

2026-01-28 2PM Draft MA Surface Water Quality Standards (314 CMR 4.00) Amendments Public Hearing Transcript

0:00

Richard Carey, MassDEP: We are recording now.

0:02

Richard Carey, MassDEP: Okay

0:04

Richard Carey, MassDEP: The hearing will now begin.

0:07

Richard Carey, MassDEP: This is a public hearing for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection, or MassDEP.

0:14

Richard Carey, MassDEP: My name is Richard Carey and I am the Director of MassDEP's Watershed Planning Program.

0:21

Richard Carey, MassDEP: With me today from MassDEP are Lealdon Langley, Director of the Division of Watershed Management, Whitney Fenwick, NPDES Section Chief, and Anna Mayor, our Surface Water Quality Standards Section Chief in the Watershed Planning Program.

0:39

Richard Carey, MassDEP: Additional SWQS Section Staff from the Watershed Planning Program.

0:44

Richard Carey, MassDEP: In attendance are Dahlia Tympanick, Danielle Mucciarone, Rama Pulicharla, who will all support the proceedings today.

0:54

Richard Carey, MassDEP: Please know that the recording of this hearing will be available on our MA SWQS web page within a few days after the hearing.

1:02

Richard Carey, MassDEP: A link to the web page is provided in the chat.

1:05

Richard Carey, MassDEP: Anna Mayor will now proceed with the rest of the hearing.

1:09

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: All right, thanks, Richard.

1:12

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: As Richard indicated, my name is Anna Mayor, the Surface Water Quality Standards Section chief.

1:19

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: We're here today, January 27th, 2026 at 6:00 PM I'm sorry.

1:27

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: We're here today, January 28th, 2026 at 2:00 PM at a remote public teleconference to accept testimony under MassDEP's authority pursuant to MGL Chapter 21, Section 27 concerning proposed amendments to 314 CMR 4.00, the MA SWQS.

1:48

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: A copy of the Public hearing notice was published in the Boston Globe and the Worcester Telegram and Gazette on January 2nd, 2026, and in the Massachusetts Register on January 16th, 2026.

2:01

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The hearing notice, the text of the proposed amendments, and an amendment summary are available online.

2:08

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: A link to the Mass DEP web page is provided in the chat.

2:13

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The end of the public comment period is 5:00 PM on Monday, February 9th, 2026.

2:20

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: At this time, MassDEP will not be responding to any questions or comments regarding the amended regulation.

2:26

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Instead, Mass DEP will respond in a written Response to Comments document that will be available after the comment period.

2:35

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: In this first hour of the hearing, we will review meeting logistics and give an overview presentation of the proposed amendments.

2:43

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: We will then break for 10 minutes after the overview and you will have an opportunity to speak and provide public testimony to cover logistics.

2:55

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: We will review a few Zoom features and outline meeting procedures while I share a summary slide.

3:04

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: And if you hold on just one second.

3:15

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: I will share my summary slide.

3:19

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Oh, it's shared already.

3:23

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Okay.

3:26

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: All right.

3:26

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Can everyone see the housekeeping slide?

3:30

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Excellent.

3:31

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: OK, to summarize, to minimize background noise, all attendees have been placed on mute and we ask that everyone remain muted during the hearing.

3:47

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: If you're planning to testify orally, be sure to update the display name on your Zoom image as needed using the rename function.

3:56

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: To find this function, please click on the three dots in the upper right hand corner of your image.

4:02

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: You will see it in the drop down list.

4:05

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: We ask that you please raise your virtual hand if you would like to speak and we will call on you by name in the order of the raised hands at the beginning of your testimony.

4:15

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Please provide your name and affiliation, if any.

4:19

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: You will have 5 minutes for your oral testimony.

4:21

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: If you require more time.

4:23

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Will allow any continued testimony at the end as time allows.

4:30

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: If you need technical assistance during the hearing, as I mentioned, please e-mail Dahlia Tympanick at dahlia.tympanick@mass.gov as shown in the slide, or direct message her through the Zoom chat and she'll assist you.

4:47

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: If anyone wants to provide comments on this proposed regulation prior to the end of the public comment period and needs interpreter services, MassDEP provides language access interpreter and translation services to limited English proficient individuals free of charge.

