



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

Meeting Minutes for June 9, 2016

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

Minutes approved March 10, 2017

Members in Attendance:

Kathleen Baskin	Designee, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)
Linda Balzotti	Designee, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
Jonathan Yeo	Designee, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
Douglas Fine	Designee, Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)
Tim Purinton	Designee, Department of Fish and Game (DFG)
Raymond Jack	Public Member
Kenneth Weismantel	Public Member
Bob Zimmerman	Public Member

Members Absent

Todd Callaghan	Designee, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM)
Gerard Kennedy	Designee, Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR)
Thomas Cambareri	Public Member
Paul Matthews	Public Member

Others in Attendance:

Anne Carroll	DCR
Michele Drury	DCR
Dianne Velardocchia	CDM Smith
Jennifer Pederson	Mass. Water Works Association
Jennifer Sulla	EEA
Erin Graham	DCR
Stephen Estes-Smargiassi	Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
Vandana Rao	EEA
Becky Weidman	MassDEP
Alec Madaus	TNC
Sara Cohen	DCR
Chiara Cipriano	TNC
Peter Weiskel	U.S. Geological Survey
Marilyn McCrory	DCR

Baskin called the meeting to order.

Agenda Item #1: Executive Director's Report

Baskin acknowledged the 10th Anniversary of EPA Water Sense Program. She announced: the WRC Annual Report was published and has been filed with the Secretary of State; the Environmental Monitor has noticed several draft Water Management Permits out for review; there will be an Outreach Meeting on June 15th in Southbridge for the Quinebaug Basin for both Water Needs Forecasting and Water Management Act Permits; there are several MassDEP regulation packages that have been before the Commission out for public review including 310 CMR 15.00 Septic Systems/Title 5, 310 CMR 32.00 Land Application of Sludge and Septage,

314 CMR 18.00 Industrial Wastewater Holding Tanks Certification, and 310 CMR 27.00 Underground Injection Control Regulations; and the Interbasin Transfer Act Regulations updates from two years ago are under review and are expected to be returned to the WRC before public comment. Carroll gave the Hydrological Conditions Report: some indices are tripping in at least one region and a Drought Management Task Force meeting will be scheduled.

Baskin announced that the next WRC meeting is July 7th and that she will be leaving the Commonwealth to attend the Harvard Kennedy School.

Agenda Item #2: Vote on the Minutes of May 2016

Baskin invited motions to approve the meeting minutes for May 12, 2016.

V	A motion was made by Ken Weismantel with a second by Linda Balzotti to approve the meeting minutes for May 12, 2016.
O	
T	The vote to approve was unanimous of those present.
E	

Agenda Item #3: Presentation and Discussion: The 2016 Massachusetts Small MS4 General Permit

Ken Moraff, director of EPA’s Ecosystem Protection Program, gave a big picture view of the new stormwater MS4 permits for municipalities released this year. More details are available on the web. He highlighted the aspects of the permit that give municipalities flexibility to not only address water quality, but also flood resilience and water supply shortages by encouraging groundwater recharge.

He spoke about the different types of permit requirements. The first type is operational & maintenance and housekeeping requirements. These are not very prescriptive so communities can decide where they need to invest their efforts. Only a few places in the permit are very prescriptive, such as illegal sewer connections, based on experience from the previous permit. The second type of permit requirement will steer communities toward green infrastructure. Over time, EPA believes that complete reliance on drains pipes and outfalls will move toward more reliance on green infrastructure because of the myriad of problems solved and added benefits by a shift to green infrastructure. The EPA considers the permit a big step for water quality while balancing practical concerns such as schedule and the workings of town government. Using the adaptive management approach, the new permit allows enough time for communities to make needed changes, to optimize, to have requirements move through town government, to develop O&M plans, and to make sure that the public is educated. There were many comments received on the draft permit and EPA pulled back on some requirements in response to those comments to give permittees more flexibility, while still achieving the goals of the permit.

Fine added information about MassDEP’s role in the permit. Although Massachusetts is not a delegated state under the NPDES program, MassDEP ended up cosigning the permit. MassDEP heard from its constituents concerns about the costs and worked with EPA to address those concerns. Right now MassDEP is working with EPA to implement the permit and is focusing on outreach and assistance in making sure that permittees understand the new permit. They are also working on financial concerns and are working with other stakeholders on some tools that will help municipalities with implementation. They are also helping regional stormwater groups,

which MassDEP has found an effective way of collaborating. There was some discussion of the EPA's redevelopment requirements and MassDEP's stormwater redevelopment standard. The two requirements are different, but MassDEP is open to a conversation to align them.

Agenda Item #4: Presentation and Discussion: MWRA Programs for Lead in Drinking Water

Stephen Estes-Smargiassi from the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) gave a presentation comparing the situation in Flint and the handling of the Flint lead crisis with the MWRA's water supply system and how the MWRA manages its lead programs. With the water quality problems in Flint, Michigan MWRA customers had questions about their water. Estes-Smargiassi discussed how MWRA takes customers concerns seriously. Although lead is found in a variety of sources and levels (gasoline, paint, dust, soil), the levels have declined significantly over time. MWRA water quality is stable, as is corrosion control treatment. Being responsive to water quality complaints will build confidence in the water. MWRA staff takes a science-based approach to assessing water quality, treatment, and compliance. So long as there is lead in contact with water, risk remains and there is a shared responsibility for lead, the key issues being lead services lines and stagnant water. The simple message to public is: MWRA treats the water to reduce leaching; the public should flush its taps before using; get the lead out.

Agenda Item #5: Presentation and Discussion: Proposed Regulation Amendment – Certification Requirements for Certain Regulated Sectors (“Environmental Results Program”) (310 CMR 70, 71, 72, 73)

Because of a scheduling issue, this presentation and discussion was postponed until the July 2016 meeting.

Agenda Item #6: Vote on the Water Resources Commission Work Plan, FY17

V	The above motion was made by Robert Zimmerman with a second by Douglas Fine.
O	
T	The vote to approve was unanimous of those present.
E	

Meeting adjourned, 3:01 p.m.

Documents or Exhibits Used at Meeting:

1. WRC Meeting Minutes for May 12, 2016
2. Final Draft Water Resources Commission Work Plan, FY2017
3. Correspondence dated May 6 2016, from Department of Environmental Protection to MEPA Unit regarding North Reading New Water and Sewer Solutions, Entire Town, EEA #14975
4. Water Resources Commission Annual Report, Fiscal Year 2015 (Final)
5. Interbasin Transfer Act project status report, May 25, 2016.

Compiled by: EG

Agendas and minutes are available on the web site of the Water Resources Commission at www.mass.gov/eea/wrc under “MA Water Resources Commission Meetings.” All other meeting documents are available by request to WRC staff at 251 Causeway Street, 8th floor, Boston, MA 02114.