



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<u>Title</u>	<u>PDF Page #</u>
Advisory Board agenda	2
Proposed bylaw amendments	3
FY25 Proposed Executive Committee	5
Interest and resumes for Executive Committee officer elections	6
Proposed changes to MWRA Policy OP.05 – Emergency Water Supply Withdrawals	12
Advisory Board meeting minutes June 27, 2024	27





# Advocacy & Accountability

Representing over 3 million people in Massachusetts since 1985

ADVISORY BOARD MEETING  
Thursday, September 19, 2024 at 10:00 AM  
**REMOTE**

[Zoom \(www.mwraadvisoryboard.com/event\)](https://www.mwraadvisoryboard.com/event)

*(pursuant to An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted During the State of Emergency suspending certain provisions of the open meeting law)*

*Please note: this will be a joint meeting with WAC and WSCAC*

## AGENDA

- A. Roll call attendance [5 min]
- B. Amending bylaws – **discussion and possible vote** [5 min]
- C. Election of Executive Committee – **discussion and possible vote** [5 min]
- D. Proposed modifications to MWRA Policy OP.05 – Emergency Water Supply Withdrawals – **discussion and possible vote** [5 min]
- E. Lead & Copper Rule Revisions/Improvements update – Kristen Hall, MWRA Senior Program Manager
- F. Presentations FY25 priorities
  - Fred Laskey, MWRA Executive Director [20 min]
  - Matthew Romero, AB Executive Director [10 min]
  - Andreae Downs, WAC Executive Director [5 min]
  - Moussa Siri, WSCAC Executive Director [5 min]
- G. Approval of Advisory Board meeting minutes from June 27, 2024 – **discussion and possible vote** [5 min]
- H. New business
- I. Omnibus roll call vote [5 min]
- J. Adjournment [5 min]

I certify on this date, Notice was Posted as “MWRA Advisory Board Meeting” at [mwraadvisoryboard.com](https://www.mwraadvisoryboard.com) and emailed to [regs@sec.state.ma.us](mailto:regs@sec.state.ma.us), [Melissa.Andrade@state.ma.us](mailto:Melissa.Andrade@state.ma.us)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Matthew A. Romero'.

Matthew A. Romero, Executive Director  
Date Posted on Website: September 12, 2024



2 Griffin Way, Suite A, Chelsea, MA 02150



(617) 788-2050



[mwra.ab@mwraadvisoryboard.com](mailto:mwra.ab@mwraadvisoryboard.com)

[mwraadvisoryboard.com](https://www.mwraadvisoryboard.com)

Matthew A. Romero  
Executive Director



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## ARTICLE V. STANDING COMMITTEES

### 1. Executive Committee

- a. Organization. The Advisory Board shall elect at its Annual Meeting an Executive Committee consisting of the officers of the Advisory Board and not fewer than six nor more than ~~fourteen~~<sup>eleven</sup> additional members. The Executive Committee of the Advisory Board shall serve as the Nominating Committee to nominate members of the Executive Committee, and when so required, the Advisory Board's representatives on the Board of Directors of the Authority. In proposing nominees, the Nominating Committee shall provide so far as possible for balance among the various geographical areas of the Authority's operations, between cities and towns, between large and small communities, and for assurance of representation on the Executive Committee from among those persons who serve on the Advisory Board as representatives of the Governor or the MAPC. Members of the Executive Committee, and when so required, the Advisory Board's representatives on the Board of Directors, shall be elected from the persons nominated at a meeting designated by the Chair. Members of the Executive Committee shall serve from the date of their election until the election of the successor Executive Committee at the next Annual Meeting. If a member of the Executive Committee shall cease to be a member of the Advisory Board, the Chair may designate member of the Advisory Board to temporarily fill such vacancies on an acting basis until the next Annual Meeting and election for such position.
- b. Procedures. The Chair of the Advisory Board shall serve as the Chair of the Executive Committee. The Executive Committee shall meet upon call of its Chair, or in the event of their absence or of a vacancy in the office, upon call of any three of its members. Notice of meetings of the Executive Committee shall be given by the Advisory Board staff to all members of the Executive Committee, to all members of the Advisory Board and to the Executive Director of the Authority, in the same manner as provided for notice of special meetings of the Advisory Board. All meetings of the Executive Committee shall be open to the public and conducted in accordance with law and these by-laws in the same manner as a meeting of the Advisory Board. The Secretary, via the Advisory Board staff, shall keep a record of meetings of the Executive Committee and shall send to each member of the Advisory Board and to the Authority a copy of the votes, orders, and proceedings of the Executive Committee.
- c. Powers. The Executive Committee shall make recommendations for action to the Advisory Board and may act as the delegate of the Advisory Board in all matters referred to the Executive Committee by the Advisory Board, provided that no power or duty vested in the Advisory Board by the Enabling Act shall be finally delegated to the Executive Committee without provision for consideration and ratification by the Advisory Board.

2. Committee on Operations. This standing committee shall study and make recommendations to the full Advisory Board for its comments regarding issues such as planning of the water and sewer systems, proposals to add or delete communities from either the water or sewer system, and the operation and maintenance of the Authority's systems. The size and membership of the committee shall be determined by the Vice-Chair of Operations after the annual election; ~~however, all voting members may continue to serve until replaced or removed by the Vice-Chair of Operations~~. All Advisory Board members are encouraged to attend and participate, even as non-voting members. The committee shall be chaired by the Vice-Chair for Operations and shall meet from time to time at the call of the Vice-Chair for Operations or at the direction of the full Advisory Board.
3. Committee on Finance. This standing committee shall study and make recommendations to the full Advisory Board regarding issues such as the timing and details of the Authority's capital program, proposals for the





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issuance of notes and bonds, the Authority's debt service and annual operating budgets, proposals for changes in the Authority's rates and rate structures, and other financial matters. The size and membership of the committee shall be determined by the Vice-Chair of Finance after the annual election; however, all voting members may continue to serve until replaced or removed by the Vice-Chair of Finance. All Advisory Board members are encouraged to attend and participate, even as non-voting members. The committee shall be chaired by the Vice-Chair for Finance and shall meet from time to time at the call of the Vice-Chair for Finance or at the direction of the full Advisory Board.

4. The Advisory Board may also create, from time to time, such other committees as further the purpose and goals of the Advisory Board.



2 Griffin Way, Suite A, Chelsea, MA 02150



(617) 788-2050



[mwra.ab@mwraadvisoryboard.com](mailto:mwra.ab@mwraadvisoryboard.com)

[mwraadvisoryboard.com](http://mwraadvisoryboard.com)

Matthew A. Romero  
Executive Director



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## FY24 Executive Committee

<b>Chair:</b>	John G. Sanchez, Burlington
<b>Vice-Chair, Operations:</b>	Michael Rademacher, Arlington
<b>Vice-Chair, Finance:</b>	Elena Proakis Ellis, Melrose
<b>Treasurer:</b>	John P. Sullivan, Boston
<b>Secretary:</b>	Rich Raiche, Somerville
<b>At-Large:</b>	John DeAmicis, Stoneham Cate Fox-Lent, Chelsea Julie Greenwood-Torelli, Cambridge Moe Handel, MAPC Jay Hersey, Brookline Yem Lip, Malden David Manugian, Bedford Brendan O'Regan, Saugus David Pavlik, Lexington Nicholas Rystrom, Revere Sam Stivers, Southborough VACANT (3)

## Proposed FY25 Executive Committee

Rich Raiche, Somerville
Michael Rademacher, Arlington
Elena Proakis Ellis, Melrose
John P. Sullivan, Boston
David Manugian, Bedford
John DeAmicis, Stoneham
Julie Greenwood-Torelli, Cambridge
Moe Handel, MAPC
Jay Hersey, Brookline
Yem Lip, Malden
Brendan O'Regan, Saugus
David Pavlik, Lexington
Nicholas Rystrom, Revere
Sam Stivers, Southborough
VACANT (1)



