

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

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Thursday, December 12, 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
Maya Jonas-Silver, Director of Finance & Administration, Trust
Maria Pinaud, Director of Program Development, Trust
Also Present Nate Keenan, Deputy Director, Trust
Ashraf Gabour, Program Manager, MassDEP
Jonathan Maple, Policy Analyst, Trust
Michele Higgins, Environmental Engineer, MassDEP
Absent

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

1. **Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Goals Board Recommendation.** Mr. Keenan asked the Committee how they would like to proceed on recommendations to the Board for the adoption of Disadvantages Business Enterprise (DBE) fair share objectives after reviewing the report submitted by Keen Independent Research. Mr. Gabour noted that MassDEP has reviewed the report and believes that the goals suggested by the analysis are more in line with the availability of minority business enterprises (MBEs) and women business enterprises (WBEs) in our geographic market. The goals suggested in the report are 3.4% for MBEs and 3.2% for WBEs, as opposed to the Trust's current goals of 4.2% and 4.5% respectively.

Ms. Pinaud states that MassDEP was not, at this time, recommending a change, but would like to review the options moving forward and consult internally with Commissioner Suuberg. Ms. Perez noted that the Committee has not been informed of programmatic difficulties with the currently established goals, and that it may be challenging to adjust them without any countervailing. The Committee agreed to review any analysis provided by MassDEP documenting the issue and current DBE program's reliance on waivers and any impact that may be causing on the program's efficiency.

Additionally, the Committee noted that while EPA is currently not enforcing the DBE program, it is likely that it will be reinstated in the future and that the Trust should ensure that they will be as close to compliance as possible.

2. **School Water Improvement Grant Update.** Mr. Keenan noted for the Committee that the House and Senate has passed the FY19 Closeout Supplemental budget which contained language authorizing the Trust to provide grants to schools for deleading efforts. Mr. Maple noted that language would require the Trust to utilize a more deliberate distribution process

than the originally proposed first come first served approach. This is not an issue as the Trust had prepared for this possibility. Additionally, the supp language would expand the program recipient eligibility pool beyond public schools to include daycares and early education facilities.

Mr. Maple walked the committee through a proposed roll out process that would govern the program activities and award distribution. The Committee discussed the roll out without objection. Ms. Pinaud asked when the program would be put before the Board. Mr. Keenan noted that MassDEP and the Treasurer's office were working on an announcement timeline. Once that is established the announcement and board meeting would coordinate with the Board members.

3. **Closeout Sup for FY 19.** Ms. Jonas-Silver noted that the Supp budget has passed and that the Trust's line items were funded less than was included in the Governor's supplemental budget. Mr. Keenan noted that the Trust was running an analysis to model out the best use of funds related PFAS. The analysis will look at options relating to PFAS and loan forgiveness and/or 0% interest loans. Ms. Jonas-Silver asked if the Trust could factor in using the remaining \$5 million from chapter 273 of the acts of 2018, making the possible PFAS support around \$15 million. Mr. Keenan agreed to check the authorization.
4. **Asset Management Planning Grants 2019 Update.** Ms. Pinaud noted that payment requisitions have been coming in and are currently moving through the approval process.

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

- 5 **Private Well Water Testing.** Mr. Keenan notified the Committee that he had met with representatives from Administration and Finance (A&F) to discuss the possibility of implementing a private well testing and remediation program for homeowners. The proposed program may be modeled after the Title 5 Community Septic Management Program.

The Committee noted that a betterments program that supported private well water assistance would require legislative authorization. Ms. Jonas-Silver noted that this was an info-gathering session for her colleagues working to address PFAS.

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS USED:

1. School Water Improvement Grant Roll Our Calendar (Word Document)

The meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Minutes Approved: _____