



**WSCAC-WAC-MWRA Advisory Board Virtual Meeting**

March 16, 2023 – 10:00 am

**WSCAC Members in Bold in Attendance:**

Michael Baram  
**Whitney Beals**  
**William Copithorne, Town of Arlington**  
**Steven Daunais, Tata & Howard**  
Kelsey Wentling, CT River Conservancy  
**Gerald Eves, Trout Unlimited**  
**Bill Fadden, OARS**

Bill Kiley, BWSC  
**Paul Lauenstein**  
Martha Morgan, Nashua River Watershed  
Martin Pillsbury, MAPC  
Janet Rothrock, League of Women Voters  
Bruce Spencer, retired DCR Chief Forester  
**James Guiod, MWRA Advisory Board**

**Non-Members in Attendance:**

**Lexi Dewey, WSCAC staff**  
**Carolyn deLiefde, WSCAC staff**  
**Andreae Downs, WAC staff**  
**MWRA and MWRA Advisory Board staff**

**Fred Laskey-MWRA Exec. Director**  
**Joe Favaloro-MWRA Advisory Board Exec. Director**  
**MWRA Advisory Board Members**  
**WAC Members**

**WSCAC Business**

The meeting opened with Lou Taverna, MWRA Advisory Board Chair, welcoming everyone to the joint March meeting with WAC and WSCAC. A roll call was completed for the Advisory Board, WAC and WSCAC.

Joseph Favaloro, Advisory Board Director, began the meeting with a tribute to John Carroll who passed away on February 25, 2023. Andrew Pappastergion and Fred Laskey also spoke of Mr. Carroll and his many years of service on the MWRA Board of Directors. The Advisory Board plans to erect a bench in Mr. Carroll’s honor at Deer Island. A moment of silence was held for Mr. Carroll.

The minutes of the February 16, 2023 Advisory Board meeting were approved by roll call.

Joseph Favaloro and Matt Romero, Deputy Executive Director discussed the following items:

- Deer Island NPDES Permit/EPA Listening Session
- PFAS EPA Proposed Regulations for Drinking Water
- Legislative Updates
  - New Governor’s Budget/Debt Service
  - New Bill Filed Aimed at Addressing PFAS (SD 2053 and HD 3324)
  - MWRA Advisory Board Outreach to First Term Legislators
  - Elimination of all CSO’s by 2030

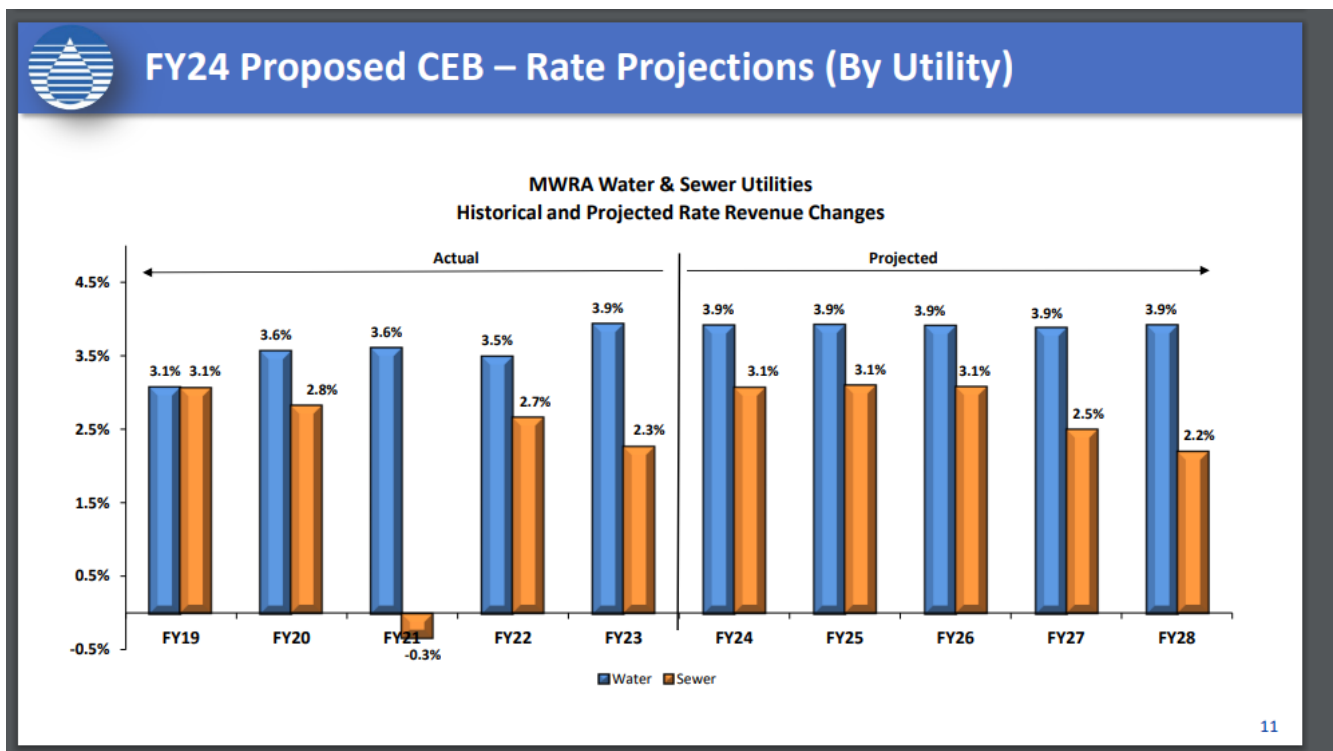
- Legislation filed by Senator Comerford (Bill S.447) “An Act Relative to the Quabbin Watershed and Regional Equity”