2 Griffin Way, Suite A, Chelsea, MA 02150



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[mwraadvisoryboard.com](http://mwraadvisoryboard.com)

**Matthew A. Romero**  
Executive Director



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS

KATJANA BALLANTYNE

MAYOR

DEPARTMENT of INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSET MANAGEMENT

RICHARD E. RAICHE, PE, PMP, MCPPO  
DIRECTOR OF INFRASTRUCTURE & ASSET MANAGEMENT

BRIAN C. POSTLEWAITE, PE  
DIRECTOR OF ENGINEERING

MICHAEL RICHARDS, MCPPO  
DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION, IAM

RALPH HENRY  
ACTING DIRECTOR OF CAPITAL PROJECTS

9 September 2024

MWRA Advisory Board  
2 Griffin Way  
Chelsea, MA 02150

Dear Executive Director Romero,

Please accept this letter of interest in serving as Chair of the Executive Committee. Since joining the Advisory Board and the Executive Committee in 2018, I have been impressed by the work of the Board in advocating for the communities of the MWRA system and appreciate the role that the Executive Committee plays in facilitating the Board's work. Participating in Committee's discussions, including serving this past year as Secretary, has been important to me, and I would welcome the opportunity to serve an even more active role as the MWRA faces new challenges. In my role in Somerville, I serve as *ex-officio* chair of several committees and believe that organizational experience will benefit the Advisory Board.

Please let me know if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.

Regards,

Richard E. Raiche, PE  
Director of Infrastructure & Asset Management, City of Somerville

# RICHARD E. RAICHE, PE, PMP

1 Franey Road, Somerville, MA 02145 | 857.320.1259 | [rraiche@somervillema.gov](mailto:rraiche@somervillema.gov)

## SUMMARY

A Massachusetts licensed Professional Engineer and PMI certified Project Management Professional with experience in the planning, permitting, design and construction of municipal infrastructure systems. Fully fluent in all project management processes and capable of facilitating communication and collaboration between stakeholders and technical teams to develop efficient and creative solutions to complex problems. Compelling writer and presenter of technical information to general audiences.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**CITY OF SOMERVILLE, SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

2016 - PRESENT

*A 4.2 square mile municipality in Greater Boston with a population of 80,000.*

### ***Director of Infrastructure & Asset Management*** (2019 - Present)

Leading the recently established Department of Infrastructure and Asset Management (IAM), which through the Capital Projects Division for buildings and the Engineering Division for utilities, develops and implements a comprehensive plan to effectively maintain, modernize, and replace Somerville's full range of horizontal and vertical infrastructure assets.

- Leading the teams of engineers, architects, and project managers delivering Somerville's \$700 million Capital Investment Plan that is transforming the City's water, sewer, roadway and building infrastructure systems.
- Developed a Building Master Plan to rehabilitate and renovate nearly 2 million square feet of space across 36 buildings and relocate offices, civic spaces and educational programs improve the constituent experience, increase the efficiency of services, facilitate school department goals, and reduce operating costs .

### ***Director of Engineering*** (2016 - 2019)

Led city staff, consultants and contractors responsible for all public and private alterations to municipal infrastructure systems including: 94 miles of roadway with poor pavement conditions, 180 miles of sidewalk with significant ADA challenges in a dense urban environment, 125 miles of water main in degraded condition with many inoperable valves, and 165 miles of combined sewer and drain, most of which was constructed prior to 1900 and subject to collapses, back-ups, flooding, and combined sewer overflows.

- Transformed the Engineering Department from a maintenance-focused division of public works managing under \$5M in annual repair projects to a proactive agent of change leading over \$25M in annual infrastructure capital improvements.
- Improved City ordinances and policies to reduce the impacts of private developments on the municipal systems while also providing developers with a more clear and predictable process for project approval.
- Responsible for daily operations, strategic planning, design and construction administration.

**TALENTWAVE, WELLESLEY, MASSACHUSETTS**

2015 - 2016

*Information technology and project management contracting service to Dell Services Healthcare and dedicated to the Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare account.*

### ***Program and Project Management Advisor***

Managed a number of information technology and software development projects for Harvard Pilgrim Healthcare using both traditional waterfall and agile management methodologies.

- Provided financial management, internal progress reporting and team coordination for software configuration changes to care management, web portal and customer service systems to support new health insurance product offerings or regulations.
- Lead the cross-functional team implementing a major payment policy and claims editing initiative that includes the integration of a third party software as service system into the claim to payment process.



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## RICHARD E. RAICHE, PE, PMP

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1 Franey Road, Somerville, MA 02145 | 857.320.1259 | [rraiche@somervillema.gov](mailto:rraiche@somervillema.gov)

**MWH GLOBAL, (NOW STANTEC) BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS**

2012 - 2015

*An 8,000-employee consulting engineering and construction firm with offices worldwide.*

### ***Principal Project Manager***

Managed a portfolio of projects, totaling over \$4M in annual professional services fees.

- Envisioned and initiated new projects, aligning technical approaches with clients' budgets and expectations, thereby securing additional work with existing clients and winning two large programs with new clients, effectively doubling local office's backlog.
- Strengthened presentations and briefed subject matter experts to convey a consistent message, relating pieces of a complex project to the overall goals, quickly establishing credibility with new client who credited success of the stakeholder process to the team's expertise, preparation and performance.
- Led cross functional teams during project startup, speculating technical approaches, planning activities, prioritizing tasks, identifying constraints, and developing schedules to cost-effectively satisfy client needs by improving communication between disciplines and creating efficiencies.
- Led cross functional teams during project execution, exploring solutions, adapting approaches, measuring progress, auditing procedures, and determining earned value, consistently achieving project milestones and fulfilling client needs often on extremely compressed schedules.
- Developed program management plan for the administration of a \$74M construction project, instilling client confidence in consulting team and securing professional services contract.
- Engaged stakeholders not only translating technical results and constraints to manage expectations but also discovering priorities to adapt project plans to better achieve goals and improve value to clients.
- Assembled a SWAT team to review discrepancies between available and initially assumed information, adapted the project approach to maximize the use of existing data and avoid a costly change while also assuring the client that the existing model, while not fit for current purposes, was adequate for the previous uses.
- Prepared presentations and conducted workshops with client's directory board to discuss project analysis and conclusions, ultimately achieving endorsement of the recommended alternative.

**STAY-AT-HOME FATHER, SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS**

2010 - 2012

*Primary caregiver to twins.*

**CAMP, DRESSER & MCKEE INC., (NOW CDM SMITH INC.) CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS** 2006 - 2010

*A 6,000-employee consulting engineering, construction and operations firm with offices worldwide.*

### ***Project Manager***

Managed civil engineering planning and design projects of various sizes.

- Prepared contracts, tracked budgets, maintained schedules, directed staff and administered quality reviews, thereby contributing to the firm's reputation for delivering excellent engineering solutions and client service.
- Led a team that completed a wastewater management plan, negotiated inter-municipal agreements, and secured permits on an extremely compressed schedule, which facilitated an on-time construction start and salvaged a strained client relationship.
- Discovered the preferences and constraints for each discipline's designs through pointed questioning and active listening, coordinated the efforts of the cross functional teams, and produced an integrated design for utility support to a Department of Defense facility that reduced cost by 30 percent.
- Produced reports for Harvard University decision makers evaluating leading-edge construction projects, which required conveying highly technical information to a well-educated but non-technical audience.

**MERRIMACK COLLEGE, NORTH ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS**

2008

### ***Adjunct Faculty***

- Developed and taught a senior-level undergraduate course that focused on practical application of engineering principles.



