



Held virtually

June 3, 2022

**Members in Bold in Attendance:**

**Wayne Chouinard** (Chair, Town of Arlington), **Kannan Vembu** (Vice-Chair), **Adrianna Cillo** (BWSC), **Craig Allen**, Dan Winograd, **George Atallah**, **James Guidod** (AB), **Karen Lachmayr**, **Martin Pillsbury**, **Mary Adelstein**, **Philip Ashcroft**, **Stephen Greene**, Taber Keally (NepRWA)

Andreae Downs, WAC staff

**Guests**

Gwen Speeth, Save the Alewife; Jim Barsanti, MassDEP wastewater section, Lou Taverna, MWRA Advisory Board; Bill Kiley (BWSC), Mickey Nowak (MaWEA), Cecelia Hampton, MWRA Advisory Board

**MWRA:** Maret Smolow, Denise Ellis-Hibbett, Katie Ronan, David Duest, Sally Carroll, Betsy Reilley

**VOTE:** May minutes

**MWRA Updates:** Maret Smolow—EPA is indicating that a Deer Island draft NPDES permit should be issued by Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>.

MWRA and discharging communities are working on updated CSO plans for the Alewife, Mystic and Charles. There should be a meeting on the draft sometime this summer.

CSO mitigation on the unmet parts of the CSO plan continues, for example, sewer separation in East Boston. Federal Judge Stearns in the CSO case commended MWRA for continuing progress.

The report and memo on the Combined Heat and Power renovation are out, and WAC may want a fall presentation on the possibilities.

New sewer notification regulations go into effect July 6<sup>th</sup>. MWRA has added SSO notifications (rare), and blending notifications (MWRA always meets permit limits when they do blend).

MWRA was awarded NACWA's Platinum 15 award, which means 15 years without a permit violation.

**Advisory Board:** James Guidod—We are at the end of the budget process, and the AB has suggested a 2.85% RRR (rate revenue requirement) increase.

The AB is also anticipating the new NPDES draft for Deer Island. The Executive Committee is meeting next week on the issue of co-permittees (noting that they are in the Clinton draft permit again). Just in case, AB Executive Committee is interviewing law firms.

Surveying other MA communities about rates.

**WAC Director's report:** Attached. Highlights—Water leadership meeting of water environmental regulators in all of the New England states. Their focus was stormwater, PFAS, and federal funds—this is targeted at green infrastructure and net zero water treatment. Staffing challenges in these departments because of the additional funding. Clinton not final. CT still putting 1.7 million gallons into waterways—mostly I/I. Have found a PFAS-free firefighting foam. MA now has 126 public water supplies with too much PFAS. Mass is studying leaching of PFAS. VT is testing up the sewage system and are finding more PFAS in the residential streams. Maine has banned land application of biosolids and septage, but there aren't affordable alternatives.

**Wipes bill H897**—still pushing for letters to legislators,

**PFAS Report**—draft of possible comments before WAC.

WAC—excellent report, fairly complete, support everything in it. Should effective treatments be part of the legislation? Industry is being asked to monitor for PFAS, which is an essential first step.

**VOTE:** continue to draft comments & revise over the summer. General agreement with direction.

### **Possible Deer Island Draft NPDES permit**

#### CSO Reporting Requirements

WAC: Issue MWRA has is in the Alewife—and most of it is from upstream I/I.

Betsey Reilley noted that the courts have imposed many requirements for the CSO systems in court orders and variances. MWRA feels that the CSO part of the NPDES should focus on monitoring

MWRA's request is that a new permit steer clear of requirements that would soon be out of date-- focus instead on monitoring.

WAC: For CSO need a balance—you want to manage the system to control inflow and infiltration, but maintain proportionality between cost & benefit. When MWRA built the South Boston stormwater tunnel at huge expense, WAC was careful to stress that this should not be considered a precedent. Careful not to make stormwater an MWRA-controlled issue.

May want a WAC letter or op-ed on how stormwater pumped out to Deer Island dewater rivers and wells, and how CSOs are the result of impervious surfaces and not infiltrating rain.

#### Enterococcus

MWRA believes *Enterococcus* will be in the permit, the question is how—reporting only, seasonally? Will they allow the current dilution factor (70x—EPA has said they will not consider dilution)

MWRA would be comfortable with seasonal limits, an audit of the outfall location and ambient monitoring.

