



THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION
100 CAMBRIDGE STREET, BOSTON MA 02114

Meeting Minutes for June 8, 2017

100 Cambridge Street, Boston, MA, 1:00 p.m.

Minutes approved September 14, 2017

Members in Attendance:

Vandana Rao, Chair	Designee, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA)
Linda Balzotti	Designee, Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD)
Anne Carroll	Designee, Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR)
Doug Fine	Designee, Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP)
Hotze Wijnja	Designee, Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR)
Tim Purington	Designee, Department of Fish and Game (DFG)
Kenneth Weismantel	Public Member
Paul Matthews	Public Member (arrived late)

Members Absent

Todd Callaghan	Designee, Massachusetts Office of Coastal Zone Management (CZM)
Thomas Cambareri	Public Member
Raymond Jack	Public Member
Bob Zimmerman	Public Member

Others in Attendance:

Sara Cohen	DCR
Marilyn McCrory	DCR
Erin Graham	DCR
Viki Zoltay	DCR
Michele Drury	DCR
Joy Duperault	DCR
Kate Bentson	DER
Jennifer Pederson	MWWA
Gabby Queenan	Mass Rivers Alliance
Peter Weiskel	USGS
Eve Vogel	UMass Amherst
Christina Hatch	UMass Amherst
Trish Garrigan	EPA

Rao called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

Agenda Item #1: Executive Director's Report

- Drought Update: Happy to report, Massachusetts is no longer in a drought. Today's meeting includes several presentations on minimizing impacts of the drought.
- Rao recognized Tim Purinton who is leaving state service to become Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy's Maryland Chapter. She thanked him for his outstanding efforts in moving ecological restoration forward in the state.

Agenda Item #2: Hydrologic Conditions Report

- Zoltay provided update on the hydrologic conditions for May 2017. Highlights included:
 - Rainfall: All regions are above normal due to the precipitation received last month.
 - Streamflow: All regions are normal/above normal.
 - Groundwater: Levels are recovering significantly. One or two wells still below normal per region. Three wells are still very low, but all are going in the right direction.
 - Reservoirs: Levels are mostly normal. Quabbin and Ashumet are slightly below normal.

(Hydrologic Conditions Report is available at:

<http://www.mass.gov/eea/agencies/dcr/water-res-protection/water-data-tracking/monthly-water-conditions.html>)

Agenda Item #3: Vote on the Minutes of May 2017

V O T E	A motion was made by Ken Weismantel with a second by Linda Balzotti to approve the meeting minutes for May 11, 2016.
	The vote to approve was unanimous among those present.

Agenda Item #4: Vote on the Water Resources Commission Work Plan FY18

Carroll provided brief highlights on the WRC Work Plan, including:

- Anticipate significant time on revisions to the Drought Management Plan
- ITA: Responses to comments will be presented soon
- USGS well replacement grant is kicking off, after a tremendous logistical effort
- Anticipate returning to WRC with Water Conservation Standard updates
- Water Needs Forecast - Merrimack, Parker, Narraganset

Weismantel thought we were close on IBT and asked whether we got substantial comments?

Rao responded that we expect to come back to the WRC in a few months with our response to comments. Many of the comments reflected what we are already doing, so our response to comments should clarify these areas.

Weismantel asked if we can we provide a table of where communities are on unaccounted for water (UAW).

A discussion ensued regarding the challenges of meeting the 10% UAW standard and the state's efforts to encourage/support water loss control programs that emphasize conducting a water audit as the first step in accounting for all water, using AWWA's M36 Technical Manual. Fine mentioned that DEP has awarded up to 17 grants to MA water suppliers to conduct water audits.

V O T E	A motion was made by Purinton with a second by Weismantel to approve the Water Resources Commission Work Plan for FY 2018, as presented.
	The vote was approved unanimously among those present.

Agenda Item #5: Presentation and Discussion, UMass River Smart Policy:

Rao introduced the presentation which will provide policy approaches on resilience to flooding along rivers. Purinton added that state staff reviewed the report and recommendations and found it to be on target and very smart. He said that the report was timely and hoped to lift up some of these policy recommendations for Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness communities.

Vogel provided an overview of the report- the presentation focused on Chapter 4 of the report which includes 5 main policy recommendations. The full presentation is posted on the WRC website at www.mass.gov/eea/wrc

Agenda Item #6: Presentation and Discussion, Green Infrastructure for Drought Resilience:

Garrigan introduced the project and summarized how it developed. The project goal is to provide MA with options for becoming more drought resilient using green infrastructure (GI). The project findings will be incorporated into the Statewide Hazard Mitigation Plan Update. The project includes developing an assessment methodology for siting GI for drought resiliency, and an assessment of state policy barriers and opportunities. The project is ongoing and Garrigan provided some highlights and examples. There will be a workshop on June 26th to present the final report and presentation. Garrigan's presentation is posted on the WRC website at www.mass.gov/eea/wrc

Meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Documents or Exhibits Used at Meeting:

1. WRC Meeting Minutes for May 11, 2017
2. WRC FY18 Work Plan
3. For information on the UMASS RiverSmart Program please see:
<https://extension.umass.edu/riversmart/>
4. Green Infrastructure Fact Sheet
5. Interbasin Transfer Act project status report, May 24, 2017

Compiled by: AC

Agendas and minutes are available on the web site of the Water Resources Commission at www.mass.gov/eea/wrc under "MA Water Resources Commission Meetings." All other meeting documents are available by request to WRC staff at 251 Causeway Street, 8th floor, Boston, MA 02114.