

Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee Meeting
July 7, 2025
6:30 PM

Location: DCR Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor's Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, Belchertown, MA 01007

Members: (members in **BOLD** were present)

Massachusetts Council of Sportsmen: Bill Pula

Alternate: **Robert Sagan**

Trout Unlimited: Richard Taupier

Alternate: Joe Babineau; Jerry Eves

Quabbin Fisherman's Association: **Clayton Sydla (Vice-Chair)**

Alternate: Mike Laprade; Bill Kimball

Worcester County League of Sportsmen: **Ronald Komar**

Alternate: John Root

North Worcester County Quabbin Anglers Association: **Samantha Robinson**

Alternate: Tom Barnes; **Mike Polchlopek**

Mass Audubon: Tom Lautzenheiser

Alternate:

Swift River Valley Historical Society: Elena Palladino

Alternate: Lexi Dewey

New England Sierra Club: **Janet Sinclair**

Alternate:

Friends of Quabbin, Inc.: **J.R. Greene (Chair)**

Alternate: Gene Theroux

General Public: **Ralph Lapinskas**

Alternate: **Eric Weiss**

DCR staff present: Dan Clark, Justin Gonsor

Members of the public present: Larry Bandolin, Patti Bandolin, Andrew Robinson, Scott Robinson

Meeting Start Time: 6:31 PM

At the beginning of the meeting J.R. Greene called for a moment of silence to be observed in memory and honor of Tony Brighenti. Tony recently passed away. He was an original, founding member of the Quabbin Watershed Advisory Committee and longtime fisherman at the reservoir.

Approval of minutes from meeting on Monday, April 7, 2025

Ralph Lapinskas made a motion to accept the minutes from the QWAC meeting held on April 7, 2025. Janet Sinclair seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved.

Handicapped access railings were installed on both sides of the access ramps at gates 31 and 43, but not at gate 8

Dan updated the committee on the status of the railings that were installed at the boat launch area (BLA) docks. The railings at BLA's 2 and 3 will be moved closer to the center of the docks. Railings will be installed at BLA 1 in the same style ASAP. The appropriate location for the railings at the BLA's were discussed and will be passed on to BLA staff.

Larry Bandolin commented that there is only one handicapped parking space at BLA 1. He hoped a second spot could be created. He spoke about a health condition he has that limits his mobility. The last time he fished at BLA 1 the handicapped spot was already taken when he got there. He commented that a horizontal rail is needed at any access point to the docks at the BLA's. Dan answered that a second handicapped space would be created.

Some people are still getting flat tires on gate 8 access road

Dan updated the committee on the condition of the gate 8 access road to BLA 1. DWSP manages/grades/rolls the road as best as possible, but it is tough to eliminate all flat tires going forward. The main problem being the remnants of larger, sharper stones that were laid down in the past.

Clayton Sydla expressed disappointment that flat tires still happen on the gate 8 road. There is currently no sign at the gate indicating the road could cause car damage or a flat tire. He spoke of an earlier time at the reservoir when the gate 8 road was more of a gravel road; the stones used today seem to be larger.

Larry Bandolin suggested gravelling the top layer of the road. He asked if the road could be revamped if an additional funding source was secured

sometime in the future. Dan will meet with the DWSP road crew to brainstorm potential solutions. They will also discuss what the best management option or options going forward would be if money was no option.

Update on Pottapaug Pond treatment

Dan updated the committee on the invasive plant work that was conducted on Pottapaug Pond this year. Consultants were hired again for the 2025 season. Their work has wrapped up and their final report will be forthcoming. A significant amount of harvesting was done at both Pottapaug Pond and O'Loughlin Pond. Surveys were also conducted on both ponds and the reservoir. More plant materials were removed from the ponds this year than last year; this may be due to different harvest methods being used in 2025. DWSP staff will review recommendations from the final report, discuss options internally, and then report back to the QWAC at the next meeting.

Clayton Sydla asked for a little more information on the contract work. Dan answered that most days there were four contractors working in the field. DWSP staff also helped when time allowed. The MWRA contract did go up in terms of expenditures compared to last year. This was reflected in the number of days harvesting, surveying, and contractors hired.

Member Issues

Janet Sinclair commented on the Environmental Bond Bill and potential money available to DCR in the bill. Dan Clark clarified that DWSP is funded from a separate source from the rest of DCR; DWSP does not usually get much money from the bond bill. Janet also asked about a provision in the bill regarding how state lands are managed, specifically about the creation of 'reserve' lands on various state properties (DCR, MassWildlife, etc.). These 'reserve' lands would be areas that will be off-limits to logging and other activities. She asked what the plan was for watershed lands. Dan Clark answered that DWSP will be identifying reserve lands on water supply properties. A forest reserve committee has been formed to work through the process.

Clayton Sydla asked about the status of the bathrooms at the tower in Quabbin Park. Dan Clark answered that they are set to open for the season on July 8th.

Ron Komar asked about recent Massachusetts legislation that requires all motorized vessel (boat) operators to complete a state-approved education course. The law goes into effect on April 1, 2026. He was wondering if the law applies to people renting a boat