

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**

September 21, 2011

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority

Deer Island Treatment Plant

190 Tafts Avenue

Winthrop, MA 02152

**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  
Judith Eiseman, Swift River Historical Society

MWRA

Pam Heidell, Policy and Planning Manager  
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  
Dan Clark, Director Natural Resources

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 10:19 a.m.

**1. Approval of the May 17, 2011 Minutes**

The minutes of the May 17, 2011 were unanimously approved.

## **2. FY 11 Financial Report - 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, April 2011, May 2011, and June 2011; WSP Revenue FY11 Period 1-9 (July 2010-April 2011), WSP Revenue FY11 Period 1-11 (July 2010-May 2011), and WSP Revenue FY 11 Period 1-12 (July 2010-June 2011); and Budget fiscal year 2011 Appropriation Sum of Posting Line Amount, and Department of Conservation and Recreation Comparison FY11 Actual to FY 11 Budget.*

Eileen Honen noted the following in her FY11 summary:

- There were 141.1 FTEs at the start of FY11, 144.3 FTE at the end, representing a combination of resignations, terminations, internal hiring, and promotions.
- Total FY 11 budget expenses were \$10,826,580; excluding the budgeted amount for fringe (which was not assessed in FY11), actual expenditures represented 97.3% of the budget.
- DCR Watershed saved approximately \$14,000 through discounts for prompt payment of bills
- DCR non-land capital purchases included a 5 ton dump truck, front-end loader, 2 wood chippers, heavy-duty equipment, outboard motors, and a slopemaster.
- Each year, the Trustees must certify to the State Comptroller that FY expenditures did not exceed related assessments and receipts for the Trust. It was noted that DCR and MWRA staff certified this was the case, and that a small amount of money would be carried forward. The Trustees were asked to sign the Certification and did so.

Eileen's highlights were followed by inquiries whether the increase in positions represented new positions (no, there are always vacancies), and whether DCR would provide an update on forestry, given that FY11 revenue indicated forestry revenues were at their lowest (DCR indicated this would be discussed in the future).

## **3. FY11 Major Accomplishments – Jonathan Yeo**

Jonathan highlighted the following:

### Wachusett Watershed

- The Department of Transportation has increased their share of the cost of the Direct Discharge Project (eliminate discharges from state highways into Wachusett Reservoir) from 80% to 100%; the project was bid in July and construction contract award imminent.
- Wachusett Public Access Plan Update was completed; few changes to the plan were made.
- Aquatic invasive species control. Contract is ongoing to control hydrilla, and results are favorable

- John Augustus Hall rehabilitation includes replacement of PCB transformers and a roof replacement; DCAM is funding the roof replacement.
- A new boat ramp to provide much safer access for MWRA and DCR is nearing completion.
- DCR and MWRA staff coordinated an effective emergency response to an oil spill upstream and the successful response prevented any impacts to the reservoir. Training in Spill Response continues.

#### Quabbin and Ware

- Administration building roof repairs, heating system repairs, Quabbin Tower restrooms, and stockroom facility renovations were undertaken in 2011. A handout describing the repairs was distributed.
- Invasive Species control activities including finding and mechanically removing Japanese barberry, oriental barberry and non-native honeysuckle were undertaken. A handout “*Examples of Invasive Species Control Work 2011*” was distributed.
- The annual eagle banding was a successful event, attracting the Governor and others.
- Swift River trail improvements were undertaken by the Student Conservation Association (college-aged folks who provide services to DCR for a few months.)

#### Other (areas of interest based on comments and questions)

- Foresters and researchers are looking at the impact of hurricanes and tornadoes on the streams
- DCR is monitoring conservation restrictions to ensure parcels are being cared for. If land comes under protective easements, DCR is notified. The amount of parcels being acquired, though, has slowed down.
- Gull control programs are ongoing, including signage at malls to warn visitors not to feed birds
- Coordination with regulators is ongoing to determine exactly what work and tree clearing is required to conform to requirements for earthen dam protection.
- The number of violations and infractions has increased, which DCR attributes to more enforcement, including more regular controls in the Sudbury. Trustee Meehan asked whether additional rangers were necessary.

#### **4. FY12 Financial and Progress Reports – Eileen Honen**

Eileen Honen noted that the spending trend this year is comparable to last year at this time. It was also noted that the State Comptroller has removed the fringe exemption from the account and fringe will be assessed for quarters 1 (retroactively) and 2. DCR Watersheds will continue to be exempt from the indirect surcharges.

## **5. FY 12 Plans, Including Upcoming Capital Projects, Staff and Vehicles (Yeo)**

Jonathan Yeo stated that staff are working with the Fleet Manager to replace an old logging truck, and also to replace some other aging vehicles. Jonathan indicated that fleet management and questions of leasing versus owning are challenging, to which Trustee Meehan asked whether the Trustees should make a request. Trustee Laskey also questioned if money was budgeted for purchase of vehicles, why DCR Watersheds had to pay leases for older vehicles. Trustee Designee Baskin also asked where the decision of lease versus purchase rests. Jonathan indicated that his staff were in the process of working things out through the Secretary of Administration and Finance Office.

The following motion was made, seconded, and approved unanimously.

**The Chairman of the Trust is authorized to write a letter on behalf of the Trustees requesting authorization for DCR Watersheds to lease vehicles when desired.**

## **6. Other Updates**

- a) Hurricane. The path of the hurricane veered and weakened and DCR Watersheds did not have any serious problems. Quabbin Reservoir did not spill. MWRA was asked by the Corps of Engineers to divert Ware River water into Quabbin for some period.
- b) Red Pine scale. A number of red pine trees are being infested and DCR is looking at a range of options. At Nash Hill, some trees will be cut by DCR, after discussions with the neighbors, and then removed by MWRA.
- c) Asian Longhorned Beetle. Recent new occurrences have been few. A map was distributed, and it was indicated the ALB control area may be expanded to the east. USDA, due to budget constraints, is spending less on control than previously.
- d) Maple Sugar taps. Sugar maple sap collection at Quabbin is done through either tubing or using buckets. It is community supported agriculture and DCR provides specific keys for specific gates to those that are harvesting the sugar maple sap. The keys cannot be duplicated and sugar maple producers are given permits and must provide bonds. There may be changes to the sugar maple permit program in the future, including increased permit fees as rates are low at present.
- e) Forestry. A report on Professor's Barten's review of Forestry Practices is anticipated in October. Once the report is issued, there will be a public process for review.
- f) Wachusett Watershed Regional Recycling Center Update. A handout was distributed addressing the success of the center, which is mostly run by volunteers. DCR staff stated that since the Center started operations, the amount of dumping on DCR land has decreased.

The meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.