MWRA—but for what benefit? *Enterococcus* near the outfall has no bearing on health or environment. But to treat for it imposes costs: more chlorine and dechlorination chemicals, could affect MWRA's toxicity, more trucks through Winthrop. Levels are highest in wet weather. MWRA is not against testing and monitoring, but doesn't see the benefit of treatment

WAC: there are benefits to a standard measurement across WWTP. *E-coli* are a good indication of human fecal matter, but *enterococcus* are also. But will continue testing for both?

MWRA: Testing will continue. *Enterococcus* is part of the state water quality standards for marine waters.

WAC: Can the limit be met with the dilution factor? (Yes)

MWRA—In winter, MWRA has more trouble killing bacteria in the effluent, so levels are higher. Happy to treat for something with a real benefit, but we know from our ambient monitoring that bacterial levels are very, very low near the outfall.

WAC: question of what problem we are solving for

MWRA: with the dilution factor, MWRA should be able to meet the limits

Consensus that WAC supports monitoring for *Enterococcus*, but not limits unless the EPA allows the dilution factor

#### Blending/dilution

MWRA: a blending requirement currently exists in the court order. Stipulation of the court order that this be added to the new permit.

MWRA would like wet weather policy that acknowledges the necessity of blending to ensure the continued proper operation of the plant.

#### Nitrogen

No evidence of eutrophication or any other harm in Mass Bay?

MWRA: informal talks with EPA—they are also seeing the monitoring and modeling showing no impact; looks like they will ask for monitoring and reporting. We know nutrients are super important. But a limit would not get an environmental benefit, but could mean an environmental cost.

MWRA—comment—it is always good to support decisions as well as oppose them in comments.

#### **Draft Annual Report for FY22, and possible topics for FY23 meetings (Sept-June).**

Committee managed to be very productive and engaged despite another year of remote meetings.

WAC: virtual meetings have allowed so much more consistent participation

Schedule: Tour in August likely to be on a boat?

September 15th—joint meeting with Advisory Board. Not sure if will be all-remote, but expect so.

Suggestions: can interceptors store more water back during intense storms? MWRA planning for that?

Contaminants of emerging concern (microplastics)—everything but PFAS

Adequate staffing for MWRA, especially licensed professionals.

Question about marketing pellets in light of PFAS—Maine land application ban is making it more difficult to market, but still possible. Maine may not have taken into account that paper mills would have added higher concentrations of PFAS to its effluent than is likely here. Marketing costs are higher, but not by a huge percentage.

Update WAC on COVID monitoring or whether the monitoring could be used for future pandemics.

Water Resources Commission 5/12

Reports: Hopkinton is looking to join MWRA for water because of PFAS & metals. Joining will be in the \$20m range, treatment would have been twice that; also, some communities on the Cape are filtering now for PFAS

Scituate is spending \$50m for a new water treatment plant.

State revolving fund loan application process is opening up soon. Lots of \$\$ from federal infrastructure law to address PFAS.

Update: [Hydrologic Conditions](#) and Drought Status Update Erin Graham

Stage 1 drought in the southeast and on the islands.

Now using EDDI--Evaporative Demand Drought Index--shows expectation of drought across the state except in the west.

Presentation: Draft WRC Work Plan for FY2023 Anne Carroll

Will be on the WRC website--have added the pollinator program, below

Presentation: [Growing Wild](#) for Pollinators Eric Seaborn, DCR

Curriculum/outreach on pollinators and drought-resistant gardening



DCR is the state's largest landowner. Establishing pollinator habitat on DCR properties, using pollinator habitat BMPs.

DAR--specializing in honey bees and apiary inspection & education

Public land alone can't provide enough habitat. Pollinators are an excellent public education tool.

Pollinator decline, not just honeybees, is a threat to human life and the environment

Native plants are drought-tolerant, sequester carbon and prevent erosion.

Mapped out limited mow zones, managed meadows and official pollinator gardens. Interactive map with information on each of the habitats on DCR website. Discovered DCR staff had already taken initiative.

Leading by example--showcase DCR properties with pollinator habitats, provide technical support, disseminate information. Handing out pollinator garden starter kits.

