

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

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: Wednesday, April 19, 2023
Time: 1:30 PM
Location: Remote
Notice: Due public notice given
Attendees Sue Perez, Executive Director, Trust
Maria Pinaud, Director of Program Development, Trust
Timur Yontar, Director of Finance & Administration, Trust
Also Present Nate Keenan, Deputy Director, Trust
My Tran, Treasurer, Trust
Sally Peacock, Controller, Trust
Pam Booker, Accountant, Trust
Nicole Munchbach, Accountant, Trust
Joshua Derouen, Senior Program Associate, Trust
Rachel Stanton, Investor Relations and Communications Graphic Designer, Trust
Kailyn Fellmeth, Program Associate, Trust
Julian Honey, Program Associate, Trust
Jonathan Maple, Senior Policy Analyst, Trust
Ashraf Gabour, Program Manager, DEP
Jennifer Pederson, Executive Director, Massachusetts Water Works Association

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS	
	<u>Open the Meeting:</u> Ms. Perez opened the meeting after confirming the attendees present.
1.	<u>Review and approval of minutes from the 3/1/2023 meeting of the Executive Committee:</u> The Committee approved meeting minutes from the 3/1/2023 meeting of the Executive Committee.
2.	<u>Discussion on the 2023 Grants:</u> 2023 Lead Service Line (LSL) Grant Mr. Maple said that the Trust's 2023 Drinking Water (DW) LSL Grant allotment decreased to \$33.2 million based on information gathered in the EPA's Seventh Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment (DWINS-7).

	<p>The EPA used LSL data collected in the DWINSA-7 which was then “treated” using national data and ratios to allot LSL funds. This was a dramatic departure from the formula used in the 2022 allotment. At the recent Council of Infrastructure Financing Authorities (CIFA) conference, states expressed their concerns over decreased allotments and the unsound methodology and data that the allotments were based upon. EPA has indicated that they will provide a one-time appeal process for future allotment calculations but the 2023 grant allotment is final.</p> <p>Mr. Keenan said that as a state with older infrastructure, Massachusetts has a strong need for LSL funds. The Trust will work to develop a response to EPA outlining concerns with the LSL allotment process, the impact it will have on LSL funding, and why we need more funding.</p> <p>Ms. Pinaud explained that MassDEP does not think the DWINSA-7 is accurate because the 110,000 projected LSLs in Massachusetts are far below MassDEP’s projections.</p> <p>Ms. Perez noted that the Trust and MassDEP may reach out to the Executive Office for Administration and Finance’s Federal Funds Office before contacting the EPA.</p> <p>Congressional Earmarks</p> <p>Ms. Pinaud expressed concerns with congressional earmarks detracting funds from the State Revolving Funds (SRFs). The Massachusetts Drinking Water base grant used to be \$25 million but after earmarks are taken out, it will be approximately \$10.6 million for 2023.</p> <p>Ms. Perez said that the Trust will work to educate the Massachusetts congressional delegation on which projects are already on the Intended Use Plan (IUP) in hopes that earmarks will go towards those projects.</p> <p>Mr. Maple explained that a preliminary review found 17 Clean Water and 15 Drinking Water projects included in the 2024 earmarks, totaling \$49 million and \$71 million respectively. The earmarks from all states are added up and then subtracted from the total national allotment.</p> <p>At the recent CIFA conference, states discussed working with their delegation about which projects should be pursued.</p> <p>Mr. Keenan noted that we need our delegation to put in earmarks for highly ranked, highly beneficial projects to stay competitive.</p> <p>Ms. Perez noted that Springfield Water and Sewer Commission, who spoke at our last meeting, would be a great candidate for a community with a project that would benefit from an earmark.</p> <p>Both the Trust and MassDEP will work with their legislative teams to coordinate a joint response.</p>
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3.	<p><u>School Water Improvement Grants (SWIG) Extensions:</u></p> <p>Program Update Mr. Honey said that in 2022, the Trust awarded 13 SWIG and 8 Expanded School Water Improvement Grants (ESWIG) grants, totaling \$498,000 dollars to replace 166 fixtures in 72 facilities, serving 29,458 children in the Commonwealth. In 2023, the Trust will continue outreach and expansion of the SWIG program. Springfield Public Schools recently applied for the program. While their grant has yet to be voted on by the Board of Trustees, it is expected to be \$210,000 to replace 70 fixtures in 26 schools, serving 11,367 students.</p> <p>Grant Closeout Extensions Mr. Honey said that the Trust is working to ensure that SWIG and ESWIG projects are closed out in a timely manner. While completing proactive closeout outreach, grantees have responded that they will not be able to complete all grant activities prior to the closeout deadline due to staffing issues and delays in bidding, procurement, and retesting newly installed units. It was recommended that the Trust implement a 90-day extension on a case-by-case basis after grantees confirm they will need additional time to complete grant activities.</p> <p>The Executive Committee unanimously agreed with the recommendation. The Trust will send letters to the project managers informing them of the extension and how it will help to ensure compliant project completion. At this time, the grantees needing extensions are Holyoke Community Charter School, Lowell Public Schools, and Worcester Public Schools. If there are delays beyond this extension, grantees must submit written explanations as to why the Trust should grant further extensions.</p>
	<p>Other Business (Items not reasonably anticipated by the Chair 48 hours in advance of the meeting)</p> <p>2023 Borrower Presentation Ms. Pinaud said that the 2023 IUPs have been published and the annual borrower presentation will take place soon. The Trust and MassDEP are collaborating to plan the date.</p> <p>Mr. Derouen added that the Trust is drafting the presentation and collecting contact information for outreach.</p>
	<p><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.</p>

Minutes Approved: June 14, 2023