5:06

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Information about these interpreter and translation services is available on MassDEP's website and a link again is provided in the chat.

5:19

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: We will now present a brief overview of the proposed amendments.

[Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Setting up her PowerPoint slides from 5:28 - 6:21]

6:28

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: This is a presentation overview of the draft amendments to 314 CMR 4.00, the Massachusetts Surface Water Quality Standards Regulation.

6:42

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: This is a disclaimer for the information presented today.

6:46

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Briefly, it just states that the slides are only informational, the MA SWQS regulation controls in the event of discrepancies, and the revisions described are draft.

7:01

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: This is an outline of today's presentation.

7:04

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: I'll give an overview of the Watershed Planning Program, or WPP, and the federal Clean Water Act, describe the components of the standards, and follow that with a detailed overview of the proposed amendments.

7:20

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: WPP is a statewide program with a mission to protect, enhance, and restore the quality and value of the waters of the Commonwealth as guided overall by the federal Clean Water Act.

7:36

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The five WPP Sections listed on the slide each have a different technical focus.

7:42

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The Surface Water Quality Standards Section that I lead is responsible for developing statewide pollutant criteria and related policies, designating uses and associated classifications for surface waters, and implementing the MA SWQS standards, regulation and policies that restore and prevent the degradation of surface waters.

8:10

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: This flow chart is an overview of the Clean Water Act.

8:15

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The Clean Water Act provides the foundation for protecting and restoring the nation's surface waters.

8:20

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: It authorizes the federal Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, to establish baseline water quality national goal uses such as recreation and aquatic life habitat to develop recommended criteria to protect those uses and require states to adopt water quality standards.

8:42

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: As you can see, the standards are the foundation of the flow chart.

8:47

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: A key enforcement tool is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System, or NPDES that mandates that pollutant discharges to surface waters have to meet the standards.

9:02

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The Clean Water Act also supports surface water monitoring and assessment.

9:07

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Waters that fail to meet standards are placed on an impaired waters list that triggers development of restoration strategies.

9:16

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Alternatively, clean water is maintained through the antidegradation rules.

9:22

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: This framework ensures accountability, transparency and a science based approach to improving and protecting water quality.

9:35

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The MA SWQS set water quality goals by designating water body uses such as recreation and public water supply, and by establishing water quality criteria necessary to protect those uses.

9:52

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The core components of the standards are listed here.

9:56

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The uses criteria, antidegradation provisions and MA applies policies to implement certain programs such as combined sewer overflows and antidegradation.

10:14

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: And as noted here, the regulation does not generally apply to groundwater.

10:23

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The federal Clean Water Act requires each state to establish water quality standards that must be periodically reviewed.

10:31

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The MA SWQS were first established in 1967 and have been revised periodically.

10:39

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The most recent update of the MA SWQS was in 2021.

10:44

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: EPA has oversight authority of state water quality standards, and our regulation must be approved by EPA to be federally enforceable.

10:58

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The MA SWQS regulation has two parts, beginning with a narrative text section, which is followed by a set of tables and figures.

11:09

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: MassDEP proposes amendments to both portions of the regulation.

11:17

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: A brief summary of the proposed amendments are presented on this slide.

11:22

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: In the narrative portion of the regulation or text portion, MassDEP proposes five updates.

11:30

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: These revisions will help ensure that EPA will approve our water quality assessment decisions and clarify and streamline the standards. In the tables...

11:42

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: we focused on three update areas.

11:45

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: These updates resolve EPA comments and correct errors from the 2021 promulgation process.

11:52

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: They also improve water body descriptions.

11:55

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: All these proposed amendments are elaborated on further in the rest of the presentation.

12:05

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: And before I go into the details of the amendments, we thought it might be helpful to give definitions of some of the terms that are mentioned in the presentation.

12:16

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: One criteria we are updating protects for secondary contact recreational exposures under the MA SWQS regulation...

12:25

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Secondary Contact Recreation includes any recreation or other water use in which contact with the water is either incidental or accidental.

12:37

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: These include activities such as fishing, boating, and limited water contact shoreline activities such as shellfishing.

12:47

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: This contrasts with Primary Contact Recreation such as swimming, where you may have prolonged immersion in the water.

