

## WATER SUPPLY CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

WSCAC serves the public interest by striving to ensure a high quality drinking water supply and healthy ecosystems within the DCR-MWRA watersheds

### Current MWRA News

- The MWRA Board of Directors voted to approve the selection of Fay, Spofford & Thorndike to provide design, construction and inspection services for the Hatchery Pipeline and Hydroelectric Project at the Quabbin Disinfection Facility. The cost of the hydropower component is being paid for by two grants totaling \$288,000 dollars.
- 100% of all water is now going through the new UV system at the Carroll Water Treatment Plant. The regulatory deadline for implementation is April 2014. Construction of UV continues at the Quabbin Disinfection Facility for the Chicopee Valley Aqueduct (CVA). The new system, mandated by The Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rule will be used as a secondary means of disinfection for towns served by the CVA. The compliance deadline for the CVA is October 2014.
- Over the next year, a new lower fluoride level will be announced by the Department of Public Health and implemented by the MWRA. This will result in a cost savings for the Authority.
- MWRA is working on a co-digestion pilot program where pre-processed commercial organic waste can be fed into the Deer Island digesters for methane production. This pilot program is in response to MassDEP 2014 regulations that prohibit commercial food businesses from sending their waste to MA landfills.
- For the second time, MWRA has received the NEWWA award for the Best Drinking Water in New England.

### Current Topics in Water

- The Water Infrastructure Alliance (WIA) is looking at different methods of outreach to publicize the need for water and wastewater infrastructure funding. With assistance from MAPC, the Alliance has produced a flyer to draw attention to the need for a dedicated funding source for water infrastructure financing.
- The Senate proposal, An Act improving drinking water and wastewater infrastructure, Senate Docket, No. 1896 is sponsored by Murray, Eldridge, and Tarr.
- Rep. Dykema, 8th Middlesex District, has sponsored Bill H. 690 An Act relative to municipal assistance for clean water and economic development. <https://malegislature.gov/Bills/188/House/H690>
- Mass DEP is working on draft SWMI regulations which will go through an extended public review process including the MA Water Resources Commission and the Water Management Advisory Committee. For additional information: [www.massriversalliance.com](http://www.massriversalliance.com)



Photo by Clif Read, DCR

### News from the Watersheds

- Removal of the invasive Water Chestnut continues at the Sudbury Reservoir, an emergency reservoir in the water supply system. Several small areas of Brittle Naiad were discovered in the Sudbury as well as the Blue Hills Reservoir. A seasonal harvest by a diver is recommended to control the spread of the aquatic plant. A 2013 plant survey of all DCR-MWRA water supply reservoirs from Quabbin to Boston helps identify any new invasives and tracks the progress of ongoing work.
- Forestry update: DCR is relaunching the watershed forestry program for the Wachusett, Ware River and Quabbin. Forestry projects will be reviewed at the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee on Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> in Belchertown. A public meeting will be held on Oct 8<sup>th</sup> in W. Boylston and the Ware River Advisory Committee will meet in Barre on Oct. 10<sup>th</sup>. <http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/>
- The Quabbin to Wachusett Mountain (Q2W) Forest Legacy application has been approved for a \$5 million dollar grant from the U.S. Forest Service. The goal of the project is to add more than 3,000 acres primarily through Watershed Protection Restrictions (WPR) with landowners owning property located between the Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs.

### Upcoming WSCAC Meetings

*Please note that the public is welcome at these meetings*

- October 8, 2013  
The history of hydropower at MWRA
- November 19, 2013  
A joint meeting with WAC at the Water Works Museum - topic will be the MWRA Master Plan.
- December 10, 2013 –TBA
- January 14, 2014 –TBA