Will have links on the DAR website on where nurseries that provide pollinator plants are located & what they offer. Also have calculators of how much climate impact conversion of your lawn will have.

Want to add more--rainwater savings, what species you are helping. Visible benefits.

Working with EJ communities (Lowell), particularly schools.

State has a [Pollinator Protection Program](#) (DAR)

Other resources:

- [Pollinator Landscapes at State Facilities Guiding Framework](#) - Includes an overview of the importance of pollinator habitats, benefits of converting traditional lawns to habitat, and strategies state agencies have undertaken to create these habitats on their lands.
- [Lawn to Pollinator Habitat Savings Calculator](#) - Designed to provide high-level estimates of potential cost savings, labor savings, and greenhouse gas emission reductions associated with converting lawns into pollinator-focused habitats.
- **Growing Wild for Pollinators Signs** - Signage can help educate the public and show intentionality of limited-mow zones and wildflower meadows. The [Growing Wild for Pollinators walk by sign](#) includes descriptive text, and the [Growing Wild for Pollinators drive by sign](#) simply states "Growing Wild for Pollinators" in large text. Contact [Ryan.Kingston@mass.gov](mailto:Ryan.Kingston@mass.gov) if you are interested in obtaining one of these signs for your site.
- [Additional Pollinator Habitat Info and Resources](#) - Includes websites and resources related to creating and maintaining pollinator habitats in the Northeast US.

MassDEP Surface Water Quality Listening Session 5/16

Recent amendments. Now looking to hear suggestions for future criteria development for water body protection & restoration.

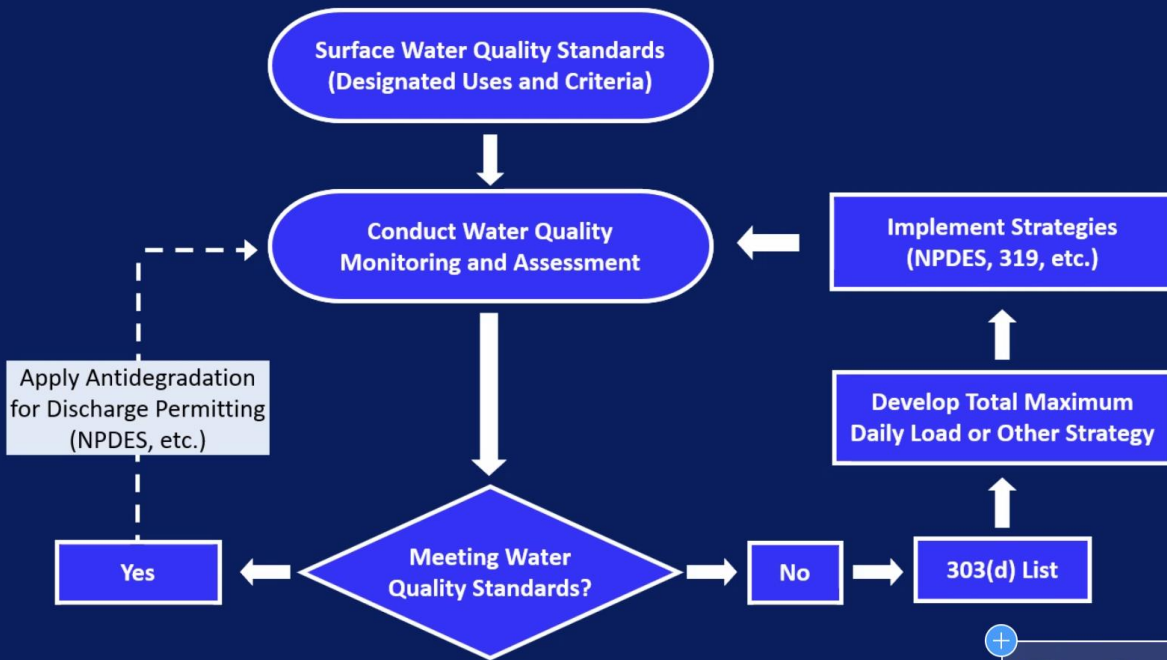
Lealdon Langley, Bureau of Water Quality. supervises title 5 (septic), watershed planning, NPDES. Also regulate industrial discharges, and stormwater—MS4, wetlands, create stormwater standards, handbook, reporting tools.

Watershed management planning controls surface water quality standards.

