

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE MASSACHUSETTS
CLEAN WATER TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Tuesday, November 15, 2016
2:00 PM

State House, Room 227
Boston, Massachusetts

MINUTES

Attendees: Treasurer Deborah Goldberg
Commissioner Martin Suuberg, Massachusetts Department of Environmental
Protection
Rachel Madden, Executive Office for Administration and Finance Designee

Also Present: Sue Perez, Executive Director, MCWT
Bernard Greene, Senior Legal Counsel, MCWT
My Tran, Treasurer, MCWT
Sally Peacock, Controller, MCWT
Heather Saxelby O'Donnell, Program Specialist, MCWT
Douglas Fine, Assistant Commissioner for Water Resources, MassDEP
Jeffrey Mickelson, Deputy General Counsel, MassDEP
Kristen LaCroix, Chief Financial Officer, MassDEP
Edmund J. Colleta, Press Secretary, MassDEP
Donald St. Marie, Program Manager, MassDEP
Chandra Allard, Deputy Director of Communications, Office of the State
Treasurer

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting was called to order by Treasurer Goldberg at 2:01 PM.

Item #1

MOTION

The motion was made by Ms. Madden, seconded by Commissioner Suuberg and voted unanimously in favor of acceptance of the following:

Request to Reserve Funds to Test Public School Water Samples for Lead and Copper

DISCUSSION OF THE MOTION

Commissioner Suuberg thanked the Trust for its ongoing support of MassDEP's testing of public school water for lead and copper. MassDEP has made significant progress in the testing program. To date, 169 communities have responded to the program, covering more than 950 school buildings. More than 26,000 samples have been collected and technical assistance has been provided. This has helped de-mystify how testing for lead and copper should be done. Two rounds of testing are done for each fixture, one done initially and one done after the water fixture is subject to a flushing period. Doug Fine has been leading the program for MassDEP while Jeffrey Mickelson has been working day-to-day with MassDEP's partners. MassDEP expects that testing will be complete in January, 2017. The goal was to be finished by the end of December, 2016, but due to the upcoming holidays, this will not be possible. Of the schools with results that have been returned, 167 have had issues. Of the buildings with issues, 67 have copper issues, 73 have no exceedances. There has been a lag between when samples are taken and when the results have come in. When exceedances for lead or copper are found in public schools, fixtures are either disconnected or replaced. At 30-40 fixtures per school, there are more than originally anticipated, which has increased the amount of time needed to test all the interested communities and has increased costs for the program, which is why MassDEP is asking for additional funds. Once all schools have been tested, MassDEP will share results with the Trust.

Treasurer Goldberg stated that she appreciates the training component of the program. The issue of lead in drinking water is presently well-known, due to the Flint, Michigan contaminated water supply situation. She asked what the frequency of testing will be going forward and whether retesting has been discussed in training sessions? Additionally, she suggested that a reminder be sent out to public school administrators including principals and superintendents.

Commissioner Suuberg responded that MassDEP will send out reminders to school administrators at least every five years and that the need for re-testing is part of the training. Ms. Madden noted that the Trust has been investing a lot of money in the program and that it is important that follow up be done. Commissioner Suuberg noted that training materials have been developed, which can continue to be used to increase awareness and acceptance of testing measures. He also noted that MassDEP has been partnering with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education to gather contacts with schools.

Treasurer Goldberg asked about private schools. Commissioner Suuberg said that some private schools have done testing on their own and that those results are on MassDEP's website.

VOTE ON MOTION, AS AMENDED

Having been duly moved and seconded, the Board of Trustees **voted unanimously in favor** of acceptance of the motion, as amended

Request to Reserve Funds to Test Public School Water Samples for Lead and Copper

1. To address the issue of lead and copper in drinking water in public schools, the Board of Trustees votes to reserve \$750,000 of moneys in its Administrative Expense Fund for the restricted use by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for an initiative to fund the testing of public schools water samples for lead.

OTHER BUSINESS: None.

ADJOURN: There being no additional business, at 2:15 a motion to adjourn was made by Treasurer Goldberg, seconded by Commissioner Suuberg, and voted unanimously in favor.