## **RICHARD E. RAICHE, PE, PMP**

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1 Franey Road, Somerville, MA 02145 | 857.320.1259 | [rraiche@somervillema.gov](mailto:rraiche@somervillema.gov)

**S E A CONSULTANTS INC.**, CAMBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS

1997 - 2006

*A 120-employee consulting engineering and architecture firm, acquired by The Kleinfelder Group in 2009.*

### ***Project Manager*** (2001 - 2006)

Managed all facets of consulting engineering projects.

- Prepared scopes, budgets, contracts, amendments and workplans; directed staff and subconsultants; tracked progress; avoided scope creep; maintained schedules; prepared invoices; and performed quality reviews to ensure profitability, reduce liability and achieve client satisfaction.
- Mentored and oversaw career development of junior staff, teaching both engineering and project management skills, administering formal reviews, adjusting workload, and helping to align staff and company goals.
- Fostered positive client relationships through frequent contact, and recommended remedial action to senior management when necessary, thereby consistently generating repeat business.

### ***Principal Engineer***

Rapidly advanced from entry-level to senior-level engineer: planning, permitting, designing, rehabilitating and administering the construction of utility, transportation and environmental projects.

- Developed project approaches, directed multidisciplinary teams and performed technical analyses for the preparation of integrated water resources management plans. The comprehensive approach streamlined the state's review process, maximized environmental benefits and optimized municipal investments in infrastructure.
- Collaborated with citizens advisory committees, municipal officials, regional authorities, local commissions, permitting agencies, environmental groups and private companies to build consensus and enhance infrastructure improvement plans in complex environments.
- Crafted tailored presentations to achieve desired results such as: securing project approvals, facilitating stakeholder input, educating decision makers and informing concerned citizens.
- Integrated the use of computer tools such as AutoCAD, Civil 3D, Excel and ArcGIS into all phases of project execution to improve quality and increase efficiency.

## **EDUCATION**

**TUFTS UNIVERSITY**, MEDFORD MASSACHUSETTS

Master of Science in Civil & Environmental Engineering, 1997

**MERRIMACK COLLEGE**, NORTH ANDOVER, MASSACHUSETTS

Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, *magna cum laude*, Presidential Scholar, 1993

## **CERTIFICATIONS AND LICENSES**

Project Management Institute (PMI) Project Management Professional (PMP Number 1557077)

Registered Professional Civil Engineer (Massachusetts License Number 45657)

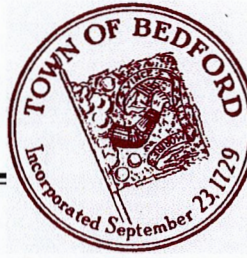
Massachusetts Certified Public Purchasing Official

OSHA 40-hour Hazardous Waste and Emergency Response, 10-hour Construction Site Safety, and Confined Space Entry Training

# TOWN OF BEDFORD

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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314 THE GREAT ROAD  
BEDFORD, MASSACHUSETTS 01730  
TEL: 781-275-7605  
FAX: 781-275-9010

September 10, 2024

Mr. Matthew Romero  
Executive Director  
MWRA Advisory Board  
2 Griffin Way, Suite A  
Chelsea, MA 02150

**Re: Advisory Board Executive Committee Secretary Letter of Interest**

Dear Mr. Romero,

I am interested in running for the Secretary position on the MWRA Advisory Board FY24 Executive Committee as identified in Section 23(c) of Chapter 372 of the Acts of 1984. I've attached a resume for the Committee's and Board's consideration.

For approximately eleven years I've been a member of the Advisory Board. In 2013 I was working to secure an emergency water connection for Ashland (where I was Public Works Director), and became aware of the work of the Board. I've also been on the Executive Committee for about eight years, and have become familiar with the annual operations of the Authority, Advisory Board, and Executive Committee over that time.

In addition to working with the MWRA for an emergency connection for Ashland, I'm currently involved with the MWRA through the Town of Bedford as Bedford works with its neighbors to strengthen its water supply.

I thoroughly enjoy working with the Committee and staff, and hope that I can better support the group through a larger role. I'm happy to provide additional information as requested.

Sincerely,

David Manugian, PE  
Director, Bedford Public Works

Attachment

**David Manugian**  
20 Higley Street, Groton MA 01450  
(508) 686-0904 [dmanugian@bedfordma.gov](mailto:dmanugian@bedfordma.gov)

## **EXPERIENCE**

### **Public Works Director, Bedford MA, 2016 to present**

- Manage a department of 45 office and field staff across seven divisions with a \$16M operating budget and \$12M capital budget. Set Department-wide goals and objectives
- Oversee daily operation of and capital improvements to water/ sewer system as well as municipal roadways, recreation fields and cemeteries, snow removal, trash/ recycling, fleet, and engineering
- Prepare an annual operating budget and five-year capital plan related to municipal infrastructure in conjunction with Department staff and other departments
- Represent the Department and present items such as budgets, contracts, fees, and rates to the Select Board, Finance Committee, and Capital Expenditures Committee.
- Approve approximately \$10M in annual utility billing
- Help negotiate union contracts. Responsible for hiring, promotions, and terminations

### **Public Works Director, Ashland MA, 2012-2016**

- Managed 23 office and field staff whose responsibilities included maintenance and emergency repairs to water/ wastewater systems, roadways, cemeteries, parks, and recreation areas
- Coordinated field rental use to town teams, local leagues and other youth sporting clubs; utility meter reading, tracking and invoicing; and provided office/field support to town departments
- Developed \$10M department annual operating budget, capital budget, and 5-year capital plan

### **Town Engineer/ Town Planner, Ashland MA 2010-2012**

- Managed a \$200,000 sewer inflow/ infiltration program
- Managed \$100,000 annual water treatment plant filter replacement projects
- Managed the bond collection for a \$40,000 water tank water mixing system

### **Town Engineer/ Director of Land Management, Oxford MA, 2007-2010**

- Worked with/ for Oxford Department of Public Works on a variety of infrastructure projects
- Worked with elected and appointed boards and committees including Board of Selectmen, Open Space Committee, Recreation Commission, and Historical Commission

### **Previous Experience**

- Director of Land Development, Ambient Engineering, Concord MA, 2003-2007
- Land Development Project Engineer, Rizzo Associates, Framingham, MA, 2000-2003
- Airport Engineer, Edwards & Kelcey, Charlestown, MA, 1996-2000
- ADA Audit Engineer, Katherine McGuinness and Associates, Waltham, MA, 1994-1996

## **EDUCATION/ LICENSES**

- Clemson University, M.S. Civil Engineering: Construction Management, 1994
- Tufts University, B.S. Civil Engineering, Minor in Engineering Management, 1992
- Massachusetts Professional Engineer #41043

## **MEMBERSHIPS/ ACTIVITIES**

- Member, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Advisory Board & Executive Committee
- Secretary, Groton Finance Committee
- Member, Groton Capital Planning Advisory Committee



## Emergency Water Supply Withdrawals

Policy #: OP.05

<b>Effective Date:</b> <del>August 27, 1986</del>	<b>Last Revised:</b> <del>10/11/06</del>
<b>Contact:</b> Planning Department, Executive Office	<b>Former Policy #:</b> P.II.K.2
<b>Reviewed by Chief Operating Officer:</b> <del>Michael J. Hornbrook</del>	<b>Date:</b> <del>4/13/07</del>
<b>Reviewed by Internal Audit:</b> <del>John A. Mahoney</del>	<b>Date:</b> <del>4/17/07</del>
<b>Approved by Executive Director:</b> Frederick A. Laskey	<b>Date:</b> <del>4/17/07</del>

**Purpose** This policy explains the criteria and process the MWRA will use to evaluate a request from a non-MWRA water system community for emergency withdrawals of water. This Document replaces the policy entitled "Emergency Water Supply Withdrawals" effective on ~~November 13, 2002~~ April 17, 2007.