Dr. Richard Carey—acting director of watershed planning



# The Clean Water Act and Surface Water Quality Standards








# Summary of Recent Revisions to the Surface Water Quality Standards

## Key updates:

- Narrative section
  - River Basin tables (Tables 1-27)
  - 153 new Cold Water stream designations
  - Site-specific nitrogen, copper, and zinc Criteria (Table 28)
  - New table: Generally Applicable Criteria (Table 29)
    - Aquatic Life Criteria (Table 29a)
    - Human Health Criteria (Table 29b)
  - New table: Organoleptic Effect Criteria (Table 30)
- 

From the description, most of the revisions are reorganization, adding footnotes and putting things in order.

Today:



## Listening Session

- We want to hear **your suggestions** on future criteria development, priority surface waters for protection or restoration, and other topics of interest pertaining to the SWQS.
- We will be noting your comments and priorities and will take them into consideration for future SWQS revisions.

There will be additional opportunities to review & comment on any revisions that come from these sessions.

## Break out:

CRWA, Rob Abele—barriers to migratory fish. Request more explicit references to migratory fish in the standards. Broaden habitat to include passage. Classification should include freshwater migration. Not just cold-water fisheries in classification tables. Lower Charles is migratory fish habitat. Few states on the east coast have done this, but west coast has.

—thinks should be a criterion for water quantity in all waters. State is identifying water bodies that are dewatered.

Alison Field-Juma, OARS—how to capture fishery health in the concept of restoration. Nitrogen may or may not create an issue in the freshwater rivers, but it does contribute to estuaries and their nutrient issues. Should that be reflected in the standards?

Would like a way to reflect low-flows as a problem. Besides concentration of nutrients

Abele: big topic—temperature criterion could be modernized. Other states have added ‘cool’ as a set, along with warm and cold—Wisconsin has done a lot of work on it; Michigan streamflow standards are temperature sensitive. Some fish in the transition zones. MA doesn’t have this. Fish & Wildlife will have much of this information. Cold water streams can be vulnerable to warming up—water withdrawals, warm stormwater infusion, etc.

Ryan O’Donnell—flow, temperature and water quality are all related.

Water Quality criteria:

OARS: regulation of endocrine-disrupting chemicals. Also, PFAS. Know it’s complicated. Impacts on human health are of course important, but what about fish health and other organisms’ health?

Ryan O’Donnell: Chlorides—is the goal to develop a water quality standard for chloride?

Cecelia Ruddick: would like to see microplastic regulation

Cecelia: temperature can kill off eelgrass beds (tops is 70 degrees or so). Ecosystem that’s vital to coastal health.

Open Forum: what is brought up that you want to discuss further, or what wasn’t covered in breakout groups:

Summaries: definition of eutrophication that’s more nuanced; copper, aluminum, PFAS, chloride, neonicotinoids, microplastics and microfibers; water quantity, accommodate climate, more nuance—very cold waters, cool waters added? How to monitor for temperature, more feedback on process from EPA, engage communities earlier if impacted, endocrine disrupter chemicals, focus also on aquatic life health, Definition of migratory fish to include freshwater migratory fish. Wet weather criteria for bacteria—review. How criteria impact the permittees. Rivers as a possible source of greenhouse gasses. Improvements over the years. Uniform assessments across all water bodies.

Can stormwater have temperature criteria? Apply everywhere, but don’t distinguish.

What about mixing zones? How define better?

[EBC Water Leadership meeting 5/18](#)

[Ken Moraff, EPA](#)

Unprecedented amount of money going into water infrastructure.



# Bipartisan Infrastructure Law

Appropriation	FY 2022 (\$)	FY 2023 (\$)	FY 2024 (\$)	FY 2025 (\$)	FY 2026 (\$)	Five Year Total (\$)
CWSRF General Supplemental	1,902,000,000	2,202,000,000	2,403,000,000	2,603,000,000	2,603,000,000	11,713,000,000
CWSRF Emerging Contaminants	100,000,000	225,000,000	225,000,000	225,000,000	225,000,000	1,000,000,000
DWSRF General Supplemental	1,902,000,000	2,202,000,000	2,403,000,000	2,603,000,000	2,603,000,000	11,713,000,000
DWSRF Emerging Contaminants	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000	800,000,000	4,000,000,000
DWSRF Lead Service Line Replacement	3,000,000,000	3,000,000,000	3,000,000,000	3,000,000,000	3,000,000,000	15,000,000,000

Plus \$35m into estuary programs. Soon New England will see nearly \$1b in water infrastructure aid.

