



*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*

Water Supply Protection Trust

December 2, 2010

MWRA

John J Carroll Treatment Plant

Marlborough

Attendees

Trustees

Katherine Haynes Dunphy, Chairperson, Advisory Board

Frederick A. Laskey, Executive Director, MWRA

Kathleen Baskin, EOEEA Secretary Designee

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

Joel Zimmerman, Regional Planner

Scott Murphy, Assistant Regional Director

MWRA Advisory Board

Matt Romero, Senior Policy and Finance Analyst

Maggie Atanasov, Government and Media Coordinator

Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee (WSCAC)

Lexi Dewey, Executive Director

The meeting convened at 10:20.

Trustee Laskey welcomed a first time attendee, Maggie Atanasov, who has joined the MWRA Advisory Board as the Government and Media Coordinator

Approval of the Minutes

The minutes of the September 24, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved.

Financial and Progress Reports- 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, August, September, and October 2010*; *Water Supply Protection Revenue, Period 1-4 July 2010-October 2010*; *2011 WSP Revenue, 07/01/10-08/31/2010*, and *2011 WSP Revenue 07/01/2010-09/30/2010*.

Eileen Honen noted the following in her FY11 summary:

- Personnel count is now 143.3, with 8 vacancies to be filled.
- FY11 spending as of October 31 is at 31% of budget.
- Major projects and services completed include: design of portion of Direct Discharge Elimination Program, purchase of heavy equipment, and procurement of GPS to facilitate data documentation at Wachusett.
- Contracts have been awarded for garage and flat roof repair on the Quabbin woodchip bin and chipping reconstruction; funds have been authorized for road paving (Blue Meadow Road in Quabbin Reservation).

Jonathan Yeo also reported on program activities including:

- More work on terrestrial invasive species.
- New gull reduction efforts (DCR staff actively are actively working with wastewater treatment plants to install screens, are posting signs to deter gull feeding, and are working with local communities such as Leominster to adopt ordinances that feeding gulls is illegal).
- Assistance to communities to address stormwater management to comply with NPDES stormwater management requirements (and to improve water quality).

At a later point in the meeting, but part of this agenda item, DCR also addressed efforts to control *Hydrilla*. A memo from Jonathan Yeo to the Trust regarding the *Hydrilla* control program (attached to the minutes of the meeting) notes DCR's contract with Aquatic Control Technology. Services were procured to control *Hydrilla* in nearby South Meadow Pond in order to limit its spread to Wachusett Reservoir. Remarks by DCR addressed the rapid response and cooperative effort by ACT, DCR, neighbors, MWRA, and the Conservation Commissions to address the *Hydrilla* threat. It was the sense of the Board that the Work Plan be amended to reflect the *Hydrilla* Control Program. The following motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved:

To amend the DCR FY11 Work Plan to include and approve consultant services for the *Hydrilla* Control Program.

John Gregoire noted that a component of the *Hydrilla* control program is a Rapid Response Program by MWRA.

Trustee Laskey complemented staff on their efforts.

Review of Draft Work Plan FY12, Jonathan Yeo

Jonathan reported that DCR is in the process of finalizing its initial submittal of the Work Plan and Budget to MWRA and the Draft Plan and Budget will be presented to the Trustees in March for information. Approval of the Final Plan will be sought in June. Some changes from prior plans are as follows:

- Removal of Edwards Dam and Cunningham Pond Dam, culminating years of permitting and coordination with Riverways and Fish and Wildlife. Removal of dams will be less costly than the alternative of having to maintain the dams.
- Removal of direct discharges into Wachusett Reservoir. MWRA/DCR have committed to paying 20% of project, with remainder funded by DOT.
- DCR's personnel line item will reflect a 3% increase in salaries (in contrast with current year which included no increases and furloughs).

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.

End of-Season Fishing Report – Bill Pula

Prior to and at the meeting, the following handouts were distributed: *Quabbin Boat Seal Program 2010, Update 11/30/10* and *Quabbin Boat-fishing Program: 2010 Data Analysis and Final Report*.

Bill Pula indicated that there was a slight increase in revenue from last year (when Quabbin Fishing was closed for a month) but that revenue was lower than prior years). It was speculated that mandatory boat inspection, decontamination and sealing program in response to the Zebra Mussel threat, increased rates, and the general economy have dampened some demand. At this point, more than 1000 boats have been inspected and sealed, and it is estimated that more than 95% use Quabbin only. Although the season pass enables pass holders to frequent the reservoir, fewer individuals are doing so.

Trustee Dunphy noted that she hoped people would be encouraged to come to Quabbin to fish, for both the recreational value as well as to get the word out about Quabbin's water supply value. She also suggested that in the future the Trust should have a general discussion about recreation in the watersheds.

Shaft 5/Hultman Aqueduct Update

Trustee Laskey's update to the Trust noted that the new leak discovered August in the vicinity of the May water break has now been successfully repaired. The internal repairs were accomplished by accelerating portions of the Hultman Rehabilitation Project, to bring sections of the Hultman Aqueduct on-line to enable the applicable section of the MetroWest Tunnel to be removed from service.

Forestry Update – DCR Staff

Jonathan Yeo stated that after careful review, most of the forestry projects that were awarded did proceed, often after some changes. A Science and Technical Advisory Panel met in August to review DCR forestry practices, and a report will be issued shortly. The Panel's Chairman, Paul Barten from UMASS Forestry will also meet with the DCR Commissioner, and a meeting with the Quabbin Advisory Committee and the Ware River Advisory Meeting on January 13 is planned. It is part of a comprehensive public process.

In response to an inquiry regarding Green Certification, Jonathan indicated that he is not sure when the Watershed forests will be re-certified, and that the independent outfit conducting the certification is very expensive. In the interim, DCR is undertaking a Landscape Zoning process for its Division of State Parks and Recreation and its Division of Urban Parks & Recreation properties.

Capital Repairs on Larger Dams – MWRA, John Gregoire

John Gregoire presented a PowerPoint presentation (appended to the minutes of this meeting) which depicted, through a series of before and after pictures, the re-pointing and grout repair conducted on the main spillway at Quabbin Reservoir in October and November of this year.

Solar Panel Installation – Renewable Energy – Fred Laskey

At the conclusion of the meeting, meeting attendees were invited to tour the Solar Panel installation at the water treatment plant. In advance of the solar facility tour, Trustee Laskey presented a PowerPoint (appended to the minutes of this meeting) which addressed the many solar, wind, and hydropower projects that MWRA has pursued, and the many grants MWRA has received to do so.

In closing remarks, Trustee Laskey announced that Secretary of Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs Ian Bowles is resigning. Trust members were unanimous in their support that recognition be paid to the Secretary for his work.

The meeting convened at 11:40.