

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

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, October 31, 2019
Time: 12:30 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
Maria Pinaud, Director of Program Development, Trust
Maya Jonas-Silver, Director of Finance & Administration, Trust
Also Present Nate Keenan, Deputy Director, Trust
Jonathan Maple, Policy Analyst, Trust
Absent

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. **Housing Choice Loan – Program Clarification:** Mr. Keenan notified the Committee that the Trust has been contacted about the status of the Town of Franklin as a Housing Choice Community on the 2019 Intended Use Plan (IUP). The town and the Senator Spilka's office has called to ask why it does not qualify under the Housing Choice (HC) Loan Program. Franklin received the HC designation as part of the 2019 class in May 2019, which is after they applied for financing through the Trust and after the IUP was published. Ms. Pinaud has confirmed that MassDEP has fielded similar inquiries and notified applicants that the community's status is only reviewed at the time the IUP is published. In this case, only the original 69 communities or the 2018 class would be eligible for HC loans.

Mr. Maple outlined the HC designation timeline and confirmed that the Trust's process was in line with similar programs including the HC Grant Program offered through the HC Initiative. Mr. Keenan noted that the issue was addressed February 12, 2019 meeting of the executive committee, and the committee then determined that the status was only determined at the time the IUP is published. The Committee discussed the merits and timelines related to the SRF program and the HC designations and determined that the program should maintain the IUP publication cutoff as the deadline. Additionally, MassDEP and the Trust will update the relevant HC language on the Trust's website.

2. **Dam and Seawall Program Update:** Ms. Perez asked the Committee to consider the proposal that the Trust move forward with servicing the loans for the Dam and Seawall Repair or Removal Program.. The Trust would restructure the debt service for the loans in the program to follow the Trust's billing and invoicing schedule. The program has 18 loans totaling approximately \$13.3 million. The Committee discussed the programmatic impact and agreed that the Trust should bring the program before the Board for approval in November or December.
3. **FY 2019 Supplemental Budget Update:** Ms. Perez noted that there was a procedural issue holding up the process. At this time, there has not been a clear indication on how the legislature will proceed to

resolve the issue. Ms. Perez notes, that as of last official word, the Trust's line items for additional subsidy for PFAS projects, Drinking Water Capacity, and outside language for School Water Improvement Grants was still intact.

Ms. Pinaud noted that MassDEP is getting request for the PFAS money. Barnstable is requesting \$3 million for PFAS mitigation. The Committee agreed that Barnstable may be added as an emergency project and can be included in the next Board meeting once their application is submitted. Ms. Pinaud confirmed that she will forward the information to the Trust as soon as available.

The Committee discussed the best method for disbursing the PFAS assistance funds allocated in the supplemental budget. The Committee was unable to determine if the Trust should utilize the funds for 0% interest loans, principal forgiveness, or a combination of both. The Committee determined that the Trust will need to confirm what the final bill language is and model out the financial capacity before bringing the request to the board in December.

4. **School Water Improvement Grants (SWIG) Program Update:** Mr. Keenan notified the Committee that the Trust held a working group meeting with MassDEP Drinking Water. The program is waiting for the Supplemental language before finalizing all the program requirements and features. However, the working group is pressing forward with finalizing many of the practical matters such as document drafting, finalizing application materials and deciding the best way to market the program. Ms. Pinaud noted that MassDEP was meeting next Tuesday to work on and discuss the school lead testing program, which SWIG will accompany and augment.
5. **Federal Legislative Update on the Water Protection and Job Creation Act of 2019:** Mr. Keenan updated the committee on a federal reauthorization of the Clean Water State Revolving Fund that is moving forward in the House of Representatives. The legislation will be establishing in statute what has recently been required in annual appropriations language and substantially increasing the federal grant amounts. This should clarify the process and have little actual impact on how the program functions. The Trust will monitor the legislation and present any updates.

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

6. **Cherry Valley Sewer District Update.** Ms. Perez noted that the Trust has received additional requests relating to the status of any support the Trust could offer the district. The Committee determined the Trust would follow up with the District and Representative David H.A. LeBoeuf, notifying them that under the specific financial circumstances the Trust would not be able to refinance the District's USDA loans.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS USED:

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Minutes Approved: 01/02/2020