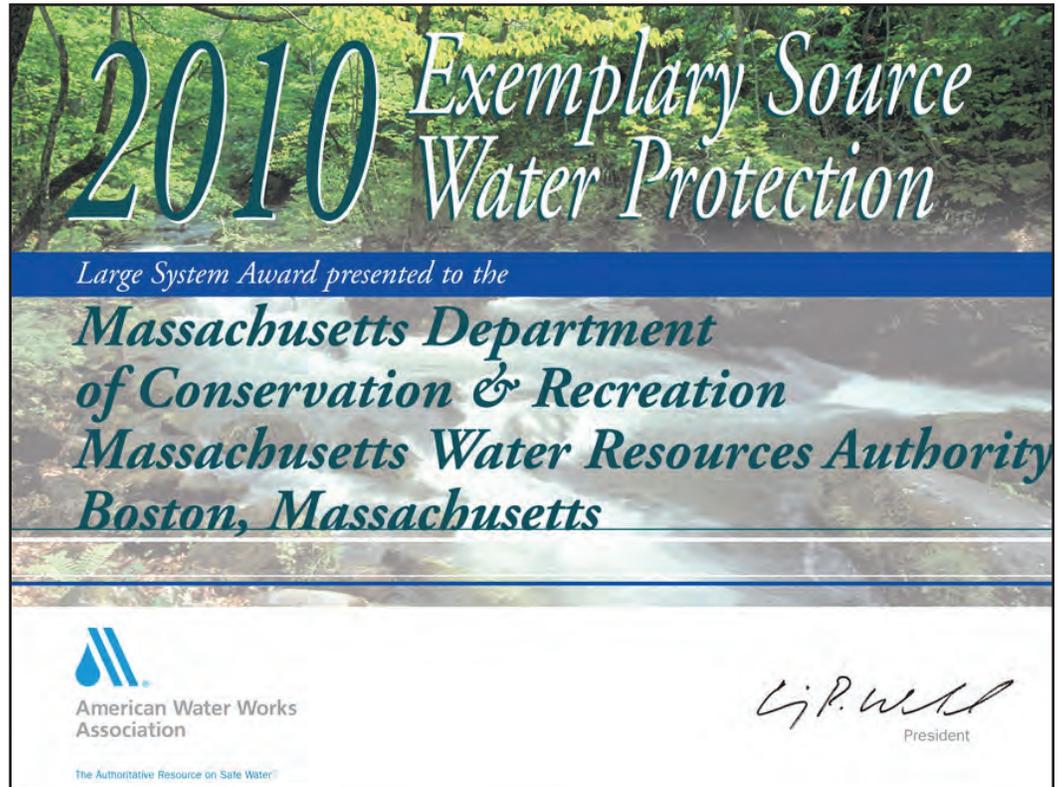


DCR Wins National Clean Drinking Water Award

The Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation's Division of Water Supply Protection (DCR/DWSP) has received the American Water Works Association (AWWA) 2010 Exemplary Source Water Protection Award for Large Systems. The Division's Office of Watershed Management has a long-standing reputation for successfully providing pure water to the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) for treatment and distribution to more than 2 million people. This award certifies DCR as an international role model for drinking water quality protection.

AWWA, an international nonprofit and educational society, is the largest and oldest organization of water professionals in the world, with membership of more than 60,000 people and 4,600 utilities that supply water to roughly 180 million people in North America. Members represent treatment plant operators and managers, scientists, environmentalists, manufacturers, academicians, regulators, and others who hold genuine interest in water supply and public health. AWWA is the authoritative resource on safe water.

The significance of this award is magnified by the fact that DCR's advocate was its regulating agency, the MA Department of Environmental Protection (DEP). DEP's detailed nomination to the award committee was based on its intimate knowledge of DCR's work, derived from DEP's annual inspections and on-going program review, which are required for DCR's source water to maintain MWRA's federal filtration waiver. DEP's recommendation was supported by the New England chapter of the AWWA, which subsequently submitted the nomination material to be considered with other applicants from around the country.



The water at Quabbin Reservoir is crystal clear.



A tranquil day on the Ware River.

