



June 4, 2021
Remote via zoom

Attendees:

WAC Members: **Karen Lachmayr** (Chair), **Wayne Chouinard** (Vice-Chair), **Adrianna Cillo** (BWSC), **Craig Allen**, **Dan Winograd**, **George Atallah**, James Guiod (AB), **Kannan Vembu**, Martin Pillsbury, **Mary Adelstein**, **Philip Ashcroft**, **Stephen Greene**, Taber Keally (Members in attendance in **bold**)

Guests: Wendy Leo, Denise Ellis-Hibbett, Betsy Reilley, Katie Ronan (MWRA), Lou Taverna (Advisory Board), Jim Barsanti (DEP)

VOTE: May Minutes. Change of leadership: Chair: Wayne Chouinard, Vice Chair: Kannan Vembu (effective after WAC contract is signed)

REPORTS:

MWRA: May 21st. CSO briefing went well. Lots of interest from citizen environmental justice groups. Intensive activity period leading up to December 2021 deadlines. Some milestones will not be met, and MWRA is discussing with the court parties what the next steps will be. Water quality reports are in draft form—CSOs are not a major source of pollution in—particularly—the Charles. ENQUAL is involved in producing those reports.

Deer Island will get a Platinum 14 award for 14 years with no permit violation.

OMSAP: Some monitoring was modified because of COVID restrictions. 2019 exceedance of Nitrogen contingency plan threshold, not unexpected since there has been 20 years of population growth. No impact on the water quality or environment of Mass Bay. Updates also to the Bays Eutrophication Model—now on a more modern platform.

Q: will the effluent nitrogen threshold be updated to reflect what MWRA and OMSAP know about its effects? Probably not, unless OMSAP recommends it. KL noted that Massachusetts Bay nitrogen is a useful indicator of the direction of the effluent plume, and gives the community assurance that it still isn't having an effect on water quality. The threshold limits were set some 20 years ago and there is no plan to modify them.

Maintenance projects starting soon: Prison Point CSO Facility, DI Clarifiers (was delayed), both will involve limiting capacity temporarily.

A new industrial stormwater permit will somewhat affect MWRA, as they will need to monitor and test stormwater at Deer Island.

The application for a new Clinton NPDES permit is due soon. The current five-year permit expires in spring 2022, and MWRA must submit a permit application six months before the expiration date. Once we submit the application, EPA could issue a draft permit any time after that.

No word of a new NPDES permit for Deer Island.

Chair: Thankful that WAC community has pulled through the pandemic. Another productive year of WAC, thanks to members' participation—which is pro bono, and generous.

AB: (Lou Taverna) Tour of Blue Hills Reservoir being planned, probably for the third Thursday in August. Bench being planned for dedication to Bernie Cooper of Norwood, who was the long-term chair of the AB Finance committee. September meeting is also not yet scheduled, but will be joint again with WAC and WSCAC.

Director: Highlights of the past fiscal year (attached). Wipes legislation filed and in committee, lots of work on PFAS (with 70+ attendees) and its effects on MWRA operations.

Discussion:

Likely that WAC will return to some kind of in-person meeting if the Governor and Legislature do not extend the state of emergency or permission for remote meetings to conform with the Open Meeting Law.

Dates are tentative on the draft schedule, and may or may not be at the MAPC conference room. CSO presentation may be better scheduled for January than December.

Several members preferred January rather than the December meeting.

Most hoped that remote/virtual participation could continue in some fashion.

Topic ideas:

PFAS

Residuals: palletization vs. other technologies; marketing of biosolids; improvements to anaerobic digestion

Access to Deer Island & other MWRA locations as sea level rise continues—NEFCo?

Continue work on wipes

Tour ideas: NEFCo, Chelsea Creek Headworks

CHP if ready for any updates? Or expand the question to how MWRA is planning to get to Net Zero.

Changing regulations and how affects master planning.

Cybersecurity—perhaps an outside group on good practices for wastewater operators

Will Biobot partnership and early disease detection continue?

TRAC and CECs

WAC September meeting jointly with Advisory Board & WSCAC—no date yet