

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

**Meeting Minutes**

**Meeting Date:** Wednesday, January 14, 2026  
**Time:** 1:30 PM  
**Location:** Remote  
**Notice:** Due public notice given  
**Attendees** Sue Perez, Executive Director, Trust  
 Kaitlyn Connors, Director of Program Development, Trust  
 Timur Yontar, Director of Finance & Administration, Trust  
 Bridget Munster, Deputy Director of Program Development, Trust  
 My Tran, Treasurer, Trust  
**Also Present** Nate Keenan, Department Director, Trust  
 Jonathan Maple, Senior Policy Analyst, Trust  
 Rachel Stanton, Investor Relations and Communications Graphic Designer, Trust  
 William Kalivas, Treasury Specialist and Database Manager, Trust  
 Josh Derouen, Program Manager, Trust  
 Kailyn Fellmeth, Senior Program Associate, Trust  
 Aidan O’Keefe, Program Associate, Trust  
 Esther Omole, Program Associate, Trust  
 Ray LeConte, Program Associate, Trust  
 Pam Booker, Accountant, Trust  
 Sunkarie Konteh, Accountant, Trust  
 Iden Abdulrahman, Accountant, Trust  
 Robin McNamara, Deputy Director, MassDEP  
 Michele Higgins, Program Manager, MassDEP  
 Michael Celona, Drinking Water Specialist, MassDEP  
 Kathleen Baskin, Assistant Commissioner, MassDEP  
 Gregory Devine, Section Chief, MassDEP  
 Hannah Parzen, Environmental Analyst, MassDEP  
 Alex Smith-Lin, Environmental Analyst, MassDEP  
 Jessica Sibirski, Environmental Analyst, MassDEP

<b>SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS</b>	
	<b>Open the Meeting:</b> Ms. Perez opened the meeting after confirming the attendees present.
<b>1.</b>	<p><b>Lead Service Line (LSL) Planning Grant Extension Request:</b> Ms. Omole stated that an LSL Planning Grant extension request was received from Lancaster, as outlined in the Executive Materials. The community noted that additional time is needed to submit an outstanding invoice and to complete project closeout documentation. It was recommended that the community be granted an extension of 60 days beyond the requested extension deadline.</p> <p>The Executive Committee voted unanimously to grant the recommended deadline extensions to allow the community ample time to complete the scope of work and project closeout documentation.</p>

<p>2.</p>	<p><b>LSL Replacement Program:</b> Mr. Keenan stated that the Trust and MassDEP must demonstrate a plan to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for unused federal LSL Grant funds in order to access the 2025 LSL Grant allocation. Set aside funds from previous years were used to support the LSL Planning Grant Program and have been fully committed. However, the Trust has remaining non-set aside LSL funds from 2022, 2023, and 2024. It was recommended that the Trust and MassDEP expand current offerings to include 0% LSL Planning Loans, in addition to existing 0% Construction Loans. Both programs will be eligible for loan forgiveness.</p> <p>Outreach efforts will include promotion at the upcoming Massachusetts Municipal Association Conference, coordination with MassDEP’s Drinking Water Program, collaboration with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue, and direct outreach to communities that have identified LSLs in their systems through completed surveys.</p> <p>Ms. Connors inquired about the timeline for EPA guidance on plans for unused funds, to which Mr. Keenan responded that the information from EPA Region 1 came through a press release from EPA Headquarters and formal guidance has not yet been issued. The Trust and MassDEP will follow up with EPA about expectations at the forthcoming Annual Review.</p>
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>0% Interest Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Mitigation Loans:</b> Ms. Perez provided an overview of the Trust’s 0% PFAS Loan Program and its impact on contract assistance. Following the adoption of new PFAS regulations in 2020, the Trust began offering 0% interest PFAS loans to reduce the financial burden on communities. Since then, PFAS projects have comprised a significant portion of the Drinking Water Intended Use Plan (IUP).</p> <p>To date, the Trust has committed to financing \$731 million in PFAS projects. Approximately \$61 million in contract assistance is required to subsidize PFAS projects from the upcoming Series 27 bond deal, predominantly consisting of projects from the 2023 IUP. This brings the total contract assistance subsidy for the bond deal to \$155 million, an increase from \$103 million in the prior bond deal. PFAS projects from the 2024 and 2025 IUPs have not yet been financed but are estimated to require an additional \$93 million in contract assistance for future financing.</p> <p>Contract assistance funds are primarily used to subsidize interest rates below 2%, including 0% interest PFAS loans, with the remaining funds available for future loan forgiveness. Continued increases to the contract assistance for 0% loans reduce the amount of excess funding available for future loan forgiveness. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) has supported loan forgiveness since 2022 but will sunset after 2026. Given the reduced base grants, Ms. Perez emphasized the need to preserve contract assistance so the Trust may continue to provide future loan forgiveness.</p> <p>Mr. Yontar inquired about when the change would go into effect, and which communities have tested for PFAS but not yet come through the program for remediation.</p> <p>Ms. Perez responded that the change will be implemented on the 2026 IUP and the Trust will pull together the information on communities who have not tested positive for PFAS but not utilized the program. She noted that communities have had time to implement plans.</p> <p>The Executive Committee voted unanimously to present a recommendation to the Board of Trustees to remove the 0% interest rate subsidy for PFAS projects.</p>
<p>4.</p>	<p><b>Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Federal Grants:</b> Mr. Maple provided an update on federal grant funding. He stated that the federal bill has passed the House and is currently under review by the Senate. He added</p>

	<p>that there have been no changes since the previous update and that the status of the Congressionally Directed Spending projects remains the same.</p> <p>Ms. Perez stated that funding reductions remain in place, with over 50 percent reductions in both Clean Water and Drinking Water Base Grants.</p> <p>Ms. Connors asked about the status of the IJA grant, noting that she has not yet seen any confirmation of the expected 2026 funds.</p> <p>Mr. Maple clarified that IJA funding, while already appropriated, requires an annual appropriation bill to be passed by Congress before the funds can be released.</p> <p>Ms. Perez stated that the applications for 2026 funds will likely open in late spring.</p>
	<p><b><u>Other Business:</u></b> None.</p>
	<p><b><u>Adjourn the Meeting:</u></b> Ms. Perez requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Connors moved the motion. A roll call was held, and all members approved the motion.</p>

Minutes Approved: February 25, 2026