Key to use the funds on the greatest needs--one is **stormwater**--source of one of our biggest water quality issues. Identified in the BIL as a priority category for funding.

BIL priorities--local flexibility, EJ communities, lead service lines, **PFAS, climate resilience**.

\$15b targeted to lead service lines. Still 16million of them in New England. Funds can fund inventories of lead lines, and any replacement must be of the **entire** line.

Emerging contaminants funding all grants. PFAS and others. \$4b drinking water **\$1b wastewater**.

Implementation of climate resilience: adaptation to climate hazards--coastal resilience, adaption to floods and drought, green infrastructure, **net zero water systems**.

Supporting domestic manufacturing--(build America/buy America act--BABAA)--construction materials, manufactured products as well as iron/steel--idea to rebuild domestic supply chains.

Just administering the spending of this money will take a lot of people to do the work. EPA and state DEPs are hiring, but for a while they will be stretched thin.

Localities and utilities will face similar **staffing challenges**.

Talks about the mid-sized WWTP NPDES permits, and how important it is to have the permits renewed and up-to-date. Comment period just closed, and EPA is still looking at comments before finalizing the permits (applies to **Clinton**)

Connecticut--Graham Stevens of Water Protection and Land Re-Use at DEEP

American Wetlands Month--confusion on waters of the US (ping-pong between administrations). Wetlands ARE infrastructure--50th anniversary of CT legislation protecting wetlands.

Tracking water flow on all streams for habitat and wildlife survival--and at water withdrawals.

Wastewater--clean water fund (SRF), being used for phosphorus removal (43 have limits, 25 completed upgrades), CSO storage tunnels...

Putting together a priority list--now out for public comment. Includes all construction-ready projects included.

1.7m gallons of raw and partially-treated sewage discharged to urban waters. But most not from CSO or separate systems, but result of rain events.

Also have a sewage right to know. Using twitter and electronic reporting system with "live" maps of overflows.

AFFF take-back program. Found a PFAS\_free foam. Testing wastewater influent and effluent. Issued an advisory for fish caught in the Hockanum for PFAS.

New spill regulations in force. Include new and historic releases (newly discovered).

Also facing staffing challenges, retirements.

Q: are you testing upstream of the WWTP to identify source streams?

A: putting in sampling requirements for significant users and new industries.

*Rhode Island--Joseph Haberek*

Starting PFAS monitoring of surface water permits, NPDES (RIPDES) permits. Working on pretreatment to update.

*New Hampshire: Brandan Kernen*

Lots of PFAS found in ground & surface water, mostly in southern urban areas, due to manufacturing history.

Much of the state is on private wells, lots of PFAS contamination there.

While the new federal money is welcome, the need is greater in NH than even that funding. -- \$2b in aging infrastructure, \$100m in lead lines, \$200m or more for PFAS mitigation, treatment of manganese and new housing.

Climate change--trying to anticipate in water supply, energy audits, leak detection, vulnerability assessments

Also taking salt in public water & private well systems--corrosion, health issues.

Half of NH population on private wells. Many exceed MCLs for contaminants, not including PFAS.

Tracy Wood--funding priorities on clean water:

Data collection for PFAS, NPDES, Biosolids.

Have incentive programs for asset management, energy audits,

Tracking PFAS in biosolids, industrial uses, landfills.

Have only 1 incinerator, limited landfills, count on land application for biosolids. Sampling since 2017. Done some collection system sampling.

Reduced CSO communities to 5. Think can get Exeter and Portsmouth off that list in the next 5 years.