**Eligibility** This policy applies to communities outside MWRA's water service area that are seeking water service on an emergency basis.

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## Emergency Water Supply Withdrawals (OP.05), continued

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**In this Policy**      This policy contains the following parts:

<b>Policy Name / Part Name</b>	<b>Page #</b>
Emergency Withdrawal Criteria	3
Application Process Application Requirements Review of Application	4
Emergency Water Agreement Conditions Approval Term	8
Waivers	10
Charges	10
Short Term Approvals	12
Appendix A	13

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## Emergency Water Supply Withdrawals (OP.05), continued

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### Emergency Withdrawal Criteria

The following findings must be made by MWRA to approve requests from communities -outside the MWRA waterworks system for emergency water supply withdrawals exceeding ~~thirty-sixty~~ (60) calendar days. For emergency water supply withdrawals of water for periods less than ~~thirty-sixty~~ (60) calendar days, refer to the "Short Term Approvals" section of this policy:

- The DEP has declared that an emergency exists. MWRA will only provide the minimum amount of water necessary based on findings that the community requesting the emergency connection has:
  - Utilized and will utilize all feasible non-MWRA sources of supply for the duration of the emergency;
  - Taken and will take all feasible steps to both minimize its demand on the MWRA system and the duration of the emergency.
- Supply of emergency water to communities or users not listed in Section 8 (d) of the MWRA Enabling Act will strive for no negative impact on the interests of current communities, water quality, hydraulic performance of the MWRA water system, or the environment, or the interests of the watershed communities; shall attempt to achieve economic benefit for existing user communities; and shall preserve the rights of existing member communities. Any evaluation of the impacts of emergency withdrawals shall clearly evaluate all changes to system reliability.
- Long-term plans to remedy supply deficiencies have been developed. This may include improved water conservation, new local or regional supplies of water, [changes to water treatment](#), or application for admission to the MWRA water system for legitimate water needs beyond feasible local sources.
- The applicant community does not use MWRA water supply as a chronic emergency back-up supply without equitable contribution for the fair asset value of the MWRA waterworks system.

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## Emergency Water Supply Withdrawals (OP.05), continued

### Application Process

~~The following process will be used by MWRA to evaluate requests from communities outside the MWRA waterworks system for emergency water supply withdrawals exceeding thirty days. For emergency water supply withdrawals of water for periods less than thirty days, refer to the "Short Term Approvals" section of this policy.~~ Applications for emergency water supply withdrawals ~~should~~ shall be submitted to the Executive Director of the MWRA ~~(three copies)~~. In instances where MWRA Advisory Board approval is also required (for the second emergency withdrawal period and beyond), applications should be simultaneously submitted to the Executive Director of the MWRA Advisory Board

#### A. Application

MWRA staff will review and evaluate the application to determine the impacts of the emergency water connection on the MWRA water supply system. Applications for emergency water supply withdrawals will be considered for the duration of the emergency only, upon satisfactory completion of the requirements listed below.

#### B. Requirements

- The Department of Environmental Protection ("DEP") must declare that a water supply emergency exists ~~and authorize the purchase of such water from MWRA~~. Copies of the emergency declaration and any orders issued by DEP to the community under M.G.L. c. 21-G and any correspondence relative thereto must be submitted with the application.
- The community must provide evidence that a supply shortfall or disruption exists, provide reasons for the supply request, and document the amount of emergency supply requested, including, as appropriate:
  - a. Safe yield, DEP registration and permitted withdrawals under the Water Management Act of available supplies. Average and maximum daily consumption for past three years on a monthly basis.
  - b. Storage levels in reservoir or tanks (by elevation and volume).

*Continued on next page*



## Emergency Water Supply Withdrawals (OP.05), continued

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### Application Process, continued

- c. Estimate of days of supply remaining assuming drought, average and wet year runoff.
  - d. Safe yield of supplies lost to contamination.
  - e. Minimum allowable reservoir elevations (i) to keep intake flowing, (ii) for water quality, and (iii) for environmental requirements.
  - f. Minimum ground water levels for well supplies.
  - g. Other explanations of need for amount requested.
- The community must estimate the duration of the emergency during which it will need MWRA water.
  - a). For drought situations, length of time needed to recharge supplies assuming average rainfall.
  - b). For contamination: estimate of time for new sources or other corrective measures.
  - c). For equipment or facility failure: time to replace or repair or rectify situation
- ~~The community must provide an estimate of water use by class of users (i.e., domestic, commercial, industrial, etc.).~~
- The community must describe all feasible non-MWRA emergency supply investigations and present plans for implementing them or reasons for rejecting them.
- The community must submit its long-range plans for correcting supply deficiencies and must demonstrate that it has developed or has plans to develop or restore all economically and technically feasible local sources. The plans shall include a description of funding sources and an implementation schedule.

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## Emergency Water Supply Withdrawals (OP.05), continued

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### Application Process, continued

- For communities seeking a fifth emergency water supply withdrawal period, the community must submit a report with substantive detail delineating the community's long range plans and progress towards correcting supply deficiencies, plans to restore all economically and technically feasible local sources, and a detailed description of community based water conservation and accountability programs.
- The community must give sufficient data for hydraulic analysis by the MWRA including: local system operating pressures, pipe schematics of local system, and proposed location of emergency connection.
- The community must submit for approval a proposed inter-municipal agreement with a MWRA user community (the "transporting community") for payment of water, if the emergency water supply withdrawal is not directly from the MWRA system. This agreement shall provide for reasonable resale pricing by the transporting community, sufficient to recover costs including recovery of MWRA prevailing rate charges for water supplied on an emergency basis, use of the distribution system and legitimate local expenses only. The MWRA will directly charge the receiving community for premium charges and asset value contributions described in the "Charges" section of this policy. If the MWRA is unable to apply these charges directly to the receiving community, then the charges will be applied through the transporting community.

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## Emergency Water Supply Withdrawals (OP.05), continued

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### Application Process, continued

- The community must submit a detailed description of water conservation and water accountability programs undertaken by the community or private entities including:

- Leak detection and repair
- Commercial and industrial water conservation
- Residential water conservation efforts
- Large meter downsizing
- Meter replacement
- Municipal facility conservation
- Unaccounted-for water analysis
- True- cost pricing and conservation-based pricing for water and sewer services
- Outdoor water restrictions
- Water supply protection measures

- The community must provide evidence that it has complied, or is in the process of complying, with applicable MEPA requirements.

### C. Review of Application

Upon receipt of the community's application for an emergency water supply withdrawal, the MWRA will:

- Review the applicant's document to help determine if the MWRA can make the findings listed in Emergency Withdrawal Approval Criteria.

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## Emergency Water Supply Withdrawals (OP.05), continued

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### Application Process continued

- Determine the impact of the proposed emergency water supply withdrawal on the MWRA's water supply system status and its ability to supply existing users. The assessment will include the possibility of increased usage of MWRA supplies by partially supplied and non-MWRA communities due to drought conditions. Impacts to service to other community connections under various hydraulic conditions will also be evaluated.
  - Upon the request of the applicant, and subsequent to the completion of application review by MWRA staff and following consultation with the Advisory Board, MWRA staff will submit a status report and recommendation to the Board of Directors to inform it of the request, staff's review and the status of other pending permits and approvals.
- 

### Emergency Water Agreement

If MWRA approves the request for an emergency water supply withdrawal, it will establish appropriate terms and conditions of service in the form of an Emergency Water Supply Agreement.

#### A. Conditions

MWRA's approval of an emergency water supply withdrawal, including any applicable conditions of such approval, shall be set forth in an agreement with the community that shall contain the following terms as appropriate:

- Firm limits on average and/or maximum daily use, or time of day use, of MWRA water. A requirement in Emergency Water Supply Agreements for the second and subsequent six-month periods is that any increase beyond the stated limits on water use will require a recalculation of the asset value contribution payment (see the "Charges" section of this policy).