12:58

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The term Aquatic Life Qualifier is a term in the current standards that applies to waters that naturally have levels of lower oxygen and higher temperatures

13:10

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: than typical surface waters and therefore different oxygen and temperature criteria apply to those waters.

13:22

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Site-specific criteria are listed in Table 28 of the regulation and are criteria that have been developed for specific named water bodies and are adjusted to their local conditions.

13:36

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Aquatic Life Criteria are numeric or descriptive or narrative surface water quality pollutant criteria that protect plants and organisms that live in the water.

13:49

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Water classes A, B, C, SA, SB and SC are classes of water in the MA SWQS.

14:02

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Each of these classes have certain uses listed in the regulations, such as Public Water Supply, Recreation, and Aquatic Life.

14:11

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: These are called designated uses, and the quality of the water must support those uses.

14:19

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: When the surface water is clean and healthy and meets the criteria, that means that the water quality supports the designated uses.

14:33

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: And this is a nice picture representing the boating use because the criteria we are updating protect the Secondary Contact Recreation use.

14:49

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: In 2006, MassDEP developed Secondary Contact Recreation, or we call SCR, criteria by applying a simple multiplier of the Primary Contact Recreation criteria.

15:04

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: However, EPA has indicated that this method is not supported by science.

15:10

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Therefore, EPA did not act on these criteria and established that the previously approved 1997 bacteria criteria are in effect.

15:23

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: EPA issued new guidance that recommends criteria development using an equation to ensure that primary and secondary contact criteria result in the same estimated illness rate, which for MassDEP is 36 illnesses out of 1000 people.

15:47

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: MassDEP's definition of secondary contact includes activities such as boating, fishing, and shellfishing.

15:56

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Kayaking had the highest water ingestion rate out of all those activities.

16:02

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The selected ingestion rate represents average water ingestion exposure from all kayaking activities, including occasional capsizing events.

16:13

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: As you can see in this table,

16:15

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: MassDEP calculated criteria in colony forming units, or CFU per 100 milliliters for two bacterial indicators, E. coli and enterococci.

16:32

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: MassDEP calculated new freshwater enterococci criteria.

16:37

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: There are no marine E. coli criteria.

16:41

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The number in parentheses in the table is the current criterion.

16:47

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The proposed criteria are more stringent than the current criteria.

16:55

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: These criteria also apply year-round without exception.

17:01

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: This updated approach ensures that water quality criteria are both scientifically defensible and aligned with the latest federal guidance.

17:17

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Another proposed update is the removal of classes C and SC from the SWQS.

17:24

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: MassDEP proposes to remove these classifications because no waters are designated these classes and the remaining classes of A or B for inland and SA or SB for coastal and marine waters support more sensitive uses.

17:42

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: This update supports better water quality and streamlines the regulation.

17:51

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The SWQS Section reviewed the implications of this removal of Class C and SC from the MA SWQS.

17:59

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: First we reviewed any potential impacts to MassDEP policies.

18:05

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The Combined Sewer Overflow Abatement Policy from 1997 refers to Class C, so updates to that policy would be needed.

18:15

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: We also checked the requirements of existing variances and found that Class C and Class SC are not mentioned.

18:25

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Therefore, there's no need to retain the classes for future variance management.

18:31

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Removing these lower quality classes reinforces our intent not to downgrade water quality.

18:43

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The Aquatic Life Qualifier applies Class C dissolved oxygen and temperature criteria to select waters because of natural background conditions such as the influence of slower moving waters and wetlands.

18:57

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: With a proposed removal of Class C, the qualifier would no longer refer to valid criteria.

19:07

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The Aquatic Life qualifier currently applies to four Class B waters listed here in the classification table shown on this slide.

19:21

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: In the update, these segments have been moved to site specific criteria Table 28.

19:27

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: In Table 28, the two segments on the Sudbury River are consolidated into one continuous segment.

19:35

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: This change removes potential confusion with aquatic life use and aligns with EPA guidance by implementing background conditions as site specific criteria, which minimizes the risk of misinterpretation or regulatory challenge.

19:56

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The narrative nutrient criteria in the SWQS, among other requirements...

20:02

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: state that the waters shall not exceed the site-specific criteria developed in the TMDL.

