



MWRA Advisory Board - WSCAC and WAC Meeting

November 16, 2023

WSCAC Members in Bold in Attendance:

Michael Baram
William Copithorne, Town of Arlington
Steven Daunais, Tata & Howard
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

Non-Members in Attendance:

Moussa Siri, WSCAC staff

I-Presentations

- Kristen Patneau of the MWRA presented the “Energy and Sustainability Program Overview.” Key points developed in this presentation were about MWRA energy usage:
 - **Energy management drivers** (state climate goals, executive orders, environmental agency, and fiscal responsibility)
 - **Energy-intensive operations** (MWRA FY22 energy consumption: 1% for propane, 9% for natural gas, 23% for non-vehicle diesel, and 67% for purchased electricity). MWRA energy consumption is equal to over 16,000 homes’ energy use for one year.
 - **Renewable energy** such as (hydroelectric power (42%), wind power (5%), solar power (2%), and finally Deer Island steam turbine (51%))
 - **Energy efficiency – Road toward net zero:** building electrification, clean transportation, combined heat and power optimization, greenhouse gas emissions tracking and reduction goals, and innovation and resiliency
 - **Funding sources** (see slides in the link below)
 - **Next steps**

To learn more, see this link: <https://www.mwra.com/monthly/wscac/2023/111623-energy.pdf>

II-New Businesses

- Carolyn Francisco-Murphy, MWRA General Counsel, and Steve Estes Smargiassi, MWRA Director of Planning and Sustainability, provided some updates to communities on the proposed PFAS settlements for public water systems. Francisco-Murphy indicated that:

- there are two separate nationwide proposed settlements (3M Company’s settlement and one of DuPont-related company’s settlement)
- If a community opts in or out, conditions for each option can be found on the PFAS settlement website provided below. Francisco-Murphy indicated that member communities must pay attention to deadlines, requirements, and details to do so, whether they opt in or out.
- Each member of the community should consult with a legal counsel to determine what is in its best interest. Carolyn Francisco-Murphy (MWRA General Counsel) and Kristen Schuler Scammon (MWRA Associate General Counsel) can make themselves available to the member communities’ counsels if they want to discuss anything.
- Based on the current terms of each settlement, MWRA will be opting out.

Stephen Estes-Smargiassi added:

- Allocations are based on what lawyers call an “integrated drinking water system.” The allocation formula for any community that decides to stay in settlements is based on two things: water used (formula to come up with water score or water rating) and the PFAS score.
- If a community decides to stay in, MWRA’s fully or partially supplied member communities should reach out to Steve to request the flow rate information and what MWRA understands to be the PFAS score. MWRA can help estimate the highest amount the community is likely to receive by providing data to plot in the tables called estimated allocation range tables.
- Two different phases, but most MWRA member communities have been identified by the documents as phase #2 by 3M settlement, meaning they will only be able to recover their testing cost, which is a relatively small amount, and MWRA has been identified as phase #1 in the 3M settlement.
- By not taking any action, communities will be bound by the terms of the proposed settlements if finalized.
- Communities should make sure to check documents on the website on their own for updates on the PFAS water settlement website.

See this web link for more information: <https://www.pfaswatersettlement.com/>

- No other businesses
- Meeting Adjourned

III-WSCAC Session

- Approval of October 10th Minutes
 - Martha Morgan made the motion to approve the Minutes.
 - The motion was seconded by Gerald Eves
 - No further discussion and Minutes approved by all.
- Members voted to confirm the reelection of current active Executive Committee Members for a year, with the next election scheduled for November 2024, according to WSCAC By-Laws.

- Bill Copithorne made the motion to renew the Executive Committee members (Paul Lauenstein (Chair), Bruce Spencer, Michael Baram, Gerald Eves, William Fadden, and Janet Rothrock) for a one-year term.
- Martha Morgan seconded the motion.
- The Chair, Paul Lauenstein, called for further discussion after indicating that nominations are welcome. He added that based on the current Executive Committee, WSCAC still lacks two members. Hearing no further discussion, the motion was approved by all attendees.
- Members discussed electing new roles, and the Executive Committee suggested the creation of sub-committees to cover some important topics.
- Proposed submitting comments:
 - The governor has an expert panel to advise forestry practices in the Commonwealth, and a couple of WSCAC members (Paul Lauenstein and Bruce Spencer) and Moussa Siri (WSCAC's Executive Director) toured lots where forestry was taking place and identified practices that they considered not ideal.
 - Members were asked to review (add any changes) and vote on the presentation, drafted using photos from the field tours, and if WSCAC should submit the presentation to the Governor's panel during the public comments session.
 - Members had until the 20th to read comments and agree to submit them if consensus is reached to do so.
- About the sub-committees, the Chair decided to send an email afterward with different subcommittees members could sign up for.
- All agreed to adjourn.