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*Continued on next page*

## Emergency Water Supply Withdrawals (OP.05), continued

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### Emergency water Agreement, continued

- A requirement that the community assumes all costs of connection and installs a suitable meter. The community must meter all water transfers to its distribution system whether connecting directly to the MWRA water system or receiving MWRA water through another community system rather than directly from MWRA.
- A requirement that the community shall use all feasible non-MWRA sources for the duration of the emergency.
- A requirement that the community shall submit a quarterly report on water usage, conservation program results, and status of emergency situation.
- A requirement that the community shall institute and continue all practical conservation measures including, but not limited to, the following:
  - a) For initial agreements for withdrawal up to six months: a water conservation public education program
  - b) For agreements for the second and subsequent six month periods: implementation of leak detection surveys and rehabilitation programs, 100% metering, a meter replacement program, pressure reductions where possible, implementation of true cost pricing and conservation-based pricing for water and sewer services, and a contingency plan describing how demand will be decreased if the local supply situation continues to deteriorate.
- ~~A requirement that the community meter all water transfers to its distribution system if it will receive MWRA water through another community system rather than directly from MWRA.~~
- The right of MWRA to terminate approval under unforeseen circumstances such as inadequate supply, insufficient hydraulic capacity, and other such conditions relating to the safe supply of existing users and operational requirements of the waterworks system.
- Other conditions as may be appropriate.

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*Continued on next page*

## Emergency Water Supply Withdrawals (OP.05), continued

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### Emergency Water Agreement, continued

#### B. Approval Term

The MWRA may approve emergency water supply withdrawals for no more than six months at a time. Each Emergency Water Supply Agreement will be no longer than six months. Emergency withdrawals beyond six months will require a new application and Emergency Water Supply Agreement. The MWRA Advisory Board must also approve emergency withdrawals beyond the first six months. Advisory Board approval should be obtained prior to MWRA's approval. In considering withdrawals beyond six months, the MWRA will consider the applicant's efforts to reduce consumption, to implement its long- range plans and comply with DEP orders, and to implement water conservation program and water supply protection measures. The MWRA will also consider the impacts on MWRA's water supply system and its ability to supply existing users, and factors listed in the "Review of Application" section above.

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### Waivers

The MWRA may, in its discretion, waive any of the conditions or requirements set forth in this Policy and Procedure, not otherwise mandated by law or regulation, if it finds that the community has demonstrated unusual factors or extraordinary circumstances which would make imposition of the condition or requirement upon that community unfair or inappropriate and that the proposed action will not jeopardize the MWRA's ability to supply its existing water communities. Charges outlined in the section below will not be waived.

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### Charges

MWRA has adopted a rate structure for emergency water supply withdrawals that includes a premium charge added to the MWRA prevailing rate that shall apply to all emergency water connections, regardless of the nature of the emergency. Beginning with the first water withdrawal period after the effective date of this Policy, the premium charge shall be 10% of the MWRA's prevailing rate. Beginning with the second water withdrawal period, MWRA shall also assess an asset value contribution charge. Charges shall increase for additional periods of water withdrawal. Attachment A to this Policy presents a summary of charges for emergency water supply withdrawals.

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*Continued on next page*

## Emergency Water Supply Withdrawals (OP.05), continued

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### Charges, continued

For the purpose of this Emergency Water Supply Withdrawal Policy, a "period" is typically defined as one six-month Emergency Supply Agreement. Any six-month Emergency Water Supply Agreement between a community and the MWRA shall be counted as a "period". If there are repeated short-term withdrawals of ~~sixty (60)~~<sup>30</sup> calendar days or less, MWRA reserves the right to assess the same premium charges as are applied to six-month emergency water supply agreements. Rules governing premium charges and asset value contribution are only invoked when water is transferred from the MWRA to the Applicant community. The transfer of water from the MWRA to the applicant community serves as a trigger to initiate the corresponding premium charge and asset value contribution. Periods when there is no water withdrawal shall have no effect on the schedule of charges. Payment for emergency water supply withdrawals from the MWRA waterworks system shall be made by the user community on a monthly basis, unless otherwise specified.

If an applicant has purchased MWRA water under an emergency supply agreement and has paid charges ~~that which~~ include an asset value contribution and subsequently is approved admission to the water system on a permanent basis, the asset value contributions paid will be treated as credits against the total entrance fee. Payments of premium charges under an emergency supply agreement are not credited towards the entrance fee.

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*Continued on next page*



## Emergency Water Supply Withdrawals (OP.05), continued

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### Short-term Approvals

The Executive Director, ~~or~~ the Chief Operating Officer, or their designee is authorized to approve the emergency use of MWRA water through an existing or temporary connection to the MWRA or a MWRA water system community by a non-MWRA water system or facility for a period not to exceed ~~sixty thirty~~ (6030) calendar days for any specific approval. A DEP declaration of water supply emergency in the requesting community, or alternatively, submission by the community of documentation supporting the existence of conditions that could lead to a DEP declaration of water supply emergency per M.G.L. c.21-G, § 15, is required for these emergency situations. Approval shall only be granted based on emergencies of non-chronic nature, such as supply and transmission disruptions. Such approval, if granted, shall be consistent with this Policy to the maximum extent feasible in the situation. The community must provide an initial written statement requesting emergency water supply, describe the situation, and present a plan for resolving it. The Board of Directors shall be notified of approvals granted under this paragraph. At the end of the temporary use, the community must provide a follow-up letter documenting how much water was purchased from MWRA or MWRA water system community, and how the situation was resolved.

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*Continued on next page*

## ATTACHMENT A

### MWRA Charges for Emergency Water Withdrawals

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#### Emergency Supply Agreement Period One:

- 110% of the MWRA prevailing rate

#### Emergency Supply Agreement Period Two:

- 110% of the MWRA prevailing rate plus,
- 110% of 1/3 of the annual payment associated with asset value contribution payment (as calculated pursuant to methodology described below) amortized with interest over 15 years.

#### Emergency Supply Agreement Period Three:

- 110% of the MWRA prevailing rate plus,
- 110% of 2/3 of the annual payment associated with asset value contribution payment (entrance fee equivalent as calculated pursuant to methodology described below) amortized with interest over 15 years.

#### Emergency Supply Agreement Period Four:

- 110% of the MWRA prevailing rate plus,
- 110% of the annual payment associated with the asset value contribution payment (as calculated pursuant to methodology described below) amortized with interest over 15 years

#### Emergency Supply Agreement Periods Five to Seven:

- 130% of the MWRA prevailing rate plus,
- 130% of the annual payment associated with the asset value contribution payment (as calculated pursuant to methodology described below) amortized with interest over 15 years