20:09

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: MassDEP proposes a revision to replace the term site specific criteria with site specific target threshold concentrations to clearly distinguish water quality criteria and the regulation from targets developed in a TMDL.

20:32

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: For classification tables 1 through 27, enhancements include inserting town names and Class SA boundary descriptions as needed.

20:44

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: In Table 1, currently the High Quality Water qualifier for the Mumford River is incorrectly placed on the second segment of the river.

20:52

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: We propose to move it to the first segment.

20:59

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: For Tables 2 and 5, we propose updating CSO variance information to reflect current variances for the Alewife Brook, Upper Mystic River Basin and the Charles River Basin.

21:15

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: For Tables 11 and 18, the Lower Sackett and Ashby reservoirs were removed from the SWQS in 2006 because they were incorrectly listed as public water supplies.

21:26

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: When they were removed, their classification defaulted to Class B. Because they had attained the more sensitive Class A or PWS uses, they should be listed as Class A, ORW.

21:44

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Lastly, in Table 17, we proposed to reinsert the Cold Water qualifier for Shad Factory Pond that was removed in 2021.

21:55

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: EPA, sorry, WPP's data indicate the pond is not currently a Cold Water, but there is insufficient data to confirm that it has never been a Cold Water, so we cannot remove the use.

22:14

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: In the 2021 SWQS, Mass DEP removed the Public Water Supply, or PWS qualifier from 7 reservoirs that had been formally abandoned under the Mass Drinking Water regulations.

22:31

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: EPA did not approve the removal of the PWS use from these 7 water bodies.

22:39

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: As mentioned on the previous slide, once a water body achieves a certain sensitive use, that use can't be removed.

22:49

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: To avoid confusion when a public water supply has been formally abandoned by the drinking water program, we propose adding a PWS-Abandoned qualifier to the MA SWQS.

23:02

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: This new qualifier would be added to the seven water bodies in the classification tables 1 through 27 under the MA SWQS.

23:12

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The more stringent PWS criteria will continue to apply to these water bodies.

23:21

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: To summarize, the PWS-abandoned qualifier means that the waterbody is first a former PWS that was formally abandoned pursuant to the Mass Drinking Water regulations.

23:36

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: It was physically disconnected from a public water system and no longer is maintained as an active, inactive or emergency source.

23:46

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: And it is subject to the same MA SWQS criteria as those with the PWS qualifier, and it is not subject to the Mass drinking water regulations.

24:05

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The last amendments I'll review with you are updates to Appendix E of the Aquatic Life Criteria, Table 29a.

24:14

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: This table outlines the method requirements to adjust certain aquatic life metals criteria to reflect local water chemistry.

24:26

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: There is also a streamlined version of this method used to adjust copper criteria in marine waters.

24:34

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: EPA did not act on the use of the streamlined method for marine waters and required clarification of the method.

24:44

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: MassDEP is proposing amendments to the streamline method to address EPA's comments.

24:49

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: In Appendix E, MassDEP proposes to list several test species required for both acute and chronic criteria adjustment procedures.

25:03

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: MassDEP also provides references for these procedures.

25:08

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The update allows for additional species that may be suitable for the tests and lists alternative species and minimal testing requirements for these species.

25:20

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Additionally, MassDEP proposes to restrict method implementation to only point source discharges.

25:33

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: And finally, these last two slides present more information... present ways to obtain more information on the proposed amendments to 314 CMR 4.00.

25:48

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: These two web pages both have similar information, but the second web page includes access to hearing registration links, which you've probably already used now, so you won't...

26:02

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: You won't need the registration links now, but anyway, those two sites have very similar information.

26:10

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: So you can find available documents which include proposed amendments, clean and red line versions of those, a summary of proposed amendments, a notice of public hearing, and those are...

26:26

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: so those are documents you can obtain from those websites.

26:33

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: And as you know, there were two hearings, one yesterday and one you're experiencing right now.

26:40

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 PM on February 9th, 2026.

26:46

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Written comments must be submitted via e-mail or regular mail, and you're to submit comments via e-mail to dep.wpp@mass.gov using the subject line:

27:00

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Public Comments - Proposed MA SWQS, amendments and submitting comments by regular mail should be to Anna Mayor, MassDEP Watershed Planning Program, 8 New Bond Street, Worcester, MA 01606.