*Kathy Baskin--MassDEP*

Looking to increase precipitation numbers to reflect more intense storms for stormwater (NOAA Plus)

## Stormwater Regulation Update for Wetlands Protection Act and Water Quality Certification

Summary of Proposed Key Stormwater Changes

#	Existing Wetland/WQC Regulation	Key Change Proposed
1	No new untreated stormwater conveyances	No major changes proposed
2	<b>Peak discharge rates (runoff)</b>	<b>NOAA PLUS, 100-year storm</b>
3	<b>Groundwater recharge</b>	<b>1-inch for all soil types except D</b>
4	<b>Pollutant removal for New Development</b>	<b>90% TSS and 60% TP removal</b>
5	Lands Uses with Higher Potential Pollutant Loads	No major changes proposed
6	Critical areas, including public drinking waters	No major changes proposed
7	<b>Redevelopment</b>	<b>80% TSS and 50% TP removal, require full compliance for Std 4 for most project types</b>
8	Erosion and sedimentation control during construction	No major changes proposed
9	Long-term operation and maintenance of stormwater controls	No major changes proposed
10	Prohibit Illicit discharges to stormwater controls and wetlands	No major changes proposed
11	<b>Supporting Compliance with TMDLs</b>	<b>Move TMDLs from Std 4 to new Std 11</b>

Also allowing for green infrastructure to reduce the “gray” stormwater infrastructure

PFAS--126 public water systems detected >20ppt 6PFAS, some are now no longer using that water for supply.

85 towns have > 60% residents on private wells.

PFAS in residuals--4 quarters of monitoring. Looking at data, stakeholder advisory group considering regulation amendments for land application. Looking at a leaching model of PFOS and PFOA in groundwater. Studying case studies around NE.

*VT: Pete LaFlamme*

Updating stormwater permits, treatments in new and retrofitting esp. around Lake Champlain to reduce nutrient loading.

PFAS--two-pronged

-monitoring--fairly aggressive. Testing surface waters. Good news--all below MCL of >20ppt for 5 PFAS. Starting to look at fish tissue advisories

-management--comprehensive wastewater sampling to ID potential sources, monitoring the known or suspected sources, managing exposure.

Seeing higher PFAS levels from residential areas than from industrial areas.

*ME DEP, Brian Kavanah*

Don't deal with drinking water or sludge--this latter is under Agriculture

PFAS -- has become a game-changer and may be even more impactful.

In Maine, how do we deal with sludge since we can't make it into compost or land-apply? Doesn't think Maine will go back.

Also bans spreading septage. Required study of POTW septage capacity if it will be banned. Created authority to require effluent sampling.

Now requiring sampling at 100 POTWs and 25 non-POTW dischargers

PFAS in lots of Maine headlines. Dairy farms used sludge for years. Now discovering PFAS in groundwater, soil, crops, adjacent waterbodies, manure, cows, milk.

Old PFAS standards meant that mercury advisories were enough to cover PFAS, now have lower standards and are flagging more fish.

Bringing septage to POTWs is impractical because of the great distances needed to travel. Trouble is that may see less maintenance of septic, or illegal dumping on back roads.

Nitrogen rulemaking around Casco Bay (Portland are), to protect eelgrass and improve DO.

Creating asset management plans and O&M plans for POTW.

*Advisory Board 5/19*

## C. Report of the Executive Director

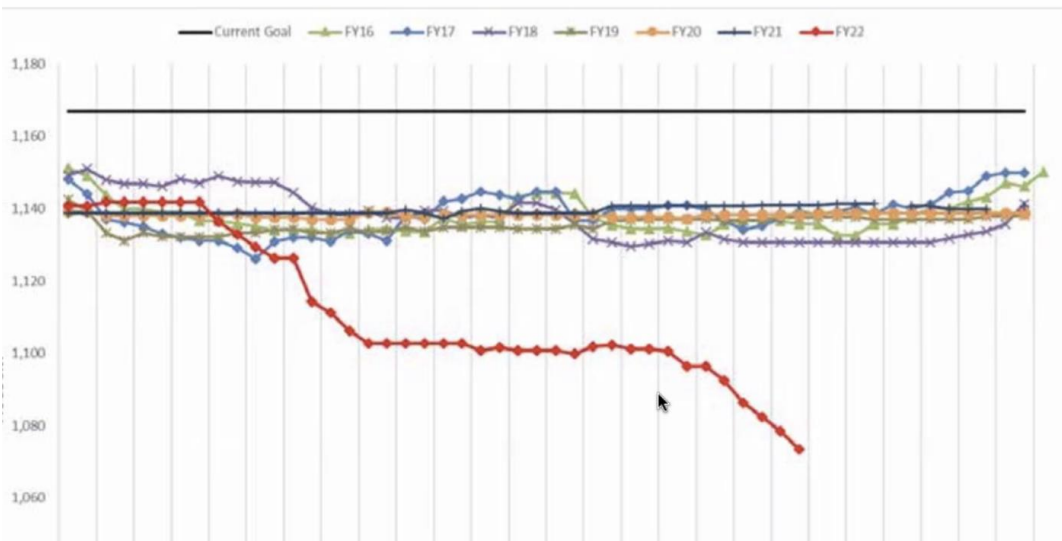
- Notes relationship with Beth Card, who is now Commissioner of EoEA
- NPDES permit on DI seems to be moving forward. Anticipates that if co-permittee language is in the permit, they will explore legal action. Already interviewing law firms.

