Minutes Executive Committee Meeting Massachusetts Clean Water Trust

DATE: April 20, 2016 **START TIME:** 1:35 p.m.

PLACE: State House Room 372 **NOTICE:** Due public notice given

MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE -

PRESENT: Sue Perez, Executive Director of the Trust

Rachel Madden, Director of Finance & Administration of the Trust Steve McCurdy, Director of Program Development of the Trust

ALSO PRESENT: Bernard Greene, Senior Legal Counsel of the Trust

Beth Card, Deputy Commissioner for Policy and Planning,

Department of Environmental Protection Nate Keenan, Deputy Director of the Trust

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS (INCLUDING DECISIONS MADE/ACTIONS TAKEN/ VOTES):

- 1. <u>Contract Assistance</u>. Ms. Perez discussed the restriction in the contract assistance line item of the budget to only debt service obligations of the Trust. It will require a change to the wording in the budget to use contract assistance as principal forgiveness as previously agreed upon by the Committee. The Trust will propose a change in the wording to Administration and Finance and will ask to roll the remaining balance in the contract assistance 2016 budget line item to the next fiscal year. The members of the Executive Committee agreed with that approach.
- 2. Lead in School Drinking Water. The Committee had a discussion on the proposed \$2 million initiative on lead in public school drinking water. The money will be used to take water samples and assist the schools in properly collecting and testing the samples. Mr. McCurdy stated that DEP estimates that they can support 1,750 schools out of approximately 7,000 schools and early childhood centers in the state. Ms. Card noted that DEP currently has a voluntary program wherein schools are asked about lead and copper in their water, but the response rate is not great. The proposed DEP initiative will have two parts. In part I of the initiative, they will send schools a letter asking if they want assistance to test their water. Part II of the initiative will be taking samples and testing them in certified laboratories. The Commissioner wants to start in the spring before school breaks for the summer. Mr. McCurdy noted that the 7,000 schools targeted does not cover home day care businesses or private schools. Ms. Card stated that they are looking into whether there is a way to assist private day cares and private schools. Ms. Card said that Commissioner Suuberg wants to move quickly. Ms. Perez noted that the next regular meeting of the Board is May 4 but that the Trust could schedule a special

meeting of the Board earlier.

- 3. <u>Sheffield Water Company</u>. The Committee discussed the sale of the assets of Sheffield Water Company and the Trust's outstanding loan to this private water company. The Trust would need adequate security for the repayment of the loan from the purchaser of the assets before the Board would approve the transfer. The Trust is discussing obtaining such security with the acquiring company.
- 4. <u>Charlton</u>. Mr. Keenan reported on a request by the Town of Charlton for guidance on how it could pay off a series of SRF loans it has outstanding. The Town has funds for repaying the loans from a settlement with ExxonMobil Corp. related to the company's pollution of the Town's ground water.

The meeting adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Approved: May 18, 2016