

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

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 13, 2023
Time: 1:30 PM
Location: Remote
Notice: Due public notice given
Attendees Sue Perez, Executive Director, Trust
Timur Yontar, Director of Finance & Administration, Trust
Maria Pinaud, Director of Program Development, Trust
Tim Jones, Deputy Director of Program Development, Trust
My Tran, Treasurer, Trust
Also Present Nate Keenan, Deputy Director, Trust
Sally Peacock, Controller, Trust
Pam Booker, Accountant, Trust
Nicole Munchbach, Accountant, Trust
Rachel Stanton, Investor Relations and Communications Graphic Designer, Trust
Joshua Derouen, Senior Program Associate, Trust
Julian Honey, Program Associate, Trust
Kailyn Fellmeth, Program Associate, Trust
Jonathan Maple, Senior Policy Analyst, Trust
Ashraf Gabour, Program Manager, DEP
Michele Higgins, Section Chief, DEP
Robin McNamara, Deputy Director of Municipal Services, DEP
Jennifer Pederson, Executive Director, Massachusetts Water Works Association
Yvette DePeiza, Drinking Water Program Director, DEP
Kathleen Baskin, Assistant Commissioner, DEP
Michael Celona, Drinking Water Capacity Coordinator, DEP
Margaret Finn, Environmental Engineer, DEP
Janine Bishop, Regional Planner, DEP

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS	
	<u>Open the Meeting:</u> Ms. Perez opened the meeting after confirming the attendees present.
1.	<u>Lead Service Line Grant Allotments Needs Survey:</u> Ms. Finn delivered a presentation on EPA's allocation of Lead Service Line (LSL) grant funds. MassDEP re-surveyed public water suppliers (PWS) that previously participated in the 2021 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment (DWINSA) to identify any additional LSLs or lead connectors in hopes of increasing Massachusetts' BIL LSL Replacement Grant allotment.

2.	<p><u>Lead Service Line Planning Grant Program Update:</u></p> <p>Ms. Pinaud stated that the LSL planning projects are beginning implementation. MassDEP has yet to receive completed surveys on projects funded by the LSL planning grants.</p> <p>Ms. DePeiza said that participating communities are asking DEP questions. There is also a compliance survey that is closing tomorrow.</p> <p>Technical Assistance Program for Small Community and Non-Transient, Non-Community Public Water Suppliers</p> <p>Mr. Celona delivered a presentation on MassDEP’s development of a technical assistance program to help small and non-transient, non-community (NTNC) PWS create service line inventories (SLI) and lead service line replacement plans (LSLRP). MassDEP wants to ensure that these communities get the assistance they need to complete their LSL inventories in advance of the October 2024 Lead and Copper Rule Revision deadline.</p> <p>Ms. DePeiza said that if SLIs and LSLRPs are not received by the October 2024 deadline, the EPA will be the agency ensuring compliance instead of MassDEP.</p> <p>Mr. Celona stated that there are currently 32 PWS enrolled in the program. Approximately half are NTNCs. The others participating are small systems.</p>
3.	<p><u>Cybersecurity in Public Water Suppliers:</u> Mr. Celona delivered a presentation on cybersecurity in PWS and what programs can be provided by MassDEP and the Trust to improve their cybersecurity posture.</p> <p>Cybersecurity concerns vary from system to system. Creating a new grant program similar to the current Asset Management Planning (AMP) Grant Program would help PWS develop and upgrade cybersecurity plans.</p> <p>Ms. Pinaud said that although the AMP Grant Program currently funds cybersecurity assessments, it does not fund work to address vulnerabilities that are detected.</p> <p>Ms. DePeiza stated the average cybersecurity upgrade cost for larger systems is approximately \$50,000. The cost for small systems ranges from \$1,000 to \$5,000. DEP will provide demand and cost projections at a future meeting of the Executive Committee.</p>
4.	<p><u>Discussion on MassDEP Proposed Projects:</u> Ms. Pinaud stated that at the June 14, 2023, meeting of the Executive Committee, MassDEP proposed two programs using funds from the BIL Emerging Contaminants grants. MassDEP has updates on its proposals.</p> <p>PFAS in Wastewater Treatment Plants</p> <p>Ms. Baskin delivered a presentation about the need to understand PFAS levels in wastewater treatment plants. MassDEP would like to analyze influent, effluent, and sludge to better understand the scope of PFAS concentrations.</p>

	<p>Ms. Perez stated that funds from the 2023 BIL Clean Water Emerging Contaminants Grant are available to fund PFAS sample collection and analysis work in a new program.</p> <p>Reducing Nitrogen in Coastal Embayments</p> <p>Ms. Baskin gave a presentation on how the new Title 5 and watershed regulations have led to a demand for compliance assistance in coastal areas. MassDEP already piloted this program using capital funds. Although MassDEP is managing this program to fund planning activities, it is looking to the State Revolving Fund (SRF) to finance construction projects that stem from the planning activities.</p> <p>Ms. Pinaud stated that MassDEP is proposing to utilize \$600,000 of the 2022 2% banked set-asides to establish a grant program to promote projects that reduce nitrogen loading in coastal embayments to support compliance with the updated Title 5 regulations and the new Watershed Permitting regulations.</p>
5.	<p><u>Asset Management Program Grant Extension Request:</u> Ms. Fellmeth stated that the Town of Norwood recently submitted an extension request for their AMP Grant, Norwood CWA-21-30. The Town has experienced difficulties in interfacing asset management tools with the Town’s existing GIS database. They are working to resolve this issue, complete the scope of work and report, and close out the grant. MassDEP previously stated they agree with the need for an extension.</p> <p>The Executive Committee unanimously voted to grant an extension through April 29, 2024 to allow the community ample time to complete the project.</p>
Other Business (Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting)	
<u>Adjourn the Meeting:</u> Ms. Perez requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Pinaud moved the motion. A roll call was held, and all members approved the motion.	

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS USED:

1. Lead Service Line Inventory Update to the 2021 DWINSA Presentation
2. Service Line Inventory and Lead Service Line Replacement Plan and Technical Assistance Program Presentation
3. PFAS in Wastewater Treatment Plants and Grants: Reducing Nitrogen in Coastal Embayments Presentation

Minutes Approved: January 10, 2024