The nominations were judged on how well a water system meets six components of AWWA's Source Water Protection Standard: 1) program vision; 2) source water characterization; 3) explicit protection goals; 4) development of an Action Plan; 5) implementation of the Action Plan; and 6) periodic evaluation and revision of the entire program. The award was also based on three additional factors: the 1) documented effectiveness of the program; 2) innovativeness of the approach; and 3) the difficulties overcome by the organization.



Quabbin Reservoir, frozen over in winter.

DCR's watershed management programs excel in all of these areas. DEP explicitly noted DCR's extensive planning processes, water quality monitoring, natural and cultural resource stewardship activities, and community outreach through advisory committees, interpretive services, technical assistance, ranger patrols, and publications. All of these elements are unified into an annual Work Plan and corresponding budget that is reviewed and approved by the Water Supply Protection Trust. The following are factors that contributed to AWWA's recognition of DCR's efforts.

Effective. The source water provided by DCR to MWRA continuously meets the federal standard for unfiltered source water fecal coliform. Components to this success include:

- ◆ A bird harassment program at both reservoirs that is a major element in DCR's ability to meet critical water quality parameters.
- ◆ A strong understanding of water quality issues throughout the watersheds and reservoirs.
- ◆ An excellent track record of planning, entailing periodic updates to the Watershed Protection Plans, Public Access Plans, and Land Management Plans, with appropriate public involvement integrated into the process.
- ◆ The ability to control harmful land uses across the watershed system provided by the targeted expenditures of the Land Acquisition Program and implementation of the Watershed Protection Act regulations.
- ◆ A team of scientists, labor and craftsmen, planners, engineers, rangers, foresters, educators, and managers who work together to accomplish the 100+ programs and projects identified in each annual Work Plan.

Innovative. DCR's professional staff draws upon the resources of experts and academic institutions to bring the most advanced strategies into its watershed protection programs, such as:

- ◆ Research tracking the migratory habits of gulls that will advise components of the bird harassment program.
- ◆ Microbial tracking on tributaries to the Wachusett Reservoir that identified the need for educational programs focusing on dog waste.
- ◆ Multi-jurisdictional emergency planning, training, and equipment deployment, performed in association with MWRA, state, and local officials.





- ◆ Ongoing water quality related education programs at the Quabbin Visitors Center, in watershed community classrooms, out in the field, and on-line.
- ◆ Community infrastructure developments that address long-term waste issues, such as the Wachusett Earthday recycling site.
- ◆ The Quabbin boat decontamination program, rapidly developed and implemented, which minimizes the threat from invasive aquatic species while allowing private fishing boats on the reservoir.

Perseverance. DCR has a long history of addressing myriad political and logistical challenges.

- ◆ Creating a source water protection program that encompasses four watersheds and close to 500 square miles, coordinating with dozens of individual community governments, legislators, and stakeholder groups.
- ◆ Working with the citizens of the watersheds, who do not consume the water from either the Quabbin or Wachusett Reservoirs. DCR identifies projects that promote protection of both the locally utilized natural resources as well as the drinking supply for people close to 100 miles away.
- ◆ Respecting and honoring the sacrifices made by previous generations that had their communities transformed into a drinking water supply.

At a ceremony in the Division’s field headquarters in West Boylston, DCR Commissioner Rick Sullivan heralded the daily efforts of the 150 staff dedicated to Watershed Protection. Division Director Jonathan Yeo recognized the men and women who have worked for the agency as it has evolved over the past century. The Director also praised the support and team efforts of the MWRA, whose ratepayers provide the money for operations, land acquisition, payments in lieu of taxes, and long-term capital

investments. The Water Supply Protection Trust’s five trustees – MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey, Katherine Haynes Dunphy, Judith Eisman, William Meehan, and Kathy Baskin (EEA Secretary Ian Bowles’ representative) – were also acknowledged for their effective oversight and support of the Division.



DWSP Director Jonathan Yeo proudly displays the AWWA Clean Drinking Water Award with DCR Commissioner Rick Sullivan.

The AWWA award would not have been possible without the commitment and expertise of the Division of Water Supply Protection staff. Commissioner Sullivan and Director Yeo thanked the current employees in the Office of Watershed Management for all of their contributions that help protect some of the best drinking water in the world.

