

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

May 17, 2011

MA Water Resources Authority

Charlestown Navy Yard

100 First Ave

Boston, Massachusetts 02129

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

Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Director of Planning

John Gregoire, Program Manager, Reservoir Operations (ad hoc minutes-taker this date)

Kathy Soni, Budget Director

Mike Hornbrook, Chief Operating Officer

Mike Morris, Public Affairs 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

Scott Murphy, Assistant Regional Director

Dan Clark, Director Natural Resources

Dave Small, Assistant Regional Director

Joel Zimmerman, Planner

MWRA Advisory Board

Joseph Favaloro, Executive Director

Maggie Atanasov, Government and Media Coordinator

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

Approval of the March, 2011 Minutes

Kathy Baskin moved to amend the March minutes to date them as March 2, 2011.

Seconded and unanimously approved.

FY 11 Spending Update - Eileen Honen DCR

Eileen Honen provided a detailed overview of FY11 spending. The following topics are highlighted:

- There are 143.67 FTE and 8 vacancies
- 64% of the FY11 Budget has been committed
- The spending trend is comparable to last year
- Provided specific updates to many POs and Contracts

Fred Laskey raised the issue of Mass Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) and West Boylston dispute over Oakdale power.

MMWEC is the billing agent for West Boylston Municipal Light Plant. West Boylston is disputes payments they made to MWRA and claims they were overcharged \$249K due to incorrect rates applied by MMWEC. MMWEC is asking MWRA to reopen FY10 billing. Fred noted that this is under review by MWRA Law Division and no Trust Board action is needed.

However, this is germane to the DCR Operating budget because these revenues are used as an offset.

Gen. Meehan asked what is the expectation toward total revenue to the end of the year.

Jonathan Yeo replied \$940 - \$975K projection, which is almost all hydropower but there is a small amount of transmission line lease revenue. However, the lease revenue payments are not always prompt.

Jonathan discussed the needed amendment to the budget to formalize shifts noted in his memo of May 10, 2011 (energy cost increases, South Meadow Pond treatment, misc. work).

Fred Laskey sought a motion.
General Meehan moved
Kathy Baskin seconded
Trust Board unanimously approved.

Draft Work Plan and Budget for FY12 - Jonathan Yeo

Jonathan noted no real changes in the Work Plan since the last Trust Board update with the exception that the FY 12 Budget is very tight. He provided a list of some projects that can be moved to FY 13.

He stated that the State-negotiated union contract increase of 3% will go forward in FY 12 so this increases the AA account. However, there are other offsets to deal with that.

He noted that the proposed Fringe Rate is \$2.695 M but it is unclear when MWRA will need to pay this.

Fred Laskey commented that the House Ways and Means will clarify this in the Senate Budget soon.

Joe Favaloro commented he expected the budget to be unveiled next week.

Jonathan resumed the FY 12 overview of activities and highlights: He noted a large grant of \$119K is being used for fixing the roof at John Augustus Hall. DCR is petitioning DCAM to have the facility transferred to DCR but ideally this should happen after the roof repair.

Gen. Meehan commented that local bait shops around Quabbin have been complaining that the boat decontamination program has been hurting their business, although there was no evidence to support this.

Bill Pula commented that 120 boats have been deconn'ed in the program since April with about half of them repeats and half of them new boats to the program.

Kathryn Haynes-Dunphy inquired as to the status of non-water supply reservoir dams in DCR's inventory and how the needed work will be paid for.

Jonathan replied that there is \$1M worth of work under order by the Office of Dam Safety and that ideally this would come under the MWRA Capital program.

Fred Laskey replied that this issue needs to be discussed with the MWRA Board.

Jonathan reported that sediment sample results from the dam in Hubbardston came back clean so that will allow the breaching of this small dam to go forward this year.

Kathryn Haynes-Dunphy inquired about the tree clearing work needed on the Wachusett Reservoir South Dike.

Jonathan replied that DCR and MWRA met with Rep. Naughton recently to brief him on the needed work. It is likely that the project will be jointly managed by MWRA and DCR. However, he felt that MWRA was better experienced with the project management and geotechnical aspects of the work. MWRA and DCR will continue to discuss the mechanism of doing this project.

Kathryn Haynes-Dunphy inquired whether improvements to the road to Quabbin fishing area 3 were moved up to FY11. Jonathan Yeo reported that work would be done by the end of FY11, or at least the worst areas. This will give some room for unexpected expenses in the FY12 budget.

Gen. Meehan inquired is DCR has resolved the ownership of all the small dams in the watersheds/who's responsible for what.

Jonathan replied that all dams' ownerships' are now known. A number that had been attributed to DCR have been correctly assigned to towns or private owners

Fred Laskey inquired about the Wachusett storm drain project schedule.

