



Joint MWRA Advisory Board, WSCAC, and WAC Meeting

Location: Samuel Hadley Public Services Building
201 Bedford Street, Lexington, MA
September 15, 2016 – 11:30 A.M.

MEMBERS IN BOLD IN ATTENDANCE:

Whitney Beals, WSCAC Chair, NE Forestry
Gerald Eves, Trout Unlimited
Michael Baram, Town of Belmont & BU
Paul Lauenstein, NepRWA
Terry Connolly, Town of Ware & Trout Unlimited
Lexi Dewey, WSCAC staff

Andrea Donlon, CRWC
Martha Morgan, Nashua River Watershed
Bill Fadden, OARS
Martin Pillsbury, MAPC
Kurt Tramosch, Wayland Wells
Heidi Waugh, WSCAC Staff

MWRA FY17 PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES: FRED LASKEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Drought and System Expansion

- Despite the continuation of the region-wide drought, Quabbin remains within normal operating levels
- The MWRA has not imposed restrictions, but urges customers to use water wisely
- Demand from partially supplied communities is up 38%
 - Worcester activated connection on 9/13/16 – taking 16 mgd
 - Cambridge, Ashland, and Lynn are close to activating emergency connections
 - Ipswich and Neponset River Watershed Associations are advocating for the use of MWRA water

Lead Update

- School Testing Program
 - In May 2016, MWRA notified all MWRA water communities that it would provide lead testing for schools in concert with DEP program
 - Samples above the Lead Action Level: 5.8%
 - Results above Lead Action Level were confirmed and then communicated to communities
- Lead Service Line Replacement Loan Program
 - In March 2016, MWRA Board approved \$100 million in 10-year zero-interest loan program to communities to fully replace lead service lines
 - MWRA has received one formal application from Newton: request for \$4 million
 - Four additional applications anticipated for FY17
 - Peabody
 - Quincy
 - Winchester
 - Woburn

- MWRA/MDPH Joint Outreach and Testing Program
 - A total of about 1,264 children out of 60,818 tested in 2015 had elevated levels: 2.1%
 - The program is under development
 - Program will permit community health workers to contact each family with a child identified as over one of the concern levels and offer a home visit to discuss risks of lead paint and dust, lead in soil, and childhood nutrition

Regulatory Issues

- Long-term CSO Control Plan Completed
 - 35 CSO projects planned, designed, and constructed
 - 125 contracts and agreements managed
 - 5 MWRA/CSO Community agreements totaling \$423 million
 - Total MWRA CSO capital cost: \$907 million
- Remaining Federal Court milestones
 - January 2018: Commence 3-year performance assessment
 - December 2020: Submit results of 3-year performance assessment to EPA and DEP to demonstrate attainment of long-term levels of CSO control
- Co-Permittees and MS4 Permits

Deer Island Cross-Harbor Cable/Future of Deer Island Power

- The dispute with NStar over ownership of the cable continues
 - Litigation pending in federal court
 - Risk ranges from \$0 to \$100 million plus
- Staff are developing a Deer Island Master Plan to explore:
 - Current system
 - Planning for asset replacement
 - New technologies

Wachusett Railroad

- Staff continue to explore options to improve safety of the railroad/reduce risk of derailment

Metropolitan Tunnel Redundancy

- Special off-site Board of Director’s meeting to review alternatives, cost, and rate impact
 - October 6th 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Holding the Line on Rates

- Multi-year rate strategy has worked
- Defeasances, reserves, and restructuring rates has had a significant impact
- Planning to stay on track

MWRA ADVISORY BOARD FY17 CHALLENGES AND PRIORITIES: MATTHEW ROMERO, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

System Challenges

- Region-wide drought
 - “Find the right approach at the right price”
 - October 6th Stakeholder Meeting – Metro Tunnel Discussion
 - Get the Lead Out

Regulatory Challenges

- Co-Permittee language is under development
- NPDES permit is coming
 - Clinton
 - Lancaster
- MWRA will have no responsibility for stormwater
- Cross-Harbor Cable: ratepayers pay for projects once

MS4 Permits

- EPA (litigator)v. MassDEP (works with communities)
- There are a number of unresolved issues

Rates and Budget Challenges

- MWRA rate increases
 - “4 No More...No More!”

System Expansion Challenges

- Braintree, Randolph, Holbrook, and Union Point
- Brockton, Weymouth, Hingham, and Scituate
- Peabody, North Reading, and Ipswich River Advocates

WSCAC FY17 PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES: LEXI DEWEY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MWRA Redundancy Projects

- Metropolitan Tunnel System
 - October 13th WSCAC Meeting will feature David Coppes, Director of MWRA Waterworks
 - The presentation will discuss the Metro Tunnel project and alternatives
- Wachusett Pump Station Progress
 - Coordinating with MWRA staff for site visit
- The Northern Intermediate High and Southern Extra High Redundancy Pipeline
- Shaft 12 Quabbin Security Project
- Hatchery Pipeline and Hydroelectric Project
- WSCAC will host meetings, attend site visits, and follow projects throughout FY17

State Level Challenges

- Proposal to transfer NPDES permitting from EPA to MassDEP
- Revisions to the Interbasin Transfer Act
 - Opportunity for MWRA to complete a donor basin report
- Drought conditions throughout the State
 - Impact of drought on Quabbin Reservoir and MWRA System
 - WSCAC has a seat on the Drought Management Task Force
 - Review of the MA Drought Plan is needed to address the strengths and weaknesses of the process

Challenges at the Wachusett Reservoir

- Train and truck movement of hazardous materials
 - WSCAC continues to monitor the movement of hazardous materials by rail and road
 - The committee commends MWRA and DCR DWSP for their continued efforts to prevent, and prepare for an emergency.
- Progress at the federal level is slow
- Need State and Pan Am initiatives to prevent spills

Watershed Challenges

- Illegal mountain biking persists
 - Educational outreach and warnings continue
 - WSCAC recommends higher fines to deter the activity
- Watershed Forestry
 - Throughout FY16, WSCAC attended lot showings, engaged with loggers, and reviewed plans
 - WSCAC maintains that the best watershed forestry is done with professional oversight, public knowledge, and the transparency that certification provides
 - WSCAC will put together a subcommittee in FY17 to consider third-party options
- Updated and Consolidated Land Management Plan
 - WSCAC will review the plan in FY17
 - User-friendly summary (requested by STAC Committee) is critical
 - Public needs a more thorough understanding of watershed forestry benefits
 - Public education is key to building support for the program

Lexi concluded by stating that WSCAC's monthly meetings are open to the public and posted on WSCAC's website. She asked that members of the audience either call or email the office with any questions or comments.

WAC FY17 PRIORITIES AND CHALLENGES: ANDREA DOWNES, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

WAC Chair Taber Keally premiered WAC's latest video segment, *What is Deer Island PSA*

The video explained that Deer Island serves as Boston area's wastewater treatment plant. The plant serves over 2.5 million people. The video discussed the history of wastewater in Boston and examined the progressive steps MWRA began to take at its inception in 1995. The video highlighted that Deer Island produces 26% of its own energy. Furthermore, the effluent that is ultimately released into the Atlantic Ocean is cleaner than most of the world's drinking water. The Deer Island Treatment Plant was fundamental to the restoration of Boston Harbor.

WAC meetings are open to the public and a full meeting schedule is available on their website:

<http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/monthly/wac/wac.htm>