

MASSACHUSETTS



Richard K. Sullivan, Jr., Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs

Frederick A. Laskey, Executive Director, MWRA

William Meehan, North Worcester County Quabbin Anglers, Quabbin Fishermen's Association

Katherine Haynes Dunphy, Chair, MWRA Advisory Board

Judith Eiseman, Swift River Valley Historical Society

Water Supply Protection Trust

March 2, 2011

MWRA Southborough Facility

266 Boston Road

Southborough, Massachusetts

Attendees

Trustees

Katherine Haynes Dunphy, Chairperson, Advisory Board

Frederick A. Laskey, Executive Director, MWRA

Kathleen Baskin, EOEEA Secretary Designee

Brigadier General William J. Meehan, North Worcester County Anglers and the Quabbin Fishermen's Association

MWRA

Steven Remsberg, General Counsel

Dave Coppes, Director, Western Operations

Pam Heidell, Policy and Planning Manager

Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Director of Planning

John Gregoire, Reservoir Program Manager

Kathy Soni, Budget Director

DCR

Jonathan Yeo, Director, Division of Water Supply Protection

William Pula, Regional Director, Quabbin/Ware Section

John Scannell, Regional Director, Wachusett/Sudbury

Eileen Honen, Budget Director

Paul Lyons, Environmental Analyst

Scott Murphy, Assistant Regional Director

Dan Clark, Director Natural Resources

Dave Small, Assistant Regional Director

Derek Liimatainen, Wachusett Chief Ranger

MWRA Advisory Board

Joseph Favaloro, Executive Director

Maggie Atanasov, Government and Media Coordinator

Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee (WSCAC)

Lexi Dewey, Executive Director

The meeting convened at 10:00. a.m.

Prior to agenda items, there was a short discussion about the South Dike at Wachusett Dam and the need to remove a number of trees on the down slope of the dike in order to comply with the MA Office of Dam Safety and FEMA guidelines (recently clarified) for earthen dams.

Approval of the December 2, 2010 Minutes

The minutes of the December 2, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.

FY 11 Spending Update - Eileen Honen DCR

Prior to and at the meeting, the following items were distributed (and are appended to the minutes): *DCR Office of Watershed Management Monthly Expenditure Analysis, November 2010, December 2010, January 2011; WSP Revenue FY11 07/01/2010-11/30/2010, WSP Revenue FY11 07/01/10-12/31/0, and WSP Revenue FY 11 07/01/10-01/31/11.*

Eileen Honen noted the following in her FY11 summary:

- As of the end of January, 49% of the budget is committed, with spending trends comparable to last year at this time.
- Re: major projects and services, the following highlights include: DCR is in second year of Direct Discharge study, with the project to be bid this summer (with DOT paying 80% of the construction cost, and MWRA the rest); work progresses on roof repairs at John Augustus Hall, a paving project has been completed at Quabbin; new equipment has been received including a dump truck and chipper, front end loaders; transformer replacement project at John Augustus Hall is ongoing and requires disposal of old transformers with PCBs and additional electrical improvements including new emergency generator and transfer switch. New contracts also include: replacement of boat ramp at Wachusett Dam and study of Moose and Deer impacts at Quabbin (by UMASS).

Draft Work Plan and Budget for FY12 - Jonathan Yeo

The Draft Work Plan and Budget includes a Budget Section (Jonathan reported that DCR and MWRA staff have agreed upon a bottom line); major Projects (by Watershed) and Work Projections. Jonathan highlighted some of the changes from prior years.

