

WATER SUPPLY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

From the Director

Current MWRA news:

- MWRA's Long-Term Sustainability Program won a national award from The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy (ACEEE) and the Alliance for Water Efficiency (AWE) in recognition of exceptional efficiency programs that save both energy and water. These programs include leak detection and pipeline maintenance; renewable and on-site energy initiatives; and in-house practices.
- The MWRA Board has 3 new members and a 4th to be sworn in shortly: new members are Henry F. Vitale, Acting Director of Boston Water & Sewer; Brian R. Swett, Chief of Environmental & Energy Services for the City of Boston; and Paul J. Flanagan, Fire Chief for Winthrop. Jennifer Wolowicz, Acting Town Administrator for South Hadley will be sworn in shortly.
- Water system redundancy continues as a priority in the upcoming FY2014 new five-year cap for the MWRA's Capital Improvement Program along with energy program initiatives and pipeline replacement and rehabilitation.
- MWRA's Annual Poster & Writing Contest topic for all ages is the benefit of tap vs. bottled water. A video contest for high school students is included this year. The judging is in April with the Awards Ceremony at Deer Island in May.



News from the Watersheds

- The MA Rivers Alliance with assistance from other environmental organizations continues to work on the Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI) process. Pilots are complete and the State is revising the final report.
- The Nashua River Watershed Association is one of several partners on the Quabbin Reservoir to Wachusett Mountain (Q2W) Forest Legacy project to fund the protection of 23 properties totaling over 4,000 acres in six towns.
- Comments on DCR's response to the STAC report on watershed forest management are due on March 15.

Click the link below for the STAC report, public comments, & DCR's response.

<http://www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply/watershed/stac.htm>

Current Topics in Water

In response to recommendations of the Water Infrastructure Finance Commission, Rep. Carolyn Dykema filed five water infrastructure related bills to address dramatic decreases in federal and state funding for water infrastructure:

HD690 - An Act Relative to Municipal Assistance for Clean Water and Economic Development

HD688 - An Act Relative to Best Management Practices in Water

HD2931 - An Act to Promote Innovative Water Management in the Commonwealth

HD687 - An Act Providing for the Establishment of Sustainable Water Resource Funds

HD689 - An Act Relative to Implementing Watershed Based Permitting in the Commonwealth

The bills are filed with the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities, and Energy. For more information about any of them please contact Rep. Dykema's office.

Upcoming WSCAC Meetings

Please note that the public is welcome at these meetings

March 21, 2013

Joint meeting on the MWRA budget with the Advisory Board in Wellesley

April 9, 2013

Deer in Quabbin Park, Invasive Plants Mgmt. Plan w/DCR staff & SuAsCo Update w/Nancy Bryant

May 14, 2013

IRWA Update w/Wayne Castonguay & Infrastructure Alliance Update w/ Martin Pillsbury

June 11, 2013

Watershed Forestry Tour-Ware River