



Advisory Board Meeting

Thursday, April 21, 2022
10:00 am

Online Remote Meeting via Zoom

**MWRA ADVISORY BOARD MEETING
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022
ONLINE REMOTE MEETING VIA ZOOM**

Draft Meeting Summary

A. Welcome

Advisory Board Chairman, Lou Taverna, opened the meeting at 10:00 AM and welcomed all attendees. He noted the virtual meeting would be recorded. An opening roll call vote was had and voted as follows:

COMMUNITY	VOTE	APPOINTEE/ORGANIZATION	VOTE
ARLINGTON		<i>Quabbin and Ware Watershed</i>	
ASHLAND		<i>Wachusett Watershed</i>	
BEDFORD	Yes	<i>Connecticut River Basin</i>	
BELMONT		MAPC	Yes
BOSTON	Yes		
BRAINTREE			
BROOKLINE			
BURLINGTON	Yes		
CAMBRIDGE			
CANTON			
CHELSEA			
CHICOPEE			
CLINTON			
DEDHAM			
EVERETT			
FRAMINGHAM	Yes		
HINGHAM			
HOLBROOK			
LEOMINSTER			
LEXINGTON	Yes		
LYNN			
LYNNFIELD	Yes		
MALDEN			
MARBLEHEAD	Yes		
MARLBOROUGH			
MEDFORD	Yes		
MELROSE	Yes		
MILTON			
NAHANT			
NATICK			
NEEDHAM			
NEWTON	Yes		
NORTHBOROUGH			
NORWOOD			
PEABODY			
QUINCY			
RANDOLPH			
READING			
REVERE			
SAUGUS			
SOMERVILLE			
SOUTH HADLEY			
SOUTHBOROUGH	Yes		
STONEHAM	Yes		
STOUGHTON	Yes		
SWAMPSCOTT			
WAKEFIELD			
WALPOLE	Yes		

WALTHAM	
WATERTOWN	
WELLESLEY	Yes
WESTON	
WESTWOOD	
WEYMOUTH	
WILBRAHAM	
WILMINGTON	Yes
WINCHESTER	
WINTHROP	
WOBURN	
WORCESTER	

B. Approval of Advisory Board Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2022

David Manugian moved for the approval of the Advisory Board Meeting Minutes from March 17, 2022. Maurice Handel seconded the motion and it was added to the omnibus roll call vote for the end of the meeting.

C. Report of the Executive Director

Executive Director, Joe Favaloro, noted that next month's meeting will include the election of an Advisory Board representative to the MWRA Board of Directors. Those interested in running should submit their letters of intent and resumes before the May 2022 Executive Committee meeting. He went on to note that the May Advisory Board meeting will also include a Lead and Copper Forum with Training Contact Hours.

D. Preview of Advisory Board's Comments & Recommendations on the MWRA's Proposed FY23 CEB and CIP

Director of Finance, James Guidod, gave a presentation previewing the Advisory Board's developing Comments & Recommendations on the MWRA's proposed FY23 Capital Improvement Program and Current Expense Budget. Staff anticipate the Advisory Board's recommended combined rate increase for FY23 will be in the range of 2.85% to 2.95%. Influences on this year's budget review process include the MWRA personnel vacancy rate, use of rate stabilization on the water utility rate, and the nearing 2030 MWRA pension full funding date. The presentation slides are available on the meeting event page [at this link](#).

E. Proposed Language for Modifications to MWRA Policy # OP.10 - Waiver of the Entrance Fee

Executive Director, Joe Favaloro, summated the discussion and action regarding a waiver to the MWRA entrance fee. He noted that staff assembled a pros/cons summary of adjusting the MWRA entrance fee policy using Executive Committee feedback. This sheet was packaged with other materials on the topic and formatted for the full Advisory Board to review. The presentation slides and packet of materials are available on the meeting event page [at this link](#). The meeting was opened to questions and comments.

Prior to the meeting, Chris Cole of Reading submitted a statement noting that Reading might support this initiative only if the MWRA were to give a benefit to those communities that have already had to pay an entrance fee. The statement noted that completely waiving the entrance fee for new

communities would not be fair and equitable for communities where ratepayers are already paying hefty water rates due to the community still paying off their entrance fee through debt payments, etc.

Susan Herman of Stoughton noted that the policy change appears unfair to water communities who have paid entrance fees over the prior years. She suggested adjusting the analysis in the presentation to reflect the entrance fees paid by communities already.