The next order of business was the MWRA Advisory Board Public Hearing to discuss the proposed budget for the MWRA for Fiscal Year 2024. Michael Rademacher opened the public meeting.

Tom Durkin, Director of Finance, Michael Cole, Budget Director and Matthew Horan, Treasurer from the MWRA presented an update on the FY 2024 proposed capital improvement plan (CIP) as well as an update on the current expense budget (CEB). Some highlights from the presentation included:

**The next steps for the proposed FY 2024 budget**

- Transmit Proposed Budget to Advisory Board for 60 day review
- Public Hearing
- MWRA Board Hearing •
- MWRA staff will present Draft Final Budget in May
- Staff anticipate FY24 Budget adoption in June



Mr. Durkin noted that a proposed increase of 3.9% for water and a 3.1% increase for sewer will be requested in fiscal year 2024. The proposed increase for fiscal year 2025 will be the same amounts.

**A summary and next steps for the Proposed FY 2024 Capital Improvement Plan are as follows –**

- Establish new 5 Year Cap for FY24-28
- Break out Metropolitan Tunnel Redundancy spending vs. all other capital project spending on Cap table
- Incorporate a ‘Spend Rate Adjustment’ into Cap calculation
- Continued focus on Asset Protection and Long-Term Redundancy
- Metropolitan Tunnel Redundancy project is \$1.8 billion, an increase of \$237.6 million over the FY23 CIP due to inflation
- Board approval to transmit to the Advisory Board for their 60-day minimum comment and review period
- Present FY24 Final CIP to the Board of Directors for approval in June 2023



**FY24 Proposed CIP – New Projects Added – FY24-28**

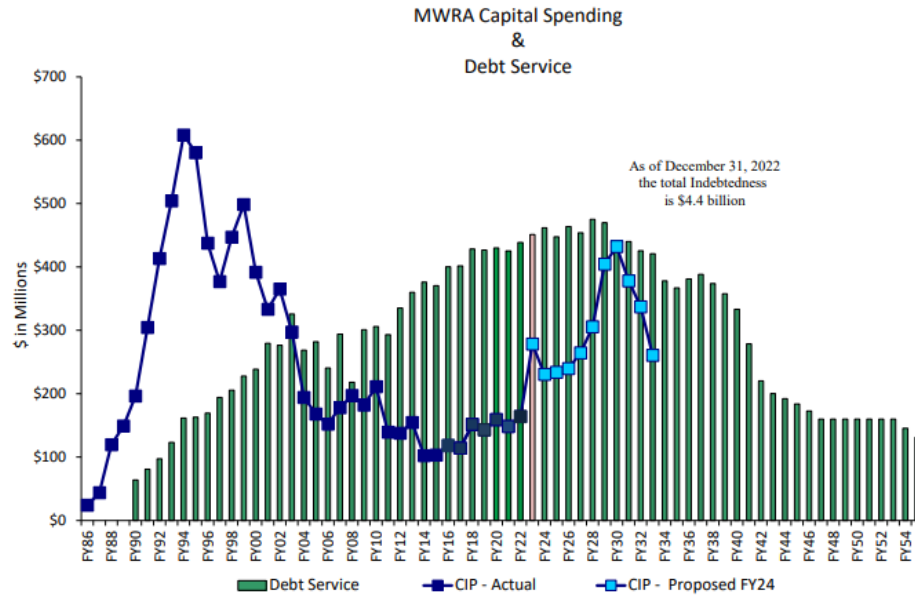
| Project  | Total Contract Amount | FY24-28 Spending |
|--|-----------------------|------------------|
| I/I Local Financial Assistance - Phase XIV     | \$75.0                | \$55.6           |
| Intermediate Pump Station Rehabilitation       | \$46.5                | \$0.0            |
| New Neponset Pump Station Rehabilitation       | \$24.0                | \$0.0            |
| Framingham Pump Station Rehabilitation         | \$24.0                | \$0.0            |
| Quincy Pump Station Rehabilitation             | \$24.0                | \$0.0            |
| Squantum Pump Station Rehabilitation           | \$24.0                | \$0.0            |
| Fort Point Channel & Mystic/Chelsea Confluence | \$10.0                | \$9.4            |
| CSO Updated Control Plan Design                | \$2.0                 | \$0.3            |
| <b>Total Wastewater</b>                        | <b>\$229.5</b>        | <b>\$65.3</b>    |
| CWTP Butterfly Valve 4                         | \$12.5                | \$12.5           |
| Brutsch Treatment Plant Sodium Hypo Upgrade    | \$0.5                 | \$0.5            |
| <b>Total Waterworks</b>                        | <b>\$13.0</b>         | <b>\$13.0</b>    |
| <b>10 New Projects</b>                         | <b>\$242.5</b>        | <b>\$78.3</b>    |