Wachusett Watershed

- Complete Phase 1 of the So. Meadow Pond *Hydrilla* terrestrial invasive project.
- Implement recommendations of Gull Control Program
- Implement Public Access Plan at Wachusett
- Continue to mark DWSP property boundaries as well as Watershed Preservation Restriction boundaries
- Removal of Edwards Dam (though DCR has encountered significant roadblocks with DEP re: sediments and naturally reoccurring arsenic)
- Electrical work at John Augustus Hall; required roof repairs (e.g., it is raining inside building) pending arrangements that must be worked out with DCAM, the building owner, and the entity funding the roof repairs.
- Stormwater sampling

Quabbin Watershed

- Cunningham Pond
- Outcome of forestry review
- Gull study
- Hanger Apron

Turning to the Budget, Jonathan noted:

- Personnel AA line reflects the raise that the unions negotiated (3% increase in salaries);
- Line item EE reflects change in purchasing vehicles rather than leasing them;
- Budget assumes fees for fishing and access will be same as for FY 2010;
- Budget reflects decrease in expenditures for infrastructure improvement from FY11; DCR felt such a reduction was necessary to balance the budget to bottom line;
- \$15,000 is budgeted to update parcel coverage;
- Budget provided to repair hanger apron at Quabbin, and for entrance road to fishing area#3 repairs; and
- A variety of capital projects around the Administration building totaling \$85,000 are planned.

Jonathan noted that he has submitted a request to have Brigham Pond Dam removal included in MWRA CIP. Trustee Laskey stated that further discussion with the Advisory Board and others is required.

In regards to the non-land capital budget DCR noted that it preferred to have \$1 million a year rather than the \$600,000 requested for FY 12. Trustee Dunphy suggested that if employees leave, monies that would otherwise pay their salaries be put aside for capital projects.

Trustee Meehan focused on revenues. Forestry revenues are at about 70%, hydropower revenues are higher than projected, and fishing permit fees and boat rentals are little changed from prior years despite original expectations that raising the fees for motor boat rentals would increase revenues

Chairman Laskey suggested that DCR work with MWRA to determine if money might be found in this year's budget (FY11) to fund some of the smaller amount deferred maintenance projects.

State Ethics Commission Review - Steven Remsberg

Steve Remsberg addressed a question raised by Trustee Meehan previously. That is, "If someone is an employee at the state level, and also has responsibilities at the local level, how many times must the State Ethics Commission acknowledgement form be completed?"

Steve Remsberg's finding is that the employer has an obligation under statute to distribute the summary of the law, ensure forms are completed, and compile records. This requires that the forms and acknowledgement must be completed every time.

Invasive Species Update – Jonathan Yeo

Hydilla was removed from surface of South Meadow Pond last year. When the ice is gone, additional survey will be done to review the effectiveness of control. A second contract provides for control and treatment measures if needed.

Re: Asian Longhorned Beetle (ALB). A map was distributed depicting areas where ALB has advanced to. DCR is working with the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) which pays for removal. Jonathan reported that in advancing areas if you have a host species, you have the option to allow or not allow USDA removal of trees, whereas if a tree is found to be infested, the tree is removed. DCR staff stressed that it is very difficult to find ALB, even when there are climbers in the trees, so that if you have a host species, proactive measures to remove the host species to prevent further spread may be desirable.

Wachusett Public Access Plan Update - John Scannell

A PowerPoint, *Wachusett Reservoir Watershed Public Access Plan*, accompanied the presentation and is appended to the minutes. John reported that the Wachusett Public Access Plan is updated regularly and a revised Plan is in draft form. The Public Access Plan identifies three zones: the Intake Protection Zone, the Reservoir Protection Zone, and the Tributary headwaters.

John noted that there no substantive changes to the Public Access Plan, but that there is always much interest in the Plan revisions as many comment that they wish to see additional activities allowed. He indicated that support of the Trust and MWRA for the Plan would be helpful. A suggestion was made to send copies of the Draft Plan to legislators.

The *Wachusett Reservoir Watershed 2011 Public Access Plan Update March 2011 Draft* was made available.

Forestry

Jonathan indicated that the Science Technical Advisory Committee was working on a draft report that would be available in the near future and when it is available, the Watershed Advisory Committee, stakeholders and DCR would meet to discuss the report's recommendations.

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.