## D. Committee Reports

- Executive Committee – Louis M. Taverna
  - Report of the nomination Committee
    - Action Item: Nomination and election of Joseph Foti as an Advisory Board representative to the MWRA Board of Directors through June 30, 2025
  - Action Item: Approval of the FY23 Advisory Board Operating Budget \$40K surplus will go into the Legal Fund as they plan to deal with NPDES permit renewals. Otherwise, this is a <1% increase year over year.
- Finance Committee – Elena Proakis Ellis – Update

- Action Item: Approval of the Advisory Board's Comments and Recommendations on the MWRA's Proposed FY23 CIP and CEB. Staff recommendation for RRR is 2.85%, down from proposed 3.34%. 3.58% for water 2.45% for sewer. AB will weigh in with the MWRA Board; they are fairly sure that they will get to 2.85%, but how that plays out & in which accounts may vary.
  - Spring revisits--longer than normal--inflation, energy prices, vacancies, and more. This raised water rate & lowered sewer rate
  - Debt service assistance--\$1.2 m -- will be applied to FY23 RRR
  - Vacancy rate

# Personnel



Two recommendations--study compensation & staffing to retain current and hire new personnel and adjust proposed vacancy rate by 6FTE to save \$2.7m

- Rate stabilization--projected use of direct rate stabilization explored, and so looking at a more creative use.
- Pension--contribution increases every year. If don't fully fund earlier, becomes a heavier lift. Has to be fully funded by 2030. If fund doesn't have returns in 2022, then might have a big contribution to make in 2030.
  - Recommendations include short-term recalculations, redirecting optional debt prepayments, moving OPEB funds into pension, put rate stabilization funds into water pension fund--protected from market downturns, extend the date of full funding to 2033, and perhaps rolling to 2040, get Legislature to shift to a rolling date for full funding for systems that are NEAR full funding. (Matt explains this issue will hit every pension system, and MWRA is just one of the first to confront it--because one market downturn can make every pension system a potential fiscal pit).
- Lower capital financing is anticipated, MWRA should reflect that in the RRR.

- Capital Improvement Program--not many comments because at the end of the 5-year cap. AB now in planning process for future analysis and recommendations.
  - Debt service analysis--revisit structure and repayment schedule

Not in the recommendations is the waiver of the entrance fees and the legacy entrance fees of newer communities (Stoughton, Reading). AB has asked for a legal opinion on what is possible to do for legacy communities.

- Operations Committee – Update

#### Lead & Copper Rule Workshop

Steve Estes-Smargiassi

Sampling changes--EPA sped up the rules and can be considered a pilot--

33% increase in samples. Only sample homes with lead service lines. This may result in higher results.

Find & Fix requirements--MWRA is now working with communities, when a higher level is found, often the service line is just remove it. Report to DEP

Notification

MWRA recommends that communities create a more detailed service line inventory, map it, and tell customers--recommend that this information be online. Als required is notifying the owner.

#### MWRA Board 5/25

REPORT OF THE CHAIR--Beth Card

Delighted to be chair of this board.

ARPA package and FORWARD Act--\$1.2b, 750m of which focused on renewable energy. Drought declaration for SE Mass & Islands.

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcomes Beth Card back

Last year one of the wettest on record in MA. Boston Harbor Islands anniversary year (25th and 50th). Free Ferry Day over 1,000 people. Events over summer. June 4 will be Fishing Day on Deer Island at the new fishing pier.