27:17

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: And that's the end of our presentation overview.

27:25

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: We will now have a 10 minute break before starting oral testimony.

27:31

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The time...The time is 2:00...

27:37

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: We'll round it down to 2:30.

27:39

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: It's 2:33, but we'll say 2:30.

27:42

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: So we'll come back at 2:40.

27:46

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: So thank you very much.

27:48

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: This is the start of the 10-minute break.

28:01

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: All right, welcome back everybody.

28:06

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Please raise your virtual hand if you'd like to give oral testimony.

28:12

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: To raise your hand, click on the React icon at the bottom of your screen, then the raised hand button.

28:20

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: During this part of the meeting, you'll be allowed to turn on your camera if you choose.

28:26

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: We ask that all participants maintain appropriate attire, language and behavior.

28:32

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: If a video becomes distracting to other participants, the host may need to turn it off.

28:39

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: In a moment, we will call on participants who have raised their virtual hand to provide oral testimony one at a time.

28:47

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Once you are called on, you will be asked to unmute yourself, then begin your testimony again.

28:56

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: To ensure all those who wish to testify are able, we'll limit oral testimony to 5 minutes using a timer.

29:04

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: When there is one minute left, we'll provide a reminder.

29:08

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: If you have more testimony, you may have an opportunity to speak again...

29:13

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: after everyone has been able to speak once.

29:16

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Please speak clearly and distinctly.

29:20

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: As necessary we will have a short 10 minute break after each hour of testimony.

29:25

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: I will now open testimony.

29:27

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: I do not see any hands yet.

30:07

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: You can... just to remind people the hand if you need it...

30:11

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: the hand raise icon is found by going to the bottom of the ribbon.

30:16

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: There's a heart above the word react, and if you click on that you should be able to raise your hand if you want to.

30:29

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Also, I think we want to enable people's video.

30:35

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: Yes, I believe that that's enabled.

30:59

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: If people are having technical issues, please let us know.

31:03

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Otherwise, we'll assume that people know how to raise their hand, and so far we haven't seen any raised hands.

31:29

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: We'll wait a few more minutes or a couple more minutes for people to collect their comments and indicate that they're ready with a raised hand.

32:04

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: OK, we have one raised hand.

32:08

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: Steve Silva, I will allow you to unmute.

32:14

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: Hopefully it'll work.

32:17

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: Here we go.

32:18

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: OK.

32:19

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: Hey, I just wanted to, to say that when I tried to get back in after the break, I was just getting a blank screen and that might be why you're not getting any comments.

32:30

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: So I had to go back to the original e-mail and then sign in again.

32:36

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: And that's how I got back in.

32:38

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: So, I don't know if other people are having that problem.

32:40

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: They might try doing that, but that's, that's how I just wanted to pass that info along there.

32:45

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: There is a bit of a technical Glick glitch in, in that regard that I saw.

32:50

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: And so I had to sign in again.

32:52

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: So if you're if you're just getting a white screen with the picture in the corner and you can't do much of anything else, I would sign in again.

33:04

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: Thank you.

33:04

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: So did you for the break...

33:08

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: Did you kind of just mute your audio and video?

33:13

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: But then when you came back it was it looked different?

33:16

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: Oops hold on...

33:20

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: I can unmute again.

33:26

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: Yes, that's correct. When I did some other work on my computer and then when I went back into the zoom, it was a white screen with just a picture in the corner.

33:36

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: And so I could hear video, but I couldn't, I couldn't do anything until I went back to the original login e-mail and then I logged in again and now it's working fine.

33:49

Lealdon Langley, MassDEP: OK, Anna and Danielle, just to make sure that we're not missing anyone who wants to comment.

33:58

Lealdon Langley, MassDEP: We could unmute people and let them verbally respond if there's potential that they're having a problem with their virtual hands.

34:07

Lealdon Langley, MassDEP: I just, you know, I don't want to end up with a situation where we'd have to reschedule the hearing because people were unable to come in.

34:14

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: Yep

34:16

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: I think if we if we allow people right now to we can click unmute themselves, they can unmute without us having to do it individually.

Lealdon Langley, MassDEP: Okay all right, so folks, if y'all want to make a comment, just unmute yourself and verbally let us know.