For more information:

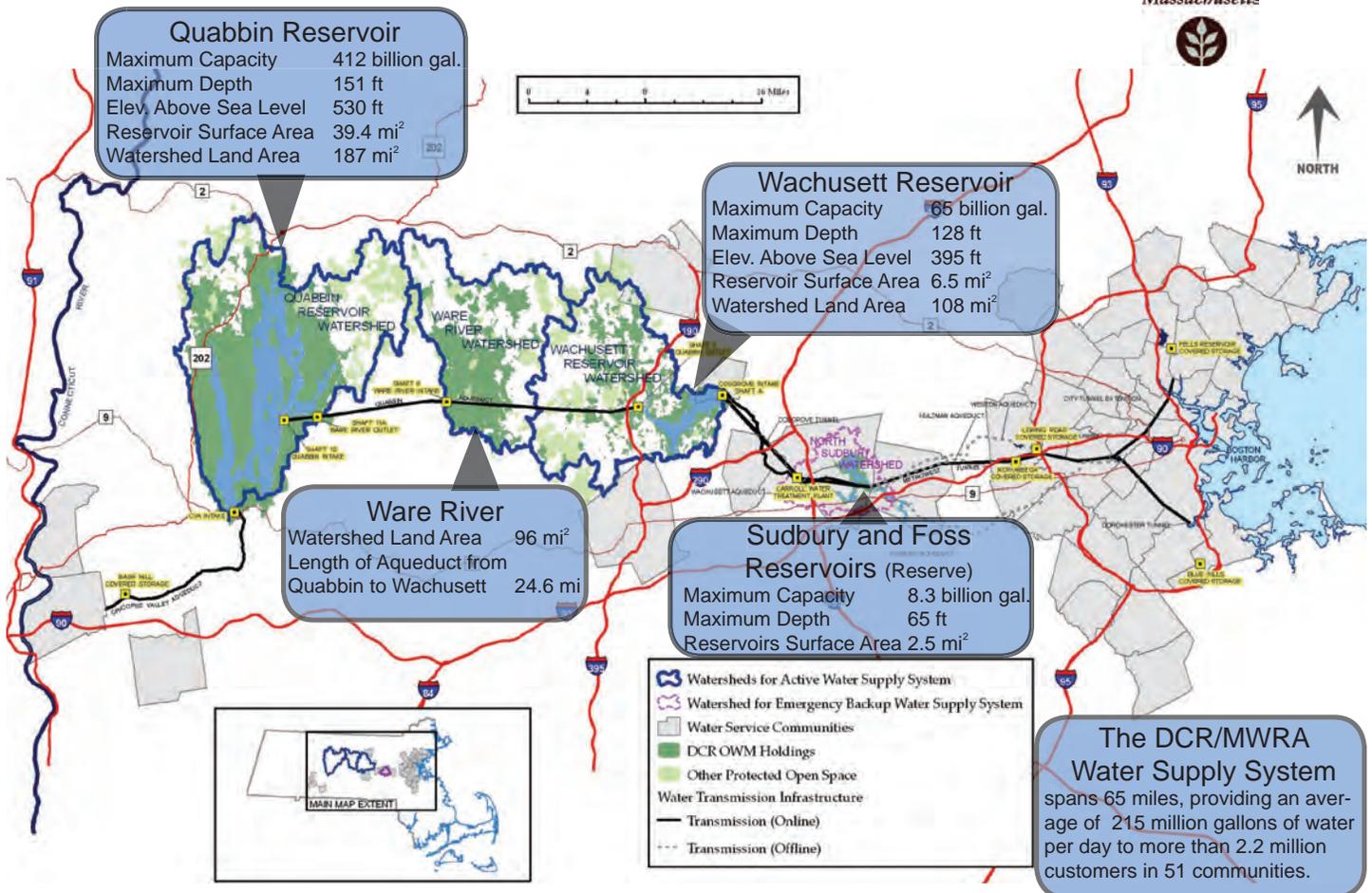
www.mass.gov/dcr/watersupply.htm



Department of Conservation and Recreation
 Division of Water Supply Protection
 Office of Watershed Management
 251 Causeway Street
 Boston, MA 02114
 (617) 626-1250

Wachusett Reservoir on a crisp fall morning.