*\$s in millions*

Mr. Cole noted that a number of pump station rehabs are included in the new projects. These rehabs typically occur every twenty years.



## Capital Spending and Debt Service



Mr. Horan noted that the debt service amount for FY28 is projected to be \$136M lower than the debt service amount for FY23. Mr. Horan highlighted a number of methods used to lower the debt service by this amount.

Ms. Lexi Dewey, Director WSCAC asked Mr. Durkin what the projected spending for DCR-DWSP is in the next five year cap. James Coyne, Budget Manager replied that \$1M is budgeted annually for land acquisition for the next five years; \$12M has been budgeted for the Quabbin administration building renovations. The projected start date of this project is October 2026. A total of \$3.9M has been budgeted for the Quabbin maintenance garage project which is scheduled to begin in 2024. Replacement of the forestry building in New Salem is not in the Capital Improvement Plan as yet.

Mr. Paul Lauenstein asked why the interest income is so significant. Does this mean that a lot of extra cash is laying around? If so, why not use the cash to pay down the debt? Mr. Horan explained that the interest income is used to reduce the assessments to the communities. Also, per guidelines followed by the MWRA, the MWRA is required to keep a reserve.

Mr. Bill Kiley asked about the process of determining when the rehabilitation of a pump station is needed. Mr. Durkin explained that his office meets with engineers to plan the proposed budget. There is a reevaluation of this plan twice a year.

Mr. Lauenstein asked if there is a way to encourage communities to take advantage of the Inflow and Infiltration funds available to them. Mr. Horan noted that he works with and encourages communities to use these funds.

Mr. Lauenstein asked if the \$127M combined heat and power project at Deer Island will help shrink MWRA's carbon footprint. It was noted that it will do so and there is a staff summary on the MWRA website which is very informative.

At this time the public hearing was closed by Mr. Michael Rademacher.

The following action items were presented by Mr. Taverna for vote –

- Action Item: Nomination and election of Louis M. Taverna as a representative to the MWRA Board of Directors for remainder of term expiring June 30, 2023
- Action Item: Nomination and election of Louis M. Taverna as a representative to the MWRA Board of Directors for a three-year term from July 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026

There was not a quorum for the MWRA Advisory Board action items. They will be added to April meeting agenda.

Mr. Romero reminded the communities that the bylaws were recently changed and members who cannot attend can send a representative who can attend/vote on their behalf.

Mr. Favalaro gave an update on the Advisory Board move to Chelsea which will take place in May.

At this time, Ms. Dewey called roll for WSCAC. The following members were in attendance – Paul Lauenstein, Bill Copithorne, Bill Kiley, James Guiod, Jerry Eves, Kelsey Wentling, and Steve Daunais. A motion to approve both January and February draft minutes was made by Ms. Dewey. Paul Lauenstein approved the motion which was seconded by Jerry Eves. Ms. Dewey called roll and the both sets of minutes were approved.

Roll call votes were taken by the Advisory Board, WSCAC and WAC to adjourn the meeting. The meeting was adjourned.

**WSCAC will hold their next virtual meeting on April 11, 2023 at 10:00.  
Please [visit our website](#) for more information on this meeting.**