## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CLEAN WATER TRUST

## **Meeting Minutes**

Meeting Date: Thursday, March 18, 2021

**Time:** 12:30 PM **Location:** By Telephone

**Notice:** Due public notice given

**Attendees** Sue Perez, Executive Director, Trust

Maria Pinaud, Director of Program Development, Trust

Maya Jonas-Silver, Director of Finance & Administration, Trust

**Also Present** Nate Keenan, Deputy Director, Trust

Sally Peacock, Controller, Trust

Joshua Derouen, Program Associate, Trust Jonathan Maple, Policy Analyst, Trust

Robin McNamara, Deputy Director of Municipal Services, MassDEP

Ashraf Gabour, Program Manager, MassDEP

Gregory Devine, Environmental Engineer, MassDEP

## **SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS**

**Open the Meeting:** Ms. Perez opened the meeting after confirming the attendees present.

1. Emergency PFAS Loan Request from a Borrower: Ms. Pinaud said that MassDEP received a completed project evaluation from Centerville-Osterville-Marstons Mills Water Department (COMMWD). The review showed that this project is eligible for an emergency loan. There is over 25 parts per trillion (ppt) of PFAS in the water that this project will address. 25 ppt exceeds the drinking water standards.

COMMWD will need to submit a loan application. They are looking for a \$1.5 million loan. They would like to complete the project by the beginning of the summer before it is peak season on Cape Cod.

**2.** Funding from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021: Ms. Perez said that the Executive Office for Administration and Finance (A&F) has asked for the Trust's input on potential uses for funds from the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA).

The Trust is considering taking actions similar to when it received a grant from the EPA as part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA). With ARRA, Intended Use Plans (IUPs) were used to help determine projects that could begin construction soon. The same methodology could be used for APRA to meet the spending deadline of December 31, 2024.

It is best to have ideas ready for uses that can be quickly implemented so that there can be a quick rollout in the event that the Trust does receive ARPA funds. The funds will carry the State Revolving Fund (SRF) federal requirements if put through the Trust.

Ms. Perez and Ms. Pinaud said that the 2021 IUPs could be used as a starting point to use ARPA funds for providing additional subsidy in areas such as the following:

- 1. PFAS mitigation projects
- 2. Projects mandated by consent orders
- 3. Projects ready to move forward (Similar to what was successfully done with ARRA in 2009)
- 4. Lead service line replacement projects
- 5. Surveys for the new Lead and Copper Rule

Ms. Jonas-Silver said that it is important to be mindful that it is uncertain if and when ARPA funds could be available to the Trust. There may need to be special legislation that could take months to pass.

**3.** Asset Management Planning (AMP) Working Group Progress: Ms. Pinaud said that the working group will write up a formal recommendation.

MassDEP has not drafted a request for responses (RFR) for an engineering firm to conduct a program evaluation. Ms. Pinaud said AMPs would need to be implemented in communities for at least a year for an evaluation to be effective.

The pre-qualified list of engineers should be reopened as soon as the Trust is able. More firms having experience with developing AMPs could lead to having more options for firms to review the AMP program later on.

Ms. Perez said that the Trust can make updates then send the RFR for the pre-qualified list of engineering firms to MassDEP for their edits.

Other Business (Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting)

<u>Loan Forgiveness for Lynn Water & Sewer Commission (LWSC):</u> Ms. Perez said that since the last Executive Committee meeting, a memo was sent to the Trust to summarize LWSC's request for loan forgiveness for all loans for their multi-year project. This memo helped the Executive Committee understand LWSC's request and see that it is consistent with procedures for multi-year projects.

Ms. Pinaud said that LWSC will be able to meet the June 30, 2021 deadline for loan forgiveness for their 2020 Intended Use Plan loan. LWSC will then be asked to reapply for future phases of the project if they want loan forgiveness because they will not meet the deadlines.

<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. Lynn Water & Sewer Commission Loan Forgiveness Memo

Minutes Approved: May 13, 2021