



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION
100 CAMBRIDGE STREET, BOSTON MA 02114

Meeting Minutes for August 11, 2011

100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA, 1:00 p.m.

Minutes approved September 8, 2011

Members in Attendance:

Vandana Rao	Designee, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Marilyn Contreas	Designee, Department of Housing and Community Development
Anne Carroll	Designee, Department of Conservation and Recreation
Ann Lowery	Designee, Department of Environmental Protection

Members Absent

Gerard Kennedy	Designee, Department of Agricultural Resources
Mark Tisa	Designee, Department of Fish and Game
Joseph E. Pelczarski	Designee, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management
Thomas Cambareri	Public Member
John Lebeaux	Public Member
Bob Zimmerman	Public Member

Others in Attendance:

Michele Drury	DCR
Jennifer Pederson	Massachusetts Water Works Association
Linda Hutchins	DCR
Erin Graham	DCR
Bruce Hanson	DCR
Marilyn McCrory	DCR
Sara Cohen	DCR

Rao called the meeting to order at 1:10 p.m.

Agenda Item #1: Executive Director's Report

Rao announced that, lacking a quorum of members, a vote on the minutes of the July meeting would be postponed to the September meeting. She suggested limiting the August meeting to the report on hydrological conditions and postponing discussion of the *Massachusetts Water Supply Policy Statement* to the September meeting. She noted that it would be beneficial to have the full commission present for the overview of the water supply policy statement and its recommendations on water demand management policies and programs, as well as reports on progress to date and discussion of future directions for water demand policies and programs.

Rao provided a brief update on the Sustainable Water Management Initiative, noting that staff members are working on refining elements of permitting, mitigation, and safe yield, and an Advisory Committee meeting will be scheduled for sometime in the Fall.

Hansen provided an update on the hydrologic conditions for July 2011. Average rainfall statewide was below normal, varying from 48 percent of the long-term average in the Central region to 128 percent on Cape Cod and the Islands. As a result, the soil moisture index for the eastern third of the state was slightly below normal, and fire danger had risen. Severe thunderstorms occurred on July 26, including a microburst with 100 mph winds in Wilbraham, storm damage in Chicopee and Holyoke, and one storm-related fatality. Groundwater levels and streamflows in July were generally normal statewide. The drought outlook shows no tendency for drought conditions through October. The Standard Precipitation Index shows that the central part of the state was moderately dry at the end of July.

Other Announcements

Drury announced that she will be asking commission members to review the materials included in the August meeting mailing and to provide, before the September meeting, a description of demand-management activities and accomplishments by each agency. She also requested ideas for future programs and policies that the state should consider implementing. The September meeting will include a broader discussion of these ideas. Drury thanked Anne Lowery's staff at MassDEP for input they had already provided.

Pederson requested clarification on how the water supply policy statement relates to the Water Conservation Standards. Drury responded that the 1978 *Massachusetts Water Supply Policy Statement* set in motion what became the water conservation standards. She added that the September meeting will include a report on a review by staff of the 2006 water conservation standards, which will likely be updated over the next several months. The discussion of the water supply policy statement will focus on longer-range, broader policy topics. One result may be considering if any of these topics should be incorporated into the water conservation standards. Drury explained that the policy statement provides the base, and the standards may be considered the action items. Rao added that many recommendations of the 1978 policy statement have been incorporated into state agency planning, permitting, and ways of doing business. Drury noted that the 1978 policy statement also resulted in the enactment of several key environmental statutes.

Drury commented that the theme of the September meeting would be water conservation and demand management.

Meeting adjourned, 1:20 p.m.

Documents or Exhibits Distributed at Meeting:

- Meeting Minutes for July 14, 2011
- Water Supply Policy Statement (1978): Demand Management Policies
- Water Supply Policy Statement (1978): Demand Management Programs
- Interbasin Transfer Act project status report, 28 July 2011
- Current Water Conditions in Massachusetts, August 11, 2011