappastergion to make every effort to strengthen the Advisory Board's presence at the Board of Directors. With the support of Advisory Board staff, and the guidance of membership, we have been vigorous in representing the member communities on both financial and operational issues. During my tenure, the Board has encountered many complex issues; however, working together, we've been effective in reaching amenable resolutions. It has been a privilege to serve not only as your representative to the Board of Directors, but also as an Advisory Board member since 1990. I am proud of our accomplishments and look forward to continued success in the future. With the endorsement of the Advisory Board I will continue to work with my colleagues to provide all member communities with the best possible representation."

The Advisory Board thanks Joe for his service and looks forward to working with him over the next three years.



In case you missed
it, you can find our
Integrated



FY 2020

**Dunphy Sheet,
Comments & Recommendations, and
Policy Section**

on the MWRA's Proposed
Capital Improvement Program
and
Current Expense Budget

Comments and
Recommendations
on the MWRA's
Proposed FY20 CIP
and CEB [here](#).



Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

Budget Hearing

Preceding the regular [MWRA Board of Directors meeting](#), the hearing amongst the MWRA staff, Advisory Board staff, and the MWRA Board of Directors on the FY20 CIP and CEB took place.



Both sides made presentations to the Board, and Advisory Board staff [outlined their recommendations](#) to shave the FY20 Rate Revenue Requirement from the 3.74% increase proposed by the Authority, to a more modest 3.15% increase (as was voted by the full Advisory Board membership on May 16, 2019, at the Canton Public Library).

Major recommendations (see Appendix C, page A-3 of [our document](#)) included: (1) **a reduction to Salaries & Wages of \$950,000** due to the vacancy rate that the Authority manages each year under their goal of 1,150 FTE (outside of the Tunnel Redundancy group), and; (2) **a reduction to the Watershed Division budget of \$500,000** due to a recent personnel study that recommended the Division lower its FTE goal from 157.5 to 150.0 (the most recent headcount was at 134 FTE at end of March 2019).

Authority staff agreed with the Advisory Board's recommendation of 3.15% and [presented a different way](#) to get to that end result. This recommendation used Capital Financing and other means to get to 3.15%, but they did not significantly reduce the Salaries & Wages line of the Authority and made minor adjustments to the Watershed Division budget in relation to the personnel study and historical spending.

MWRA Board members will deliberate over the coming weeks to determine what the final Rate Revenue Requirement for FY20 will be, but **at this point, the increase for FY20 will be no greater than 3.15%. The Board next meets on June 19th.**



**MWRA Board of Directors Meeting
May 29, 2019
Voting Summary Sheet**

Item Name	Type	Notes	Vote	Presentation
Approval of Minutes	YES		Unanimous	
Report of the Chair	YES		Unanimous	
Report of the Executive Director	YES		Unanimous	
Executive Committee's Recommendation and Recommendations on the MWRA's Proposed FY2009 CAP				Executive Committee
MWRA's FY2009 Draft Final Budget Meeting Presentation				Executive Committee
PCA Amendment - May 2019	Approval	Approved the amendments to the Pollution Control Agency, as presented and filed with the records of the MWRA.	Unanimous	
Appointment of Deputy Contracts Manager, Administration	Approval	The Board voted to appoint the position of Deputy Contracts Manager, Administration Division, to a term of 12 months, commencing on a date to be determined by the Executive Director.	Unanimous	
Appointment of Program Manager, Engineering and Construction	Approval	The Board voted to appoint the position of Program Manager, Engineering & Construction Division, to a term of 12 months, commencing on a date to be determined by the Executive Director.	Unanimous	
Board Delegation of Future Debt Service	Approval	The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute, amend, and enter into any agreement and other documents and to take such other action necessary to effectuate the delegation and performance of an agreement or agreement of the MWRA of financing.	Unanimous	
Admission of Consent Rider to the MWRA Sewer System	Approval	The Board voted to approve the admission of the Consent Rider to the Sewer System, to the MWRA sewerage system to discharge into the sewerage system of the City of Needham Heights, to be effective on the date of the Board's vote.	Unanimous	
MWRA FY 2019 Insurance Program Renewal	Contract Award	The Board voted to approve the renewal of the MWRA's FY 2019 Insurance Program, and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute the contract for the renewal of the Insurance Program, to be effective on the date of the Board's vote, resulting in a total program renewal cost of \$1,000,000.	Unanimous	
Watershed Advisory Committee Contract	Contract Award	The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute a contract, substantially in the form attached hereto, with the Watershed Advisory Committee for a term of one year for a total contract cost of \$10,000.00.	Unanimous	
Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee Contract	Contract Award	The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute a contract, substantially in the form attached hereto, with the Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee for a term of one year for a total contract cost of \$10,000.00.	Unanimous	
Flow Testing Services for MWRA's Regional Water Meters	Contract Award	The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute a contract, substantially in the form attached hereto, with the Flow Testing Services, Inc., for a term of one year for a total contract cost of \$10,000.00.	Unanimous	
Legal and Technical Services for the MWRA's Regional Water Meters	Contract Award	The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute a contract, substantially in the form attached hereto, with the Legal and Technical Services, Inc., for a term of one year for a total contract cost of \$10,000.00.	Unanimous	

Fill the full Board of Directors voting summary from the May 29th meeting [here](#).



Upcoming Events

For the Month of [June](#)

- June 4** | 10:00 AM - Water Supply Protection Trust Meeting in Southborough
- June 14** | 10:00 AM - [Executive Committee Meeting](#) at Advisory Board offices
- June 19** | 10:00 AM - [MWRA Board of Directors Meeting](#) in MWRA Board Room
- June 20** | 11:30 AM - [Advisory Board Meeting](#) in Needham



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