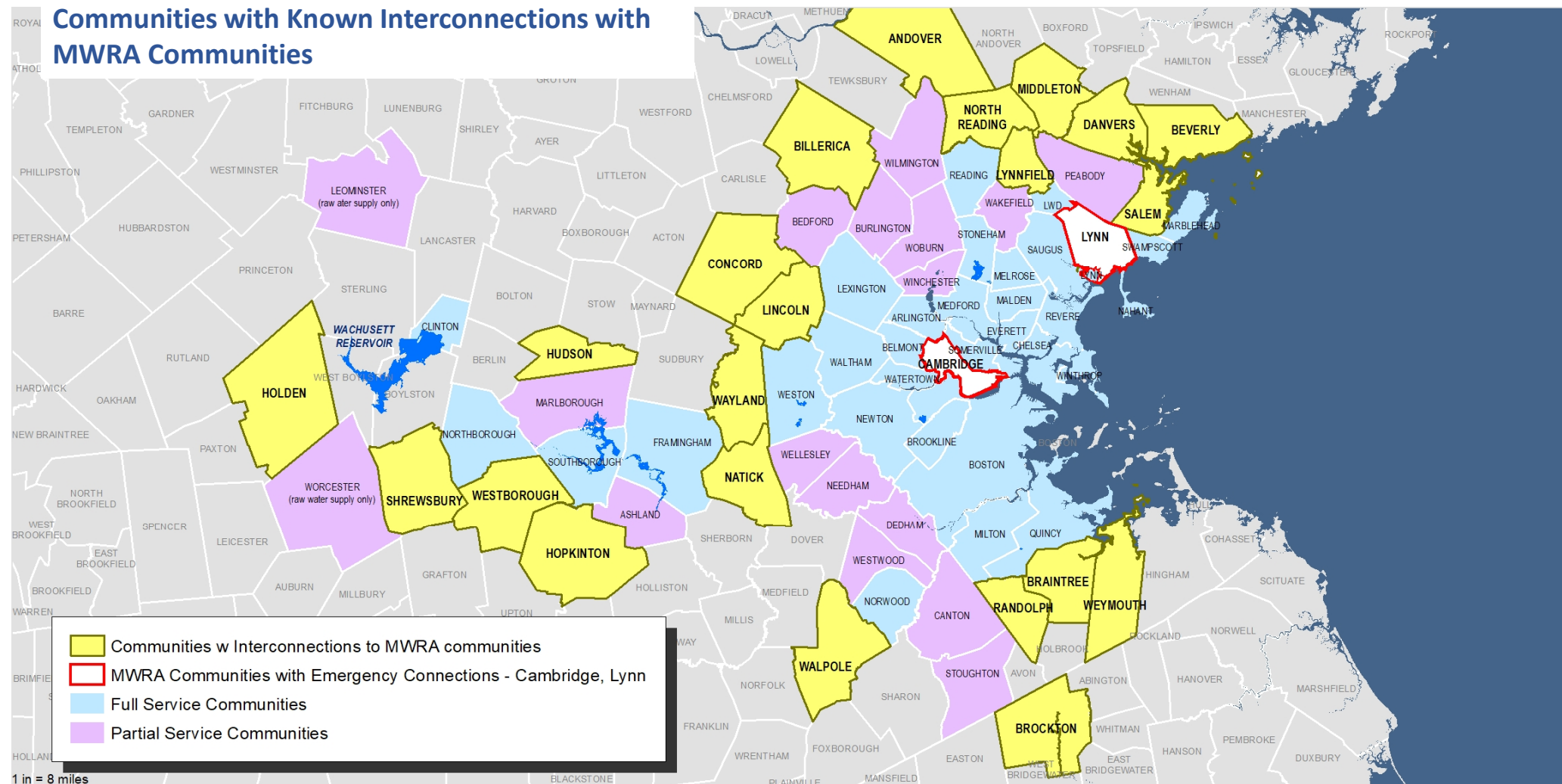
Note: Premium charges shall increase by 10% for each subsequent three emergency supply agreement periods beginning with period eight (e.g., the premium charges for period 8-10 premium charge would be 140%; the premium charges for periods 11-13 would be 150%, and the premium charge for periods 14-16 would be 160%, etc).

The asset value contribution is based on the following basic formula:

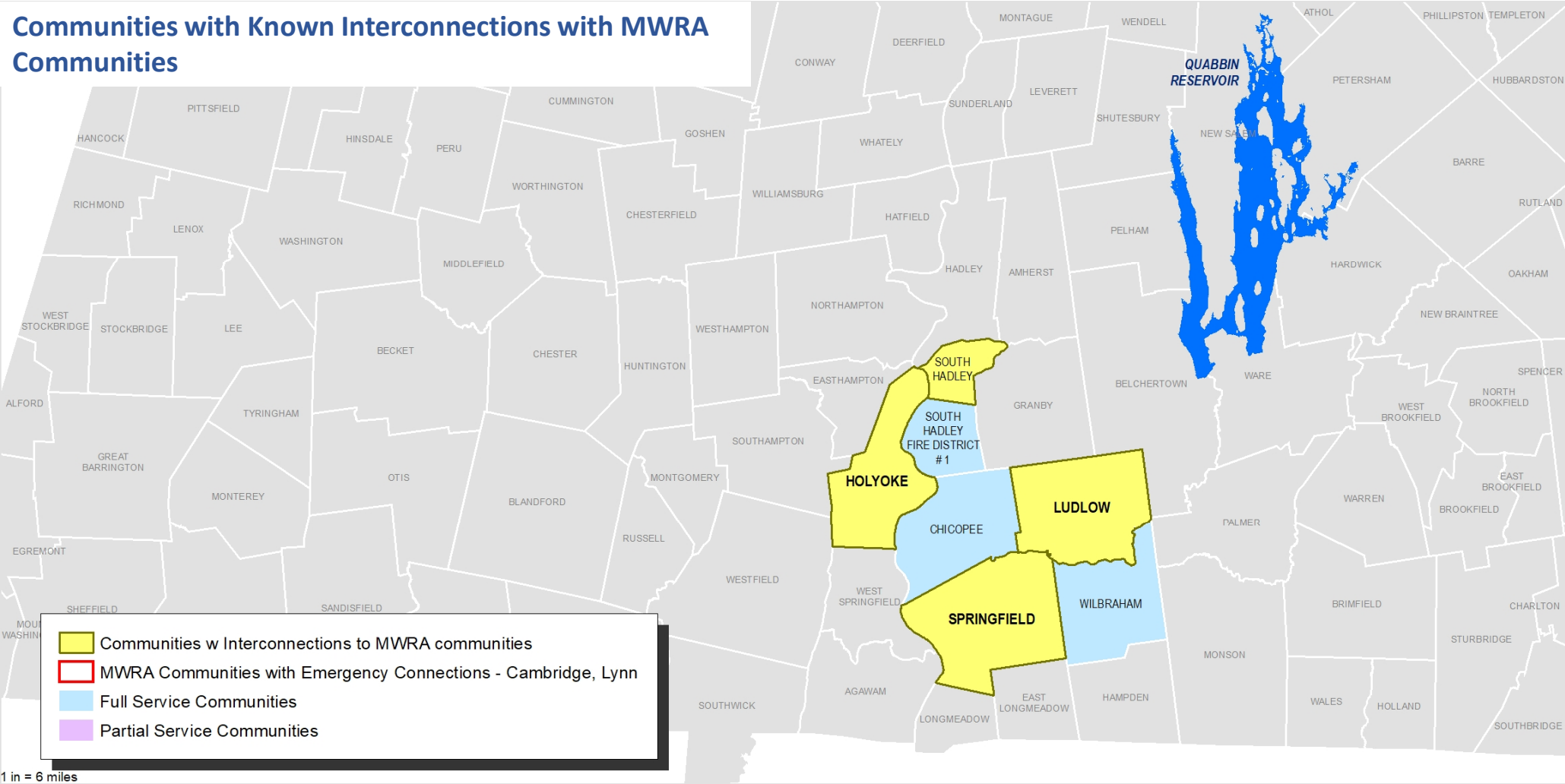
$$\frac{\text{Emergency user's projected MWRA water needs}}{\text{MWRA system water consumption (withdrawals for most recent 3 years)}} \times \text{Net Asset Value of Waterworks System}$$

If an applicant has purchased MWRA water under an emergency supply agreement and has paid charges ~~which that~~ include an asset value contribution and subsequently is approved admission to the water system on a permanent basis, the asset value contributions paid will be treated as credits against the total entrance fee. Payments of premium charges under an emergency supply agreement are not credited towards the entrance fee.

