

**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE
MASSACHUSETTS CLEAN WATER TRUST**

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, March 4, 2020
Time: 2:30 PM
Location: Massachusetts Clean Water Trust
1 Center Plaza, Suite 430
Boston, Massachusetts 02108
Notice: Due public notice given
Attendees Sue Perez, Executive Director, Trust
Maya Jonas-Silver, Director of Finance & Administration, Trust
Maria Pinaud, Director of Program Development, Trust
Also Present Nate Keenan, Deputy Director, Trust
Jonathan Maple, Policy Analyst, Trust
Sally Peacock, Controller, Trust
Michael Celona, Drinking Water Specialist, MassDEP

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. **Minutes:** The Committee approved minutes from the December 12, 2019 and December 19, 2019 meeting of the Executive Committee.
2. **EPA Reduction in Lead Exposure DW Grant - Request for Applications:** Ms. Pinaud noted that as part of the 2016 Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act), EPA would be requesting applications for a new competitive grant program aimed at removing lead from drinking water. Ms. Pinaud asked Mr. Celona to provide an overview, and he informed the committee of the opportunity and explained that there were two different grant programs bundled in this request for applications. Each grant is meant to address a national priority of lead reduction as documented EPA's Strategic Plan. Priority 1 - *Reduction of Lead Exposure in the Nation's Drinking Water Systems through Infrastructure and Treatment Improvements* - and anticipates 1-3 grants totaling \$17.1 million. Priority 2 - *Reduction of Children's Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water in Schools and Child Care Facilities* - and anticipates 3-12 grants totaling \$22.8 million. Ms. Perez inquired about Priority 1 grants, and Mr. Celona noted that this avenue was limited to 1-3 grants and appeared to be tailored to areas with extensive lead and drinking water issues.

Mr. Celona noted that while not a perfect fit, the Trust's School Water Improvement Grant (SWIG) program fits much of the program requirements for priority 2, and EPA programs requires that projects be shovel ready and proceed expeditiously. Grants could range from \$1.9 million to \$7.6 million. The application deadline is April 20, 2020. Mr. Keenan suggested that the Trust and MassDEP set up a working conference to review the application and submit the application. The Committee noted that the Commonwealth would likely have a very competitive application.

3. **SWIG Application Updates:** Mr. Keenan noted that the Trust application process was complicated by a misunderstanding that application request must be tied to documented lead exceedances. Mr. Maple noted that 36 District Form applications, 54 School Forms submitted, and 205 fixtures

requested. Currently, there were 20 incomplete applications. The Trust will continue to review applications after March 6, and work with applicants and MassDEP in finalizing the application. Mr. Keenan noted that we will spend the next couple of weeks reviewing the applications and will bring updates to the Executive Committee as they come available. Mr. Keenan noted that the Board will need to vote on these projects.

4. **PFAS Emergency Application Updates:** Ms. Pinaud notified the committee of the two potential PFAS emergency request. Littleton and Barnstable Fire District Water Department's emergency project request have been reviewed by MassDEP and are under consideration with Senior Management. The general conclusion is that the timeline for the permanent solution on both projects are not compatible under an emergency project. Both projects would be better fit for the next annual solicitation. The Barnstable work would not be completed until 2022. Littleton's short-term solution of setting up a water blending process to reduce to overall PFAS concentration may be eligible, but as of this morning that project has been retracted. Littleton's long-term solution will be eligible for the standard project solicitation for the 2021 IUP.

Ms. Jonas-Silver asked if PFAS projects come through the 2021 IUP will they still be eligible for 0% interest. Ms. Perez noted that that the 0% financing is currently only in place for emergency PFAS projects, and the Board will need to vote to extend the 0% financing beyond the 2020 IUP emergency pilot program. The Committee agreed that the current program is a limited pilot program to measure PFAS demand. Ms. Pinaud noted that she has received additional inquiries for emergency PFAS projects but has not received any formal request at this time.

Other Business (Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting)

5. **Clean Water to Drinking Water SRF Lead Related Transfer (Booker Bill):** Mr. Keenan noted that the Trust has received the Q/A from EPA relating to the Booker Bill (lead mitigation transfer authority). The Trust will work through the information and bring it up at a future meeting.
6. **PFAS Design:** Ms. Pinaud noted that MassDEP received over \$4 million in funding in the Governor's supplemental budget for PFAS testing and mitigation project design. She noted that the Drinking Water SRF does not currently fund design projects but would like to know if the Trust could compliment MassDEP's effort by funding the design phase of PFAS projects. Ms. Pinaud explained that the SRFs use to fund design, but that many projects would not move forward with construction. Mr. Keenan noted that this was holdover from the beginning of the SRF program that was meant to conserve funding for construction projects. He noted that there is a lot of demand for this type of funding on the Clean Water SRF side. The Committee discussed the subject but will need to review the larger scope in context of the available funds – especially as it related to the already limited DWSRF funding.

The meeting adjourned at 3:06 p.m.

Minutes Approved: 06/11/2020