



**WATER SUPPLY CITIZENS  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
to the Mass. Water Resources Authority

485 Ware Road  
Belchertown MA 01007  
(413) 213-0454  
fax: (413) 213-0537  
email: info@wscac.org

## Joint MWRA Advisory Board, WAC and WSCAC Meeting

Location: Wellesley Library  
September 19, 2013

### WSCAC Members *in Bold* in Attendance:

Whitney Beals, WSCAC Chair, NE Forestry  
**Andrea Donlon, CRWC**  
**Paul Lauenstein, NepRWA**  
Michael Baram, BU & CFL  
Martha Morgan, Nashua River Watershed  
**Dona Motts, MA League of Women Voters**  
Bill Fadden, OARS

Alice Clemente, Blackstone River Watershed  
**Gerald Eves, Trout Unlimited**  
Martin Pillsbury, MAPC  
**Nancy Bryant, SUASCO**  
Elie Saroufim, Boston Water & Sewer  
Mason Phelps, Millers River Watershed

### MWRA Adv. Board Voting Members:

David Manugian	Bill Hadley	Mike Coffey
Roy Sorenson	Amy McHugh	Jeff Zager
Peter Castanino	Katherine Dunphy	Nick Rystrom
John Sullivan	Thom Donahue	John DeAmicis
Jay Hersey	Craig Liener	Patrick Fasanello
John Sanchez	John Cosgrove	Walter Woods
Tim MacDonald	Lou Taverna	Zig Peret
J.R. Greene	Bernie Cooper	Joe Labao
Barbara Wyatt		

### Others in Attendance:

John Carroll	Rob May	Andrew Pappastergion
Michael Hornbrook	Wayne Chouinard	Phil Jasset
Rachel Madden	Michael Bishop	Andreae Downs
Kathy Soni	Sam Corda	Stephen Greene
Dave Whelan	Fabiola DeCarvalho	Mary Adelstein
Tom Durkin	George Burnell	Craig Allen
Kevin McCluskey	Tabor Keally	Karen Lachmayer
Wendy Leo	Joe Welch	Joe Favaloro
Scot Gustafson	Matthew Romero	Bill Shaughnessy
Cornelia Potter	Monica Lamboy	Mary Ann McClellan
Shelley Ayervais	Sue Costa, WSCAC staff	Lexi Dewey, WSCAC staff

After introductory comments and MWRA Advisory Board business, the first presentation was given by three staff from the Edward J. Collins Center for Public Management at UMass Boston: Monica Lamboy, Rob May and Shelley Ayervais. The Advisory Board hired the Center to write a report on the relationship between

investing in water and wastewater infrastructure and economic growth. What are the implications of investing or failing to invest in infrastructure?

Chapter I of the report focuses on the available academic research both nationally through federal investment and at the state level. Staff noted that investment in water and sewer has a greater impact on economic growth than transportation. Infrastructure investment can stimulate private investment which generates revenue at both the state and local levels.

Chapter 2 looks at five case studies in the eastern part of the state. The most successful projects were those with adequate infrastructure already in place. The success of the Seaport District in Boston is due to the creation of the MWRA and the cleanup of Boston Harbor.

Taunton's Miles Standish Industrial Park benefitted from the construction of Rt. 495 and Taunton's infrastructure investment of 1.5 million. The town of Stoughton joined the MWRA after a 20-year moratorium on new water connections. An investment of \$1.8 million in a new water main and the ability to buy MWRA water made it possible to attract several large retail stores and increase commercial tax revenues.

The Southfield project in Weymouth has been problematic on several levels starting with the lack of a permanent water source to meet projected use through Phases II and III of the development. The Sustainable Water Management Initiative (SWMI) through EOEEA can potentially affect Southfield by the constraints in Weymouth's Great Pond resource which is responsible for providing water to current Southfield residents.

The city of Somerville is experiencing stormwater issues that potentially affect the construction of a development near the new MBTA Green Line Station. The price tag for resolving these issues is approximately \$40-50 million dollars.

Chapter 3 discusses water resources in the state and the amount of precipitation which varies from basin to basin. It notes that in 2014, the SWMI framework will guide MassDEP's Water Management Act permitting process which provides for human consumption as well as focusing on maintaining streamflow during summer months when demand for water is at its highest level.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Commission has generated projections for jobs in the Boston metro region by 2035. Many of the jobs could potentially take place in communities with identified constrained water resources. To realize economic growth in this region, a closer look is needed to determine the availability of additional resources and the infrastructure to connect with it.

Chapter 4 looks at the current management of wastewater and stormwater. It is noted that the Water Infrastructure Finance Commission report states that close to \$18 billion may be needed to over the next 20 years to upgrade and construct additional wastewater infrastructure.

The Collins Center report is undergoing additional review and will be available in early December.

Michael Hornbrook, MWRA Chief Operating Officer, spoke about MWRA priorities for FY14. He noted the following:

- MWRA received the NEWWA award for the best drinking water in New England for the second time in 4 years.
- 100% of MWRA water is being treated with UV at the Carroll Water Treatment Plant. Reliability testing will continue for 2-3 months. The contractor completion date is Feb. 14<sup>th</sup> and the regulatory

compliance date is April 2014. The CVA UV construction is on track with a completion date of April 2014.

- There is a leak in the CVA system with a portion of pipe to be repaired in the early spring. A temporary bypass interconnection with the city of Springfield will be maintained until the repair is completed.
- After 9/11 the MWRA purchased a Containment Monitoring System called S:Scan which monitors water quality in key locations throughout the distribution system. Staff now receives continuous data that make it possible to view small changes in water quality, residuals and operational monitoring on a daily basis.
- Progress continues on the construction of the Spot Pond tank to provide additional storage for the low-service system, and a new multipurpose pump station to provide backup for the Gillis pump station.
- Within the next year, MWRA expects the CDC to recommend a reduced dose of fluoride in drinking water. MWRA will follow this recommendation leading to a savings of approximately \$300,000 dollars.
- The revised 5% Total Coliform Rule will be finalized sometime in the next year and will simplify the way public water systems report coliform hits. MWRA will offer more trainings on the changes in the spring.
- Reissue of the draft Clinton NPDES permit includes co-permittees and MWRA expects this will be the case with the Deer Island permit. The Authority will request an extension and provide comments.
- Infiltration and Inflow Program—MWRA staff will be working on a recommendation to increase funding of this program for the Board of Directors and the Adv. Board.
- The state will be implementing a “one ton per week” food waste policy beginning in July 2014. This will affect commercial and industrial food processing companies. The MWRA is looking at the feasibility of co-digestion at Deer Island beginning with a pilot program.

Rachel Madden, MWRA Director of Administration and Finance, spoke on upcoming fiscal challenges including the following:

- The MWRA has invested \$7.8 billion in water and wastewater infrastructure. The biggest challenge for MWRA is FY17 when staff are looking at a rate increase of 8.5% (\$60 million with \$50 million coming from debt service). The current strategy is to use defeasance to start addressing the large increase coming in FY17. FY2020 is also problematic with a projected rate increase of 7%.
- With an average MWRA employee age of 52, the Authority is actively working on succession planning to make sure the knowledge base transitions smoothly.

Joe Favalaro, Executive Director of the MWRA Advisory Board talked about priorities for FY14. Included were:

- Rates are always a priority. Another tool in addition to defeasance for keeping rates down is potentially releasing reserves.
- The purpose of the Collins Center Economic Development Report is to draw attention to water and wastewater infrastructure and how it can be a driver for economic growth in the state. The report will be available in early December.
- System expansion-Talks continue with Tri-Town and Hudson has activated an emergency MWRA water supply connection via Marlborough. Two of the five municipal wells are off-line due to iron and manganese. Further treatment is required and the town is looking into the construction of a treatment plant.

Andreae Downs, WAC Director and Lexi Dewey, WSCAC Director gave updates on each citizen committee.

During FY14 WAC will be focusing on residuals, co-digestion, NPDES permitting, wastewater system maintenance, cyber security and the draft MWRA Master Plan.

WSCAC will be focusing on current construction of redundancy projects in the distribution system, the restart of the DCR watershed forestry program, UV construction at the Carroll Water Treatment Plant and the Ware Disinfection Facility, and the draft Master Plan. The Committee is continuing to follow the SWMI process and will also be involved in Senate Bill 1880, An Act to improve drinking water and wastewater infrastructure.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:30 P.M.