



Advocacy & Accountability

Representing over 3 million people in Massachusetts since 1985

Thursday November 16, 2023
Remote Connection Via Zoom
10:00 AM

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

A. Roll call attendance

A commencing roll call was voted as follows:

Name	Community	Vote
Michael Rademacher	Arlington	Here (remote)
David Manugian	Bedford	Here (remote)
John P. Sullivan, Jr.	Boston	Here (remote)
John G. Sanchez	Burlington	Here (remote)
Julie Greenwood-Torelli	Cambridge	Here (remote)
Cate Fox-Lent	Chelsea	Here (remote)
Yem Lip	Malden	Here (remote)
Amy McHugh	Marblehead	Here (remote)
Timothy McGivern	Medford	Here (remote)
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	Here (remote)
	Milton	Here (remote)
John Terry	Needham	Here (remote)
Lou Taverna	Newton	Here (remote)

Name	Community	Vote
Mark Ryan	Norwood	Here (remote)
Paul Della Barba	Quincy	Here (remote)
Chris Cole	Reading	Here (remote)
Richard Raiche	Somerville	Here (remote)
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Here (remote)
John P. DeAmicis	Stoneham	Here (remote)
Eric Sherman	Wakefield	Here (remote)
Patrick Fasanello	Walpole	Here (remote)
David Cohen	Wellesley	Here (remote)
Robert Rafferty	Westwood	Here (remote)
Joseph Lobao	Wilmington	Here (remote)
J.R. Greene	Quabbin and Ware Watershed	Here (remote)
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Here (remote)

B. Executive Director's Update, by Matthew Romero

Nathan Coté is a Master's in Public Policy candidate from Northeastern University that will be joining the AB as a 35-hour per week full-time staff co-op position starting January 2, 2024. We will be conducting interviews for the full-time analyst position and hope to have this filled in December or January. Public meetings attended: (1) Commonwealth's Forestry Management Plan. Matt had attended a previous session where he had submitted written comments on behalf of AB emphasizing unique needs of watershed forestry and forestry management programs as compared to other forests in the Commonwealth. (2) Public meeting on updated CSO long-term control plans held by MWRA, City of Cambridge, and City of Somerville. At this meeting, Matt commented on the need to balance costs with the benefits of CSO upgrade program. Legislative updates: Matt submitted written testimony on legislation that would call for MWRA to eliminate all CSOs by 2025, where comments were like testimony mentioned above at public meeting. Testimony was also submitted on the WIPPES bill which is trying to better label packaging of personal hygiene wipes to better educate consumers on what is flushable and what is not. Lastly, there was a successful override of the Governor's veto of debt service assistance.



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Matthew A. Romero
Executive Director



Move into Executive Session

C. Executive Session (potential litigation)

Purpose is to discuss possible litigation related to Deer Island NPDES Permit Comments. A vote was taken during Executive Session to endorse the comments on the draft Deer Island NPDES permit drafted by the AB's outside counsel. Communities are encouraged to submit comments before the deadline on November 28th, 2023.

D. Presentation – MWRA Energy and Sustainability Program Overview – Kristen Patneau, MWRA Manager, Energy

Kristen Patneau, MWRA Manager, Energy, gave a presentation on the Authority's commitment to energy saving initiatives with attention to fiscal responsibility and environmental protection. The presentation was intended to give MWRA staff's insight into these programs and initiatives. The MWRA has worked to meet or exceed the goals of Massachusetts's Executive Orders aimed at decarbonization efforts. These State guidelines provide the MWRA with tangible targets for benchmarking and evaluating program success.

The MWRA consumed 67% of its generated renewable energy in FY22, exporting the rest to the grid. These generation assets save the MWRA almost \$8 million in avoided electricity costs each year. These renewable assets include hydropower, wind turbines, and solar panels at sites across the State. The presentation gave an update on various assets that fall under these categories, such as those in operation, repair, or in planning stages.