## Communities with Known Interconnections with MWRA Communities



# Communities with Known Interconnections with MWRA Communities





# Advocacy & Accountability

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Thursday June 27, 2024  
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
Charlie Jewell	Boston	Here (remote)
Jim Arsenault	Braintree	Here (remote)
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Here (remote)
John Sanchez	Burlington	Here (remote)
Cate Fox-Lent	Chelsea	Here (remote)
Yem Lip	Malden	Here (remote)
John Terry	Needham	Here (remote)
Tom Fitzgerald	Newton	Here (remote)
Chris Cole	Reading	Here (remote)

Name	Community	Vote
Rich Raiche	Somerville	Here (remote)
Sam Stivers	Southborough	Here (remote)
John DeAmicis	Stoneham	Here (remote)
Patrick Fasanello	Walpole	Here (remote)
David Cohen	Wellesley	Here (remote)
J.R. Greene	Quabbin and Ware Watershed	Here (remote)
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Here (remote)

13

*Other attendees included: Fred Laskey, MWRA Executive Director; Steve Estes- Smargiassi, MWRA*

### B. Executive Director's report

Matthew Romero reminded those in attendance that the 2023 Annual Water & Sewer Retail Rate Survey is complete and available on the Advisory Board's website. If anyone has suggestions for additional information they would like to see collected for the 2024 Rate Survey, please reach out to the Advisory Board.

Nathan Coté will be joining the Advisory Board staff after his co-op ends. A new co-op, Kareen Sud, will be joining the Advisory Board in July 2024. She comes with experience in communications, content creation, and data analysis and will help the Advisory Board with our podcast and video endeavors in collaboration with MWRA staff.

The MWRA Retirement Board received their new valuation, which saw the funding ratio increase from 88% to 89%. The Advisory Board will watch this closely as the funding deadline is now 2030, which will likely be a large budgetary pressure for the MWRA over the next five years.

On legislative matters, Matt reminded those to submit testimony regarding the Quabbin Equity bill as it has moved out of committee and entered Ways & Means. A template letter will be sent out if communities wish to submit testimony. Regarding the Massachusetts housing bond bill, the Senate version did not include the \$1 billion for MWRA system expansion that was in the House version. Other bills the Advisory Board is keeping its eye on include those relating to drought designations, PFAS legislation and funding, and the WIPPES legislation.



2 Griffin Way, Suite A, Chelsea, MA 02150



(617) 788-2050



[mwra.ab@mwraadvisoryboard.com](mailto:mwra.ab@mwraadvisoryboard.com)

[mwraadvisoryboard.com](http://mwraadvisoryboard.com)

Matthew A. Romero  
Executive Director



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## C. **Special Guest: Undersecretary of Environmental Justice & Equity, Maria Belen Power**

Matthew Romero gave an introduction for Maria Belen Power, who is the first person to ever hold the newly created position by the Healey-Driscoll Administration. Undersecretary Power grew up in Nicaragua in the aftermath of the revolution. She previously served as the Assistant Executive Director of GreenRoots, a community-based organization dedicated to improving and enhancing the urban environment and public health in Chelsea. She was also appointed by President Biden to serve on the newly established White House Environmental Justice Advisory Counsel.

Maria began by noting the importance of language access and equity when talking about environmental justice, especially in communities where residents don't have access to information and resources in their own language, noting how language access is a critical part of civil rights and environmental justice.

Taking from the newly released Environmental Justice Strategy document, two environmental justice principles were introduced. First, meaningful involvement of all people with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies, including climate change policies. Second, equitable distribution of energy and environmental benefits and burdens.

The Next Generation Roadmap Law was put out in 2021, which defined what environmental justice populations are, as well as cumulative impact analysis requirements. An environmental justice population is comprised of 40% or more of minorities, has 25% or more of households identifying as speaking English less than "very well", as well as the annual median household income being 65% or less of the statewide annual median household income.

The Healey-Driscoll Administration committed 1% of the overall FY24 state budget to the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA), or more than \$105 million, and created the Undersecretary of Environmental Justice and Equity position with increased staff. About \$2 million in language access was included, which funds interpretation and translation. All EEA Agencies and Offices have an environmental justice liaison, and the first-ever Environmental Justice Strategy, mentioned above, was released in February 2024.

*A copy of this presentation has been posted to the MWRA Advisory Board's website.*

## D. **Presentation- MWRA's Environmental Justice Update- Danille Valco, MWRA Environmental Justice Community Liaison**

Danille was also joined by her colleague Tomeka Cribb (Associate Special Assistant for Affirmative Action, MWRA). Tomeka reiterated some of the points made by Maria Belen Power concerning the principles of environmental justice, such as that all people have a right to be protected from environmental hazards and to live in and enjoy a clean and healthful environment regardless of race, color, national origin, income, or English language proficiency. The MWRA environmental task force was started in 2021, with an environmental strategic plan being finalized in 2023, as well as the hiring of an environmental justice community liaison. A language access plan (LAP) was launched in 2024.

The MWRA's environmental justice strategy includes programs, policies, and activities such as communication and outreach, public engagement and participation, trainings, hiring, grant and zero interest loan opportunities, and environmental and public health considerations. Some examples are compliance with new education and outreach requirements associated with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act







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(MEPA) regulations, compliance with Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) Sewage Notification Regulations, looking at associated costs and benefits for projects as they pertain to affected communities, reviewing engineering design and construction projects for impacts and benefits to populations, as well as discussing impacted environmental justice populations in MWRA's capital improvement plan (CIP).

MWRA submitted their Language Access Plan (LAP) in January 2024 which has the purpose of ensuring equitable and meaningful access to all MWRA's service areas, programs, activities, and materials for individuals with limited language proficiency at no direct cost to them. MWRA is committed to making services available to individuals with LAP as part of its mission. Adherence to the LAP will promote compliance with Federal nondiscrimination statutes, as well as State statutes. MWRA contracts with multiple state vendors to provide translation and interpretation services.

Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Director of Planning and Sustainability at MWRA, continued this topic with a discussion on environmental justice considerations in lead service line replacement programs. He noted that a study conducted by American University in 2022 demonstrated a significant disparity between wealthy and less advantaged household's participation rates in private-side lead service line replacement. When a municipality switches from private to public funding of private-side lead service lines, participation rates dramatically increase.

Based on current data, about 20 communities have some lead service lines, with five communities having over 5% lead service lines. More complete data will be available after October 2024. There is substantial overlap between communities containing lead service lines and environmental justice areas.

The MWRA recognizes that if communities don't fund the private side replacement fully that they are likely to have less participation. MWRA has created a new program where if a community funds 100% of the private side replacement of lead service lines, they can get a 25% grant. These funds are available as soon as ~~June 24~~ July 1, 2024. This is a step up from the previous ten-year zero interest loan program. MWRA's goal is to be finished with lead service lines completely by 2032.

Since the Annual Water Quality Reports started back in 1998, MWRA has focused on making reports available to consumers by mailing them to every household in every MWRA community. This is twice as many as the law requires so the hard-to-reach renter populations are contacted. Reports are also available in print on request and available in many languages.

*A copy of these presentations has been posted to the MWRA Advisory Board's website.*

John Sanchez asked if the MWRA has a policy on costs to meet the goals of environmental justice and equity. Stephen Estes-Smargiassi responded that the MWRA must balance everything it does with the cost to ratepayers. He also noted that it is important to address people's access to information and listening to their concerns and, where possible, adapting to them.

## E. Committee Reports

Rich Raiche gave a recap on the annual accomplishments of the Advisory Board that were brought up at the June 13, 2024, Executive Committee meeting. These included the approval of two new phases of the Inflow/Infiltration program, approval of a new phase of the Local Water Assistance Program, as well as changes to the Lead Service Line program. The MWRA Board of Directors also continues to support system







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expansion, noting the elimination of entrance fees for communities looking to join MWRA's system as recommended by the Advisory Board. It was also noted that the Advisory Board continues being a part of the regulatory process as demonstrated by its involvement in the NPDES permit for Deer Island through comment submission and using legal counsel, as well as watching the combined sewer overflow long term plan update. In addition to business as usual, the Advisory Board went through staff changes with the loss of James Guiod, which led to bringing in two new staffers, Christine Bennett and Nathan Coté, for Matthew Romero's first full year as Executive Director.

