

Environmental Affairs
Frederick A. Laskey, Executive Director, MWRA
William Meehan, North Worcester County Quabbin Anglers,
Quabbin Fishermen's Association
Louis Taverna, Chairman, MWRA Advisory Board
Fred Heyes, Swift River Valley Historical Society

Water Supply Protection Trust

September 28, 2017 MWRA Southborough Facility

Trustees

Lou Taverna, MWRA Advisory Board
Frederick A. Laskey, Executive Director, MWRA
Vandana Rao, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Brigadier General William J. Meehan, North Worcester County Anglers and the Quabbin Fishermen's
Association
Fred Heyes, Swift River Historical Society

MWRA

Michael Hornbrook, Chief Operating Officer Kathy Soni, Budget Director Louse Miller, Budget Manager Chris Lam, Assistant Finance Manager John Gregoire, Reservoir Program Manager Pam Heidell, Policy and Planning Manager Dave Coppes, Director of Waterworks Sean Navin, Director Intergovernmental Affairs Mike Altieri, Associate General Counsel Steve Remsberg, General Counsel

DCR

Jonathan Yeo, Director, Division of Water Supply Protection John Scannell, Director, Wachusett-Sudbury Scott Campbell, Regional Engineer Dan Clark, Director Natural Resources Scott Murphy, Assistant Regional Director, Wachusett Trish McNally, Budget Director

MWRA Advisory Board

Joseph Favaloro, Executive Director

WSCAC

Lexi Dewey, Executive Director

Swift River Historical Society

Jane Pierce

The meeting convened at 10:18 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes – May 25, 2017 meeting

A motion to approve the May 25, 2017 minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. FY17 End of Year Report - Jonathan Yeo

A PowerPoint presentation accompanied the FY17 End of Year Report and is appended to the minutes of the meeting. Items discussed included:

- Watershed Land Acquisition. Through the Forest Legacy Project, DCR received federal money for six land acquisitions. Additional lands were purchased as approved by the MWRA Board.
- The Wachusett Direct Discharge Program is going well. Phase 1 is complete and Phase 2 is under construction. When completed, 99% of the area will be protected. In response to a question regarding maintenance of stormwater control structures, DCR indicated it has agreed to maintain the stormwater structures (most are located on our properties). The roadway owners (DPT or Town) still are responsible for the normal drainage structures in the roadway)
- it would speak with DOT regarding DOT assuming responsibility.
- FY17 Forestry Revenues exceeded projections.
- Hiring. An open position is the Quabbin Director. Trustee Taverna asked whether there was authorization to fill the position and if there were candidates. Jonathan responded it was not clear when the position will be filled. Joe Favaloro commented that the intent behind the formation of the Trust in 2003 was to make sure there were resources to accomplish watershed protection, and that nine months without a position being filled is problematic. Trustee Meehan remarked that he opposed any effort to undermine watershed protection and requested that a report on the status of filling the position be provided to the Trustees.
- Quabbin Public Access Plan. The Plan is out for public review and the last public meeting drew over 200 people.
- Fishing. The program instituted this year requiring people renting boats to fill out forms that list all passengers has contributed to the boats coming back cleaner.
- Wildlife Management. There was an extended discussion about geese and coyotes.
- Capital Projects in FY17 included Quabbin Infrastructure Improvements and Quabbin Boat Launch Improvements. There were also important equipment purchases.
- Work Not Done. This includes: Phase 2 of Wachusett Direct Discharge Elimination Program, disposition of Framingham Reservoirs 1 and 2, Quabbin Administration Building and roadway improvements at Wachusett Dam.
- Budget. The FY17 Budget was \$16.9 million and \$16.34 million was expended. The variance of only 3.5% was due primarily to salaries.

3. Draft Quabbin Access Plan – Jonathan Yeo

A PowerPoint presentation accompanied the Draft Quabbin Access Plan discussion and is appended to the minutes of the meeting.

Jonathan reported that DCR staff formed an internal working group to update the Access Plan. As part of this process, staff reviewed the public access plans of other unfiltered water supplies. From the review of other large unfiltered water supplies (including New York, San Francisco, Portland Oregon and Seattle), DCR concluded that DCR allows more activities than other unfiltered water supplies. Overall, there are

not a lot of major changes to the existing plan and that most of the 2017 Policy Updates are just clarification. Adjustments included prohibition of night-time public access at the Y-Pool. A new item proposed in the Plan update is a prohibition of drones, unless written permission is granted. Thus far, there has been an on-line survey and initial presentation to Advisory groups. The next Public Meeting on the Public Access Plan Update is October 16.

In response to the Trustees' question as to when the process to update the Plan will be concluded, Jonathan noted that this would hopefully occur in November. Several Trustees stated that in order for the Plan to be adopted, there should be a requirement that the Trust approve the Plan.

4. Update on FY18 Capital Budget and Projects – Jonathan Yeo

The Update was accompanied by a brief Power Point Presentation which is appended to the minutes. Highlights:

- The objective of the project is to locate the Maintenance Garage out of the Quabbin Watershed. The Facility is being located on Blue Meadow Road.
- At this point, many of required permits have been obtained and DCR is actively working to obtain outstanding permits.
- Some construction has begun, including the Septic System.
- Spec development is underway.

5. Certificate of FY17 Trust Expenditures

Each year, the Trust must certify the Trust Expenditures. The Certification was distributed to Trust members for their signatures. Signatures were received.

6. Miscellaneous Updates

Trustee Meehan indicated that regarding the Public Access Plan, he would like to have a better understanding of the Plan before he is asked to approve it and requested that a presentation of the Plan be provided at the next Trust Meeting. He also asked that there be a discussion of where DCR Watersheds might use drones.

Trustee Meehan inquired whether or not there are any lingering issues with the dams, to which DCR responded that more work is required at Foss Dam. Trustee Laskey remarked that John Gregoire recently received the Northeast Regional Award for Dam Management. Also noted that MWRA has spent 22 million to upgrade the dams.

Trustee Laskey introduced Mike Altieri, MWRA's new Associate General Counsel.

Trustee Laskey also noted that Mike Hornbrook was to be inducted into the UMASS School of Engineering Hall of Fame.