



Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program

Meeting Minutes

Contract Number: N/A

Contract Name: N/A

Meeting Title: Working Group Meeting No. 1

Date	April 7, 2021	Revision	R0
Time	3:00pm-4:30pm	Revision Date	N/A
Location	WebEx	Recorded By	Meg Langley (CPP)

Attendees:

Name (organization)	Initial	Name (organization)	Initial	Name (organization)	Initial
Fred Laskey, (MWRA)	FL	Kristin MacDougall (MWRA)	KMAC	Thomas Cullen (Weston)	TC
Ria Convery (MWRA)	RC	Peter Salvatore (Boston)	PS	Richard Sullivan (Weston)	RS
Beth Card (MWRA)	BC	Fred Russell (Brookline)	FR	John Sanchez (MWRA Advisory Board)	JS
Sean Navin (MWRA)	SN	Joseph Flanagan (Dedham)	JF	Lexi Dewey (WSCAC)	LD
Kathy Murtagh (MWRA)	KMM	Jason Mammone (Dedham)	JM	Martin Pillsbury (MAPC)	MP
Fred Brandon (MWRA)	FB	Robert Lewis (Needham)	BL	Tom Lindberg (CPP)	TL
Paul Savard (MWRA)	PVS	Lou Taverna (Newton)	LT	Meg Langley (CPP)	ML
Colleen Rizzi (MWRA)	CR	Michael Chiasson (Waltham)	MC		
Vivian Chan (MWRA)	VC	William Shaughnessy (Wellesley)	WS		

Purpose:

The purpose of this meeting was to establish the Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program Working Group, introduce the Program, and provide an update on activities.



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Summary:

The following is a summary of items covered including next steps as applicable:

1. SN opened the meeting, welcomed Working Group members, and introduced the MWRA Program Team. He then asked the Working Group members to introduce themselves.
2. SN expressed that the goal of the Working Group is to provide a transparent process for MWRA evaluation and selection of shaft sites and tunnel alignments for the Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program.
3. FB presented The Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program and discussed the Program schedule. The presentation included an overview of the MWRA water system, the condition of the Metropolitan Tunnel System and the need for redundancy. He presented the Two-Tunnel Concept, which is included in the Environmental Notification Form (ENF) and mentioned that it was arrived at after screening many surface pipe and tunnel alternatives. The alternatives screening report is attached to the ENF. He also described interim measures the MWRA is taking to reduce the risk of tunnel failure and improve MWRA's ability to respond to emergencies.
4. BC discussed the MEPA Review process. BC explained that a key component of the environmental permitting phase is the filing of an Environmental Notification Form with the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA) office. The goal is to avoid, minimize, and mitigate damage to the environment. The ENF includes the Two-Tunnel concept and the MWRA will evaluate alternative shaft sites and tunnel alignments during the development of the DEIR. The Environmental Notification has been filed with MEPA and was published in the Environmental Monitor, today, April 7. The comment deadline is April 27, 2021 unless a member of the public or reviewers request an extended comment period. MEPA will update the Environmental Monitor if the comment period is extended. Evaluation of Alternative Shaft and Connection Locations will take place 2021- 2022. The MWRA's intention is to have extensive public engagement, with working group meetings, public meetings and other forms of outreach from now through the end of Preliminary Design. Draft Environmental Impact Report is scheduled to be completed in Fall 2022. The preliminary design is scheduled to be completed by December 2023.
5. FB discussed upcoming Field Work, which will take place in multiple phases (including Geophysical testing, Deep Test Borings, Monitoring Wells, and Bedrock Outcrop Mapping) over the next 5 years. Geotechnical Investigations will begin in late spring 2021.
6. SN said that it is anticipated that Working Group Meetings will be held every other month to start, or as needed. The next virtual meeting is planned for June 2, 2021 at 2:00. MWRA plans to discuss ongoing MEPA Review and the Geotechnical Field Program at the next meeting.
7. Questions/Comments
 - a. LT, Newton, asked for clarification on how the water would flow through the new tunnel system with the existing tunnels offline. FB provided clarification.



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- b. JS, Advisory Board, asked if there would be any change in water pressure with the new tunnels. FB said the pressures will vary slightly and will be generally similar to existing conditions.
 - c. LT asked about the upcoming deep rock borings schedule and whether it will be sequential or concurrent. KMM responded that there will be multiple crews conducting the 10 test borings planned and some of the test borings will be conducted concurrently in various communities. MWRA would be discussing with individual communities and securing proper permits in advance of the work.
 - d. WS, Wellesley, asked about the status and plan for the Sudbury Aqueduct. FB responded that the Sudbury Aqueduct will continue to be an emergency back-up water supply.
8. Mr. Fred Laskey, MWRA Executive Director, joined the meeting to welcome the Working Group members and to express his gratitude to the members for agreeing to serve on such an important project. He added that he is looking forward to the contributions of the group.
 9. Meeting was adjourned 3:55pm

Action Items:

MWRA will send out presentation, Working Group contact information, meeting minutes.

MWRA will post agenda, presentation, handouts, and minutes to the Tunnel Program website:

<https://www.mwra.com/mwtp/resources.html#workinggroups>

Attachments: Meeting Agenda