John Scannell replied that 100% design is completed and back to MA DOT. Bids on the project are expected in mid June. The drains to be remediated are the six closest to the Intake and also the Rt. 70 drains that have added to the River Road erosion problem.

Kathy Baskin asked if the fuel budget has been amended beyond \$250K.

Jonathan replied that they are watching pricing carefully but will check. He felt a 5% increase was likely.

Kathy Baskin asked if this was in line with how MWRA budgets for fuel and noted that it is easier to deal with a slight surplus than a tight budget at the end of the FY.

Kathy Soni commented that DCR is generally in line with MWRA on fuel cost predictions.

Fred Laskey sought a motion to approve the FY 12 Work Plan

Kathy Baskin moved

Kathryn Haynes-Dunphy seconded

Trust Board unanimously approved.

Shaft 5A Water Main Break Update – Mike Hornbrook

Mike noted that repairs have occurred at three additional couplings similar to the Shaft 5 coupling that failed. Rehab is underway to the MetroWest Water Supply Tunnel piping through Shaft 5 to the City Tunnel. A new valve chamber has been constructed which will allow both the Hultman Aqueduct and the MWWST to be used interchangeably to feed the metropolitan area.

Fred Laskey reported that the Expert Panel looking into the cause will release their final report in about a week. He also commented that all the work done to maintain the emergency reservoirs has paid great dividends.

Gen. Meehan inquired as to how far into the communities MWRA's responsibility goes.

Mike Hornbrook replied that MWRA responsibility generally goes up to the local community meters. However, MWRA works very closely with local water departments on many issues.

Invasive Species Update – Jonathan Yeo

Jonathan reported that *Hydrilla* was treated at South Meadow Pond last year and was initially successful as there is present no sign of it growing. A more detailed pond survey is forthcoming but there is money in the budget for a follow-up treatment.

On the zebra mussels, he reported that there is a State program in place to combat them in high risk areas such as the Berkshires to ensure they do not spread to other areas.

Fred Laskey inquired if there was any effort underway to eradicate zebra mussel.

Jonathan replied that there is a company seeking EPA approval for a method now.

Jonathan noted that other public education was underway for boaters in the Ware River watershed, especially at places like Long Pond. DCR biologists are also looking at water samples from both reservoirs microscopically to detect invasives.

Bill Pula reported that the Quabbin Fishing Program has been up running for a month now; and that floating fragment barriers purchased by MWRA have been deployed at the fishing areas as preventive measures.

Jonathan commented that the biggest invasive threat right now is the Asian Longhorn Beetle (ALB). Presently, control efforts by DCR and USDA are underway in the Wachusett watershed which includes cutting of host trees and stump treatment. While there are some “outposts” of ALB in the northern reaches of the watershed, hopefully these will not succeed here after being addressed by the ALB control efforts.

Wachusett Public Access Plan Update - John Scannell

John reported that the Wachusett Public Access Plan is similar to the most recent Plan and no new changes are proposed. A public Hearing was held two weeks ago and about 10 people attended. MWRA staff also attended. There were the typical complaints regard prohibition of dogs and horses. Public Comment period closes Friday May 20th. The final Plan is scheduled to be completed by the end of June.

Gen. Meehan noted that the summer swimming season is coming up and wanted to ensure due diligence to control this activity as in past seasons.

Gen. Meehan also inquired as to the plan for DCR to walk town/land boundaries to assess encroachments, as required by ordinance.

John Scannell replied that DCR staff have recently completed a comprehensive land survey to identify encroachments. All boundaries are marked and aerial photos are used to identify and date potential encroachments

DCR Forestry Update – Jonathan Yeo

At Quabbin, DCR still awaits the final report by the Science and Technical Advisory Committee (STAC) led by Dr. Paul Barton. The last meeting was held in February and the Report seems to be getting close to completion.

At Wachusett, a new Land Management Plan has been drafted but still awaits Dr. Barton’s final STAC report.

Regarding forestry cutting plans, a few existing projects under contract, before the moratorium, have been allowed to go forward and a few were cancelled outright.

At Quabbin, some forestry cuts have had some follow-up “visual softening” and lot geometry changes to improve aesthetics.

Jonathan reminded the Trust Board that the overarching goal of watershed forestry is to protect the water supply by creating and supporting a diverse cover story of trees capable of withstanding major events like hurricanes and insect infestations.

On a related forestry note, Jonathan reported that Peter Church, former regional director at Blue Hills Reservation, and former DCR Natural Resources Director has been appointed as Director of Forest Stewardship in the EOEEA. Additionally, Stephanie Cooper of DCR has also moved up to EEA as Assistant Secretary of Forest Stewardship.

A motion was made to adjourn

Moved

Seconded

Unanimously approved.

The meeting adjourned at 12:08 p.m.