



# Advocacy & Accountability

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Operations Committee Meeting  
Thursday, July 18, 2024 at 8:15 AM  
**Needham, MA 10:00 AM**

## **Operations Committee Meeting Summary**

The July 18 Operations Committee meeting, chaired by Michael Rademacher, began with a motion to approve the April 1 meeting minutes, moved by Sam Stivers and seconded by another attendee. The minutes were approved. Matthew Romero, MWRA Advisory Board's Executive Director, turned discussions to MWRA's lead service line replacement grant program guidelines. These guidelines, refined in collaboration with MWRA and Advisory Board staff, ensure funding only applies to complete line replacements and focus on measurable community impact. Mr. Romero emphasized the program's goal of incentivizing replacements, particularly ahead of the anticipated national spotlight on lead pipe inventories later in the year.

Mr. Stivers raised concerns about challenges in motivating homeowners to participate, to which Mr. Romero responded by highlighting successful local ordinances like those in Malden and out-of-state examples. Lou Taverna shared Newton's experience, noting resistance among elderly residents, while Michael Rademacher discussed Arlington's investigation into requiring inspections and replacements during property sales. These efforts aim to streamline the replacement process and leverage tools like grants to ease local implementation.

In New Business, Mr. Romero addressed misinformation about PFAS contamination in Boston's water, originating from a misleading flyer distributed through ValPak mailers. He shared that an op-ed correcting these claims was drafted and would be published to counter the narrative, noting the importance of timing and broad communication to protect MWRA's reputation and advocacy efforts. The meeting also introduced a forthcoming dynamic content initiative for the Advisory Board, designed to enhance engagement beyond traditional materials like green sheets. Rademacher concluded the meeting by reinforcing the importance of resource sharing, collaboration, and proactive solutions to address both public health and infrastructure challenges. A motion to adjourn was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Michael Rademacher'.

Michael Rademacher, Chair

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



2 Griffin Way, Suite A, Chelsea, MA 02150



(617) 788-2050



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

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

Matthew A. Romero  
Executive Director