F. Draft Advisory Board FY23 Operating Budget

Executive Director, Joe Favaloro, gave updates on progress of the Advisory Board's Draft FY23 Operating Budget. He anticipated that the proposed budget would be \$599,470, a 0.7% increase from the approved FY22 budget. The budget will be voted on in May.

G. Updates on Regulatory Matters

- NPDES Permit – Clinton & Deer Island: Deputy Executive Director, Matthew Romero, noted that the Advisory Board has drafted comments on the new Clinton permit in coordination with the MWRA. The Advisory Board remains committed against the inclusion of any co-permittee language in the Clinton and Deer Island permits. Advisory Board staff have also reached out to prospective law firms for proposals in case the Advisory Board were to challenge either of the permits.
- CLF Lawsuit – Executive Director, Joe Favaloro, noted that the MWRA and CLF have been in discussion regarding CLF's intent to file suit with respect to MWRA pre-treatment. The outcome of these discussions should be known soon.
- CSO Program - Executive Director, Joe Favaloro, discussed the strong advocacy coming forward regarding discharges in the Alewife Brook and Charles River. He emphasized the minimal impact of the MWRA CSO Program with respect to the problems being flagged by environmental advocacy groups. He went on to note that the Advisory Board will continue to advocate for solutions based on sound science.

H. Committee Reports

Finance Committee – Elena Proakis Ellis

Finance Chair, Elena Proakis Ellis, noted that the Finance Committee met on March 30 and received a briefing from MWRA staff. She thanks the MWRA for their thorough analysis and time.

Operations Committee – John Sanchez

Operations Chair, John Sanchez, summated the April 12 Operations Committee meeting.

Based on the recommendation from the Operations Committee, the following motions were made by John Sanchez:

- *That the Advisory Board recommends that the MWRA authorize and fund Phase 14 of the Inflow/Infiltration Community Assistance Program at the same level and with the same criteria and guidelines as Phase 12 of the Inflow/Infiltration Community Assistance Program.*

- That the Advisory Board recommends that the MWRA designate that the loan-only Phase 13 of the Inflow/Infiltration Community Assistance Program is optional for communities and does not need to be used before accessing funding from future phases of the I/I program.
- That the Advisory Board recommends that the MWRA extend Phase 2 of the Local Water System Assistance Program two years from FY23 to FY25.

The motions were seconded by David Manugian.

I. ACTION ITEM: Omnibus Motion/Adjournment

A motion was made by Maurice Handel for:

- *Approval of Advisory Board meeting minutes from March 17, 2022*
- *Authorization of Phase 14 of the I/I Community Assistance Program*
- *Clarification on Phase 13 of the I/I Community Assistance Program*
- *Extension of Phase 2 of the Local Water System Assistance Program to FY25*
- *Meeting adjournment*

The motion was seconded by David Manugian.

A rollcall of all voting Advisory Board communities and organizations was held weighted by community share of the MWRA system (organizations having a share 0.5% each). The rollcall results were as follows:

COMMUNITY	VOTE	APPOINTEE/ORGANIZATION	VOTE
ARLINGTON		Quabbin and Ware Watershed	
ASHLAND		Wachusett Watershed	
BEDFORD	Yes	Connecticut River Basin	
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BRAINTREE			
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CAMBRIDGE			
CANTON			
CHELSEA			
CHICOPEE			
CLINTON			
DEDHAM			
EVERETT			
FRAMINGHAM	Yes		
HINGHAM			
HOLBROOK			
LEOMINSTER			
LEXINGTON	Yes		
LYNN			
LYNNFIELD	Yes		
MALDEN			
MARBLEHEAD	Yes		
MARLBOROUGH			
MEDFORD	Yes		
MELROSE	Yes		
MILTON			
NAHANT			
NATICK			
NEEDHAM			
NEWTON	Yes		
NORTHBOROUGH			
NORWOOD			
PEABODY			

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RANDOLPH	
READING	
REVERE	
SAUGUS	
SOMERVILLE	
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SOUTHBOROUGH	Yes
STONEHAM	Yes
STOUGHTON	Yes
SWAMPSCOTT	
WAKEFIELD	
WALPOLE	Yes
WALTHAM	
WATERTOWN	
WELLESLEY	Yes
WESTON	
WESTWOOD	
WEYMOUTH	
WILBRAHAM	
WILMINGTON	Yes
WINCHESTER	
WINTHROP	
WOBURN	
WORCESTER	

Respectfully submitted,



Michael Rademacher, Secretary

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