FY2023 BUDGET HEARINGS

- Advisory Board Integrated Comments and Recommendations on the MWRA's Proposed FY2023 CIP and CEB--

Joe Favaloro

Target RRR is 2.85%--down from MWRA 3.42%

**Personnel:** AB recommends that the budget reflects that some staffing levels cannot be maintained, and budgeting to reflect that. Also

- staffing study



- Compensation study

**Rate Stabilization;** thought about applying it more aggressively, but looking ahead, realized that using more now would result in less funds in the future & less flexibility

**Pension:** fully funding on schedules & valuations.

Analysis--should move optional sewer debt prepayments, one-time water stabilization funds, and OPEB funding into pension to get full funding; re-evaluate after every year's returns. Issue is that one bad year can mean a dramatic final year payment.

Also want the Retirement Board to extend the date for full funding of the fund one year if necessary--and rolling.

Suggest legislation to change the pension laws to allow a rolling date for full funding, since 100% funding can slip easily--but only if the pension fund is already 90%

**Capital Financing:** shift optional debt pre-payments since lower capital financing costs.

- Revisit debt structure & repayment
- Create special finance committee
- Community assistance--phase 14 for I/I and Phase 2 of Water
- Master Planning--next round

- MWRA's FY2023 Draft Final Budget Hearings Presentation

Tom Durkin

Challenges:

- Inflation
- Interest rates
- Staffing
- Supply chain

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Approval of April 13, 2022 Executive Session Minutes

A. Real Estate

1. Watershed Land Acquisition

B. Collective Bargaining

1. Collective Bargaining Update (verbal)

PERSONNEL & COMPENSATION

**A. Annual Meeting of the Personnel and Compensation Committee**

**Independent of Management**

## Authority Accountability and Transparency Act Compliance

**Review and Extension of Contract for Executive Director**--given highest rating & discussion of a raise...based on comparison data

### C. Information

1. Staffing Recruitment and Retention--significant challenges recruiting and retaining. Short-term triage:

- Recruit licensed operators from within
- Targeted recruiting
- Increase use of social media, etc.
- Ongoing review of job requirements
- Compensation study
- & More

Board suggestions--Michelle Gillen: throwing everything we have at this.

### D. Approvals

1. PCR Amendments – May 2022

2. Appointment of Director, Design and Construction, Tunnel Redundancy--Paul Savard, promotion from within

3. Non-Union Compensation and Extension of Employment Contract, Director, Tunnel Redundancy Program

## WASTEWATER POLICY & OVERSIGHT

### A. Information

1. Update on Combined Heat and Power Study – Deer Island Treatment HELD

### B. Contract Awards

1. Struvite, Scum, Sludge and Grit Removal Services at the Deer Island Treatment Plant:

Duest--this is 20% struvite removal, wipes & clogs.

2. Annual Renewal of Wastewater Advisory Committee Contract--HELD

## WATER POLICY & OVERSIGHT

### A. Approvals

1. Memorandum of Agreement with the City of Waltham - Section 101 Extension Water Main Project -- will give MWRA flexibility, replace main down Lexington St, and Waltham will reimburse

### B. Contract Awards

1. Section 101 Extension Water Main Project: Waltham: this is the contract for that work, above

2. Annual Renewal of Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee Contract--HELD

C. Contract Amendments/Change Orders

1. Marlborough Emergency Pump Station Connection:

ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND AUDIT

1. FY2022 Third Quarter Orange Notebook--HELD

3. FY2022 Financial Update and Summary as of April 2022--HELD

B. Approvals

1. Bond Defeasance of Future Debt Service--annual practice...\$30.6 million prepayment

[OMSAP 5/26](#)

Review of White Papers--studies on CECs: microplastics (MP), Personal care products (PCP) and PFAS;

Pederson: wants MWRA sampling of CECs, knowing that not all substances can be measured or have accepted methodologies

--OMSAP also needs to decide on priority CECs

Recommending MWRA special, focused studies on CECs

Also, MWRA communication with the public & environmental leaders about studies and outcomes--specifies community leaders that might need to be informed about PFAS. Pederson--MWRA has a role in informing the public

Betsy: be thoughtful about which biota you pick and what you sample for.

Agreement that should not start a study/monitoring project without having defined questions.

OMSAP agrees with PFAS Task Force on source reduction

Also agree phthalates are equally bad if not worse than PFAS.

Canada is moving aggressively on MP regulation.