The DCR Watershed System at a Glance



Congratulations and Special Thanks to the DCR Division of Water Supply Protection, Office of Watershed Management 2010 Staff!

Director: Jonathan Yeo. **Regional Directors:** Quabbin – Bill Pula; Wachusett – John Scannell.
Assistant Regional Directors: Quabbin – Dave Small; Wachusett – Scott Murphy.
Natural Resource Director: Dan Clark. **Budget Manager:** Eileen Honen.
Environmental Quality: Quabbin – Bob Bishop, Rebecca Budaj, Peter Deslauriers, Lisa Gustavsen, Yuehlin Lee, Paul Reyes, Bernadetta Susianti-Kubik; Wachusett – Pat Austin, Kelley Freda, David Getman, Tristan Lundgren, Paula Packard, Larry Pistrang, Steve Sulprizio, Vincent Vignaly, Dave Worden.
Natural Resources: Steve Anderson, Jim French, Kiana Koenen, Thom Kyker-Snowman, Ken MacKenzie, Jillian Pereira, Caroline Raisler, Jim Taylor.
Forestry: Quabbin – Herm Eck, Derek Beard, Dennis Morin, Randall Stone, Steven Ward, Steve Wood; Wachusett – Greg Buzzell, Brian Keevan.
Watershed Protection Act: Quabbin – Jeff Lacy; Wachusett – Nancy McGrath, Allan Rantala; Boston – Joel Zimmerman.
Watershed Engineering: Quabbin – Scott Campbell, Peter Izyk, Douglas Williams, Steve Mansfield; Wachusett – Bill Moulton, Ed Connor, Paula Davison, Ross Goodale.
Administrative and Technical Support: Quabbin – Paul Lyons, Linda Boulette, Sandra Conkey, Philip Lamothe, Kimberly Turek, Jennifer Peterkin; Wachusett – Marybeth Bonin, Craig Fitzgerald, Christine Muir, Christy Power; Boston – Ashley Chan, Joanne Driggs-Williams, Flora Martinez, Paul Penner, Mulunesh Sisay, Cynthia Smith.
Watershed Rangers: Quabbin – Dave Zaganiacz, Peter Baldracchi, Gerard Houle, Jamie Hogan, Tiffany Leclair, John Maslon, Sean McQuaid; Wachusett – Rick Mathews, Derek Liimatainen, Rebecca Baronoski, Bruce Fant, Thomas Gonzales, Tim O’Connor, Benjamin Pollini, Nathan Tobey, Keith Vicari, Dave Wright.
Interpretive Services: Quabbin – Clif Read, Maria Beiter-Tucker, Dale Monette; Wachusett – Jim Lafley, Roger Clifford.
Watershed Maintenance & Operations: Quabbin – Al Walsh, Jeffrey Adams, Bruce Andrew, Steven Baran, Michael Barnes, Ray Cusson, Al Detour, Camille Domina, Randall Florence, Gary Gaines, Laurie Gauvin, Jason Holden, Gordon Humphrey, Allyn Hurlburt, Stephen Jarvis Jr, David Kenyon, John Krasnecky, Chet Krol, Paul Lapierre, Lars Larson, Conrad Letourneau, Thomas Peloquin, Ronald Peters, Frederick Provost, Andrew Ohlson, Donald Sorrenho, Craig Stoddard, Michael Strzemienski, Michael Wisnoski; Wachusett – Mike Tomaiolo, Ronald Anderson, John Buckley, Albert Bull, Robert Carlson, Glenn Cheries, Wayne Chestna, Zack Costa, Brian Dziokonski, Terry Fellowes, Paul Gosselin, Francis Guy, Terance Kearney, Sean Lovejoy, Fred Mellor, George Nelson, Tim O’Connor, Robert Parker, Vincent Pasquale, Ray Pelletier, John Pingeton, Michael Ponyta, Ed Power, Pete Ramig, Paul Silvestri, Dave Simmons, Chris Tuff, Dan Valerio, John Vento, Dan Wolski, Ted Zdonczyk.