

ASHLAND'S REQUEST TO JOIN THE MWRA UNDER THE INTERBASIN TRANSFER ACT

Recommendation to Accept the
Application as Complete

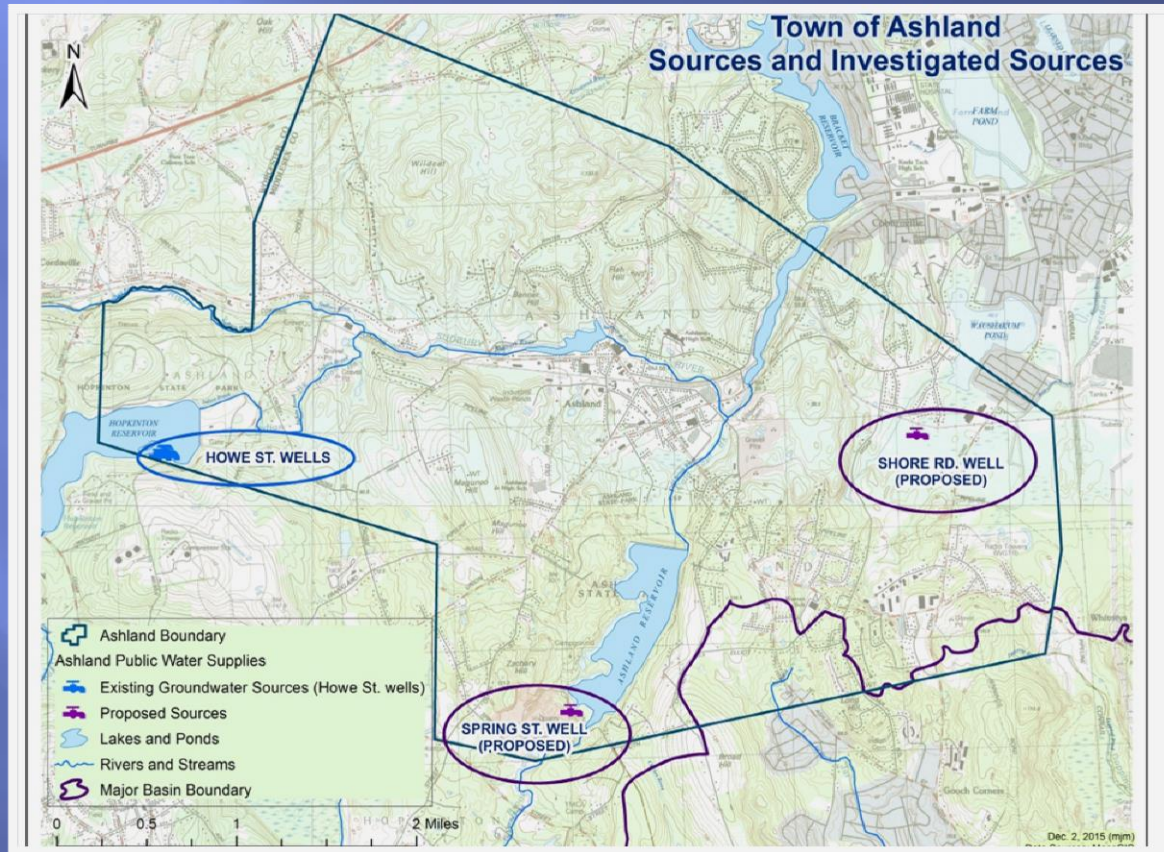
July 12, 2018

Facts Pertaining to the Application

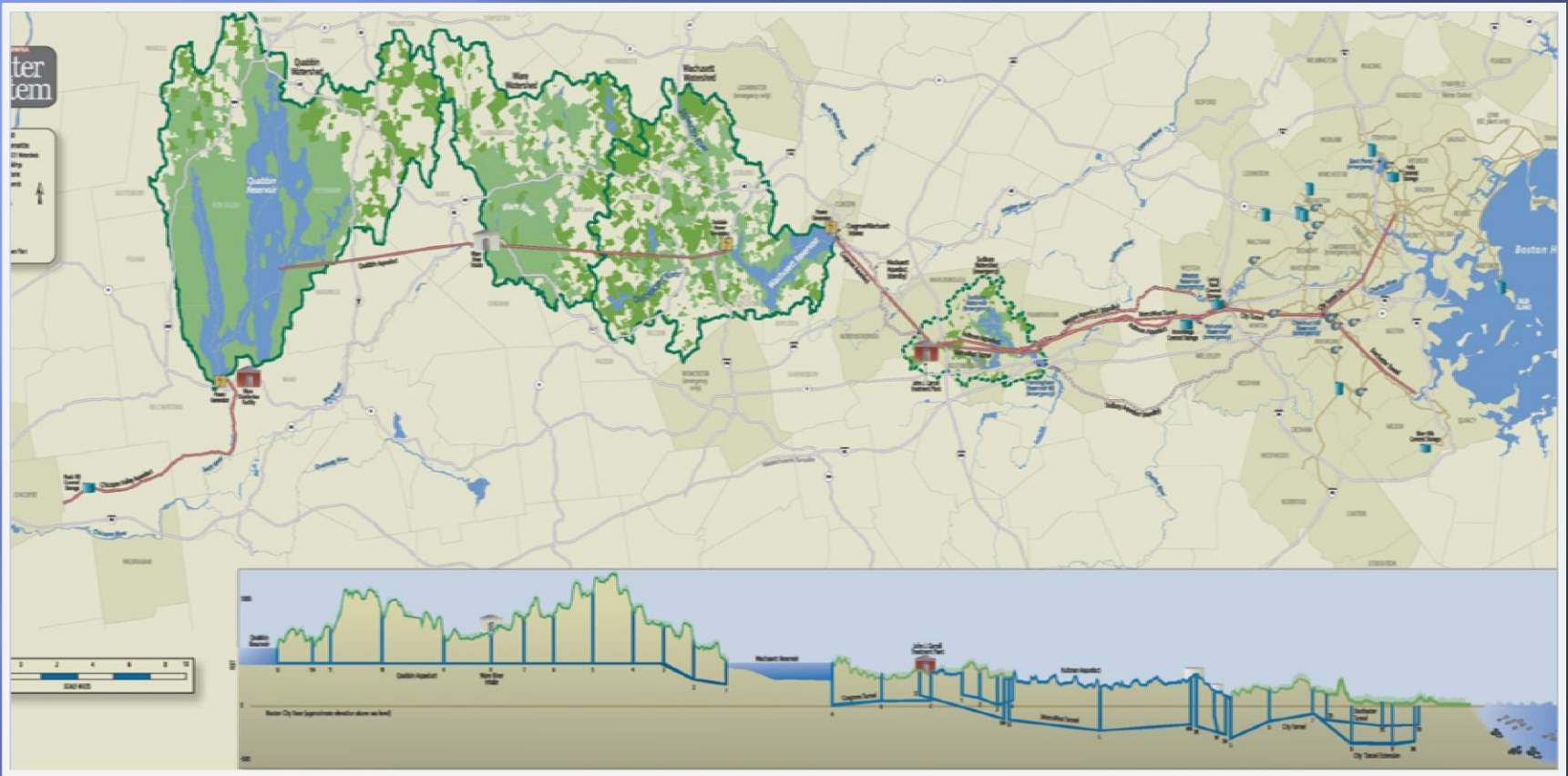
- ❑ Ashland has land area in the Concord River basin.
- ❑ Five existing water supply sources
 - All adjacent to the Hopkinton Reservoir, which is managed by DCR for recreation and flood control purposes. The capacity of these sources is limited by the treatment plant at 5.90 mgd.
 - Two of these sources have shut-off thresholds to be implemented when the reservoir reaches an elevation of 295.85 feet NGVD.
- ❑ Proposing to purchase up to 1.6 million gallons per day to supplement its existing water supply sources. Ashland will use MWRA water when the level in the Hopkinton Reservoir is at or below 293 feet.
- ❑ MWRA Waterworks System has sources in the Chicopee River basin and the Nashua River basin.

Ashland's Existing and Investigated Local Sources

The proposed Spring Street and Shore Road Wells were eliminated from consideration as "viable local sources" due to water quality and quantity, Article 97, and wetlands issues



MWRA Sources



More Facts

- ❑ The Interbasin Transfer (IBT) application was submitted on October 8, 2015 as part of the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) (EOEEA #15388).
- ❑ The WRC requested additional information through its DEIR comments on November 6, 2015 and at a formal WRC meeting on December 12, 2015.
- ❑ The FEIR was submitted on May 10, 2018, and addressed the WRC's Request for Additional Information.
- ❑ The WRC submitted comments to MEPA on June 19, 2018, stating that all the information needed for the ITA review had been submitted.
- ❑ The Secretary's Certificate on the Final EIR was issued on June 29, 2018, stating that no further MEPA review is needed.

Staff Recommends that the Commission Finds Ashland's ITA Application to be Complete

- ▣ This vote does not imply a ruling on the merits of the proposal.
- ▣ This vote will “start the clock” to allow the required public hearings to be held and will allow Staff to complete the review on the merits of the proposal.
- ▣ After the close of the public hearings, Staff will present a Recommendation to approve or deny Ashland's request.
- ▣ A third public hearing will then be held within two weeks on the Draft Staff Recommendation.
- ▣ The Commission will have 60 days from the close of this public hearing to make its decision.