35:03

Elizabeth Stefanik: No comments here.

35:07

Elizabeth Stefanik: This is Elizabeth Stefanik with DEP letting you know everything looks good from this end and no comments.

35:14

Elizabeth Stefanik: Thank you for at least from me.

35:15

Elizabeth Stefanik: Thank you.

35:16

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: All right, Thanks, Elizabeth.

35:19

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: Thanks for confirming that that you could unmute and everything.

35:23

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: So hopefully that means everybody else can as well.

35:26

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Yeah.

35:41

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Okay

35:41

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: We'll just wait a few more minutes.

35:45

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: I would say until maybe 3:00.

35:51

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: We'll wait until 3:00.

35:54

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: And if there are no hands raised or other type of unmuting and commenting, then we will end the hearing.

36:50

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: With all the snow, I'm glad we have a remote hearing.

37:33

Lealdon Langley, MassDEP: Yeah.

37:34

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Okay, thanks, Ben, for your comment. Ben Weatherill

37:36

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: And Anna, you might have seen that somebody had a question earlier about your preference, if you had a preference for addressing written comments to you.

37:53

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Yes, yes, yes, I should be addressed as Ms. Mayor.

37:59

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Thanks.

38:12

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: And Laurie Kennedy, I know you're in the crowd there. [Actual attendee was Lori Kennedy, not Laurie, our former WPP colleague.]

38:15

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Hi.

38:31

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Looks like people are already starting to drop off.

38:44

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: We've got this raised hand.

38:45

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: Oh, sorry.

38:53

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: There we go.

38:53

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: OK, Steve, you can go ahead.

38:55

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: And if you want to turn your camera on you, you can.

38:58

Danielle Mucciarone, MassDEP: You should be able to.

39:02

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: Thanks.

39:03

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: I'm Steve Silva.

39:04

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: I'm with the Taunton River Watershed Alliance.

39:07

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: And well, I wanted to say I thought you guys did a really good job on the standards revisions.

39:13

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: And at first I had a question about why you were doing secondary standards.

39:20

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: And that stuck with me until, because all the waters of the state are supposed to be suitable for primary contact recreation, is supposed to be swimmable, fishable.

39:33

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: And it wasn't until I read further on that I then I realized what you were doing and that you were creating the secondary standard, the circumstances where you were only having when you're doing seasonal bacteria standard so that there would at least still be something applicable.

39:53

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: And so once I saw that, I felt pretty good about it.

39:56

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: So, so I didn't have any problem anymore, but I did have that initial question that could have puzzled some people that, you know, puzzled me a little bit until I read further into the standards and realized what you were doing.

40:11

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: Although I've been away from this for a few years, so took me a little longer to find out.

40:17

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: But anyway, I didn't see any, any comments.

40:20

Steve Silva, Taunton River Watershed Alliance: I just wanted to point out that I thought you did a good job.

40:22

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Great.

40:22

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Thank you.

42:34

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Okay, we have about 5 more minutes.

42:37

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: We'll hang on about 5 more minutes.

42:38

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: And again, if you have a comment, please raise your hand.

43:54

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Again, you have until February 9th, 2026, 5:00 to submit written comments.

44:50

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Again, please raise your virtual hand if you'd like to give oral testimony and you haven't done so.

45:21

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: And also, please raise your hand if you'd like to continue your testimony.

46:27

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Okay, we've just got a couple more minutes.

46:31

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Allow people, anybody to collect their thoughts or whatever.

46:36

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: We'll wait a couple more minutes.

47:31

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Okay.

47:33

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: I'd like to thank the person who testified today and as well as all those who have attended this remote hearing without testifying.

47:43

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: After the public comment period closes at 5:00 PM on Monday, February 9th, 2026, we will review and consider all public comments received, including oral comments made during this hearing and all written comments submitted via e-mail or regular mail prior to finalizing the amendments.

48:02

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: The final regulation will be published on MassDEP's website and we will notify all parties who have participated in the public hearing process.

48:11

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: There being no further testimony, I hereby close this remote hearing at 3:00 on January 28th, 2026.

48:21

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Thank you.

48:36

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Thanks, Madaket.

48:42

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Okay.

48:42

Anna Mayor, MassDEP: Lealdon, do you want to end the meeting?