Reducing overall energy use by increasing efficiency continues to be the most cost-effective strategy for cost savings and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions reductions. Over 60 energy audits have been completed, estimating an annual savings of over 25 million kilowatt hours or \$2.5 million annually. These include installation of variable frequency drives, energy efficient lighting, more efficient heating and cooling systems, among other customized applications including process changes, e.g. turning off soda ash mixers. The MWRA has also shifted toward electrification, such as installing geothermal, air, and water source heat pumps at various pump stations, as well as procuring electric vehicles and carts as financial incentives help reduce costs. The electric vehicle procurement is an attempt at meeting the Commonwealth's goal of 100% zero emission vehicles by 2050. The installation and planning of additional electric vehicle chargers across major facilities is also taking place, and staff are working with Eversource and National Grid's EV Make Ready programs, as well as the State's incentive programs. The MWRA is also looking at battery storage systems through no upfront cost pilot programs.

The MWRA has also been tracking its GHG emissions to identify major sources and reveal trends with the aim of reducing emissions when opportunity arises. The MWRA looks at the social costs of carbon in project evaluations to incorporate GHGs into capital planning. All these initiatives require capital investments and so it is important to pursue grants, rebates, and other incentives to reduce budget impacts.

E. New business: PFAS Settlement (by Carolyn Francisco Murphy, MWRA's General Counsel, and Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Director of Planning and Sustainability at MWRA)

Two separate nationwide proposed PFAS settlements, one with 3M and one with several DuPont-related companies, were discussed. Public water systems, including MWRA's member communities, will be a party





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to those two settlements unless they affirmatively opt out of the settlements by the deadline for doing so. Any member communities that do not opt out will be bound by the settlement terms, including the releases given by 3M and the DuPont related companies if or when the settlements are approved by the court. Each member community's legal counsel has access to information on the PFAS water settlement websites, as well as the court docket. Each member-community should consult its legal counsel and decide what's in its best interest. The MWRA advises that based on the current terms of each of the settlements, MWRA will be opting out. MWRA considered the release that it would be required to give 3M and the DuPont entities and other significant equitable considerations including the uncertainty on the amount of any settlement payment to the MWRA and its member communities in making that decision.

The settlement documents include detailed allocation procedures. The formula for recovery is based on a community's water usage and PFAS score. For information on flow rate, reach out to Steve Estes-Smargiassi. This data can be plugged into the "estimated allocation range tables." There are two different phases and most of our communities have been identified in phase 2 by the 3M settlement. This means that you would only be able to recover your testing costs, a relatively small amount. The MWRA has been identified in a motion in the 3M settlement as a phase 1 system, which we think is correct. If a member community is not opting out, you should discuss with your counsel the timely filing of what's called a Notice of Error in the 3M settlement so that you can request a change of designation from Phase 2 to Phase 1.

If a community takes no action, realize that you have made a major substantive decision and are giving up future decision process to opt out. Former State Representative Hank Naughton is offering a free webinar on this issue to hear perspectives and answer questions. It's a free resource to look at.

F. Omnibus roll call vote

No votes taken.

G. Adjournment

Bedford moved for the adjournment of the meeting following the omnibus roll call vote. Rich Raiche seconded the motion.

A roll call for:

- Meeting Adjournment

was voted as follows:





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Julie Greenwood-Torelli	Cambridge	Yes
Cate Fox-Lent	Chelsea	Yes
Yem Lip	Malden	Yes
Amy McHugh	Marblehead	Yes
Timothy McGivern	Medford	Yes
Elena Proakis Ellis	Melrose	Yes
	Milton	Yes
John Terry	Needham	Yes
Lou Taverna	Newton	Yes

Name	Community	Vote
Mark Ryan	Norwood	Yes
Paul Della Barba	Quincy	Yes
Chris Cole	Reading	Yes
Richard Raiche	Somerville	Yes
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Yes
John P. DeAmicis	Stoneham	Yes
Eric Sherman	Wakefield	Yes
Patrick Fasanello	Walpole	Yes
David Cohen	Wellesley	Yes
Robert Rafferty	Westwood	Yes
Joseph Lobao	Wilmington	Yes
J.R. Greene	Quabbin and Ware Watershed	Yes
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Yes

Respectfully submitted,

Rich Raiche, Secretary

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



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Matthew A. Romero
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