John Sanchez concurred with Rich, noting the tough year Matthew Romero surely had with all the changes and challenges brought his way. Matthew thanked MWRA staff for providing help in many ways throughout the process. John noted that the next time the Advisory Board will meet is in September 2024, and that the annual election of positions will take place.

On behalf of Elena Proakis Ellis, Matthew Romero gave a Finance Committee update, noting that the MWRA approved its final FY25 current expense budget, as well as community assessments. They did meet the Advisory Board's recommendation of a 2.5% increase, though got to that number a bit differently than the Advisory Board suggested.

Matt also gave an Operations Committee update on behalf of Michael Rademacher. On Thursday July 18, an Operations Committee in-person only meeting will be held on site at the MWRA storage site for the Metropolitan Redundancy bores in Needham. An in-depth presentation on the project will take place. As space is limited, attendees wishing to take part should RSVP ahead of time on the Advisory Board's website.

## F. Consent agenda items

- Approval of Advisory Board meeting minutes from May 16, 2024.

*A motion was made to approve the consent agenda items. It was moved by Maurice Handel, seconded by Rich Raiche, and added to the omnibus vote at the end of the meeting.*

## G. New business

Fred Laskey gave a short update on a recent Board of Directors meeting where discussions took place on the final current expense budget and capital improvement plan. He is looking forward to the discussions on the upcoming Advisory Board field trip that takes place in August, noting the importance of seeing facilities in person.

## H. Adjournment

*A motion to adjourn was put forward. It was moved by Maurice Handel, seconded by Rich Raiche, and added to the omnibus vote at the end of the meeting.*

*A motion to approve the omnibus vote was put forward. It was moved by Maurice Handel and seconded by Rich Raiche.*

An omnibus vote on the following items took place:

- Approval of the consent agenda items.
- Adjournment of the meeting.

The omnibus vote was as follows:





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Name	Community	Vote
Charlie Jewell	Boston	Yes (remote)
Jim Arsenault	Braintree	Yes (remote)
Jay Hersey	Brookline	Yes (remote)
John Sanchez	Burlington	Yes (remote)
Cate Fox-Lent	Chelsea	Yes (remote)
Yem Lip	Malden	Yes (remote)
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John DeAmicis	Stoneham	Yes (remote)
Patrick Fasanella	Walpole	Yes (remote)
David Cohen	Wellesley	Yes (remote)
J.R. Greene	Quabbin and Ware Watershed	Yes (remote)
Maurice Handel	MAPC	Yes (remote)

177

Respectfully submitted,

(insert signature)

Rich Raiche, Secretary

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

DRAFT



2 Griffin Way, Suite A, Chelsea, MA 02150



(617) 788-2050



[mwra.ab@mwraadvisoryboard.com](mailto:mwra.ab@mwraadvisoryboard.com)

[mwraadvisoryboard.com](http://mwraadvisoryboard.com)

Matthew A. Romero  
Executive Director

WASTEWATER  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
TO THE MASSACHUSETTS WATER  
RESOURCES AUTHORITY



Annual Report 2023-2024

# An Introduction to the Wastewater Advisory Committee:

The MWRA Board of Directors created WAC in 1990 to offer independent recommendations on wastewater policies and programs. WAC's mission is to be an independent public forum for holistic discussion of wastewater issues. Membership is designed to reflect the knowledge and interest of major affected constituencies: engineering and construction, environmental advocacy, planning, academic research, and business.

## Membership

**Craig Allen**, Craig A. Allen, FCAS  
**George Atallah**, GA Engineering & Consulting  
**Wayne Chouinard**, Town of Arlington DPW  
**Adriana Cillo**, Boston Water & Sewer  
**James Ferrara**, National Grid  
**Stephen Greene**, Howland-Greene Consulting, LLC  
**Christine Bennett**, MWRA Advisory Board  
**Taber Keally**, Neponset River Watershed Association  
**Karen Lachmayr**, Harvard University  
**Martin Pillsbury**, Metropolitan Area Planning Council  
**Alfredo Vargas**, City of Newton, DPW  
**Kannan Vembu**, (Chair) AquaEnviroBio Solutions LLC----->  
**Dan Winograd**, (Vice-Chair) Woodard & Curran.



## Executive Director:

**Andreae Downs**: Andreae.wac@gmail.com  
617-378-8972

## WAC's Contractual Duties:

1. Provide independent advice to the MWRA Board and staff on wastewater programs and policies directly related to the MWRA
2. Review & comment to the Authority on wastewater reports and proposed documents; offer independent advice on current and proposed wastewater program and policy directions to further MWRA objectives
3. Reflect the knowledge and interest of major affected constituencies, including
  - a. Engineering
  - b. Construction
  - c. Business/industry
  - d. Planning
  - e. Academic research
  - f. Environmental advocacy
4. Advise MWRA on wastewater planning
5. Increase citizen participation and education by providing MWRA with assistance in outreach. Review programs and explain plans & policies to citizens



6. Attend Authority working groups related to wastewater programs and policy, including the AB and WSCAC
7. Propose to the Authority ways to continue effective and efficient long-term public involvement in wastewater programs

## FY 2023 Highlights

WAC's workload was front-loaded this Fiscal Year. The EPA's issuance of a draft NPDES permit in late May for Deer Island, meant meetings devoted to discussing, drafting, and revising WAC's comments on the draft permit in July, August, and November. Our 14-page comment letter was read by other organizations as they drafted their own comments.

In addition, WAC successfully asked EPA in June for an extension of time for comments, which benefitted many organizations commenting after more than two decades of no new permit for Deer Island.



WAC's director resubmitted language for a wipes bill that closely mirrored California's new law, hammered out with the industry and including social media and other education. It was incorporated into the Climate Bill, which did not pass before the end of the General Court's regular session. The federal WIPPEs Act is still alive on Capitol Hill, and WAC is watching that closely. Meanwhile, a court settlement may set a United States standard for dispersability for all wipes meant for flushing.

WAC also submitted comments on the listing of PFAS under CERCLA (the Superfund Act) and on the PFAS Act on Beacon Hill (H 4486), which would reduce PFAS in the environment, but has a clause outlawing land application of biosolids. This latter bill also did not pass the state legislature this session.

The WAC cubicle in Chelsea is almost all set up, and the Director is attending some MWRA Board meetings in person. WAC is working with the Advisory Board, MWRA Law Department and WSCAC on the possibility of pooling some services in order to cut costs.

WAC membership has changed—Christine Bennet is now the voting member from the Advisory Board.



**Meetings:** In addition to the above topics, WAC discussed: MWRA's energy and sustainability program, MWRA budgets, and toured the Nut Island headworks. In cooperation with WSCAC and the Advisory Board, WAC held three of its meetings jointly with the other committees.

## Leadership

WAC was led this Fiscal Year by Kannan Vembu of AquaEnviroBio Solutions, a WAC member since 2013. Dan Winograd of Woodard Curran served as Vice Chair.

The committee rotates leadership every other year.



## Focus for 2024-25

If there is a second draft Deer Island permit, WAC will focus on comments for that. The committee will continue to focus on the future of biosolids recycling and how to do so most beneficially, how climate change may impact the system, combined sewer overflows vs. stormwater pollution impacts on rivers, and continued maintenance of the system.

WAC remains interested in cost management and the environment—in particular efficiency, reliability, and renewable energy production in MWRA facilities.

Other areas of interest

- Putting wastewater's most important environmental impacts in perspective.
- TRAC
- Residual Designation (EPA focus on stormwater pollution) and its impacts on MWRA
- Artificial Intelligence & its impact on MWRA

