

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

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 7, 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
 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
 Nicole Munchbach, Assistant Controller, 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
 Jennifer Pederson, Executive Director, Massachusetts Water Works Association

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS	
	Open the Meeting: Ms. Perez opened the meeting after confirming the attendees present.
1.	Review and approval of minutes from the 10/22/2025 meeting of the Executive Committee: The Committee approved meeting minutes from the 10/22/2025 meeting of the Executive Committee.

2.	<p><u>Asset Management Planning (AMP) Grant Extension Requests:</u> Mr. O’Keefe stated that AMP Grant extension requests were received from three communities, as outlined in the Executive Materials. The communities all noted that they have faced delays. It was recommended that the communities be granted extensions of 60 days beyond the requested extension deadlines.</p> <p>The Executive Committee voted unanimously to grant the recommended deadline extensions to allow the communities ample time to complete the scope of work and project closeout documentation.</p>
3.	<p><u>Lead Service Line (LSL) Grant Extension Requests:</u> Ms. Omole stated that LSL Planning Grant extension requests were received from three communities, as outlined in the Executive Materials. The communities noted the need for additional time to incorporate additions to the scope of work, including statistical analysis, predictive modeling, and potholing inspections based on modeling results, and to complete project closeout. It was recommended that the communities be granted extensions of 60 days beyond their requested extension deadlines.</p> <p>The Executive Committee voted unanimously to grant the recommended deadline extensions to allow the communities ample time to complete the scope of work and project closeout documentation.</p>
4.	<p><u>Education Facility Lead Remediation Proposal:</u> Mr. Maple stated that the Trust will not be able to issue reimbursement checks to individuals and private entities for lead remediation, as previously requested by MassDEP. The reimbursements amounts are small and the process of collecting individual personal information from schools, childcare centers, and family daycares for the approval of reimbursements would impose significant administrative challenges on the Trust. Mr. Maple recommended that MassDEP conduct a cost-benefit analysis to work with a third-party.</p> <p>Mr. Maple stated that the Trust previously allocated \$400,000 to support water sampling in private schools. A portion of these funds has been utilized, and approximately \$235,000 remains. The Trust does not foresee any issues with expanding the use of these funds to include lead remediation. However, a formal Board vote is needed to move forward with the proposal. Before proceeding, the Trust requested a project plan outlining the anticipated costs of working with a third-party vendor and specifications on what portion of costs would be covered by private sampling funds. This information is needed to ensure a transparent understanding of how federal and private funds would be combined and to determine the exact role of the remaining funds in the proposed project.</p> <p>Ms. Perez noted the importance of having a plan in place before presenting the proposal to the Board. She suggested that MassDEP have additional information available for the Board’s consideration, including the plan for when funds are depleted. Ms. Perez also mentioned that there are still federal SWIG grant funds remaining. She suggested that the group develop a strategy to ensure these grant funds are fully expended.</p>

<p>Mr. Celona stated that MassDEP, through its partnership with UMass Amherst, recently hired a full-time outreach coordinator to address ongoing structural challenges in outreach for the Water Smart Program. MassDEP is preparing to launch a pilot program for lead remediation, drawing on lessons learned from other states and their own research. On the private school side, Mr. Celona mentioned progress with engagement from the Archdiocese for water testing. Mr. Celona concluded by thanking the Trust for considering MassDEP's requests.</p> <p>The Executive Committee voted unanimously to recommend to the Trust's Board of Trustees that the use of funds be expanded so MassDEP may use the remaining balance of approximately \$235,000 to include lead remediation activities.</p>
<p><u>Other Business:</u></p> <p>Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 Federal Grants Update: Mr. Maple stated that the proposed FY 2026 federal State Revolving Fund Appropriations have been published and are expected to be approved by Congress. He presented a table with historical funding amounts from previous years and explained that the Clean Water Base Grants have remained flat since 2021. However, Congressionally Directed Spending (CDS) projects have returned in the 2026 appropriations and are projected to exceed \$900 million. This would reduce the total Clean Water (CW) State Revolving Fund (SRF) appropriation by 54.9% and leave \$721.7 million available to the states. The estimate of Massachusetts' 2026 CW Capitalization Grant is approximately \$24.3 million, pending the bill's passage and finalization of national set-asides allotments by EPA.</p> <p>Mr. Maple noted a significant increase in the CDS portion of the Drinking Water (DW) SRF appropriations, accounting for about 64.1% of the total funds and leaving roughly \$384.3 million available to states. The estimate of Massachusetts' portion of the DW Capitalization Grant is approximately \$8.3 million. Mr. Maple acknowledged that there may be a slight reduction in the DW grant amount but emphasized that the numbers provide a high-level overview based on current projections for FY 2026.</p>
<p><u>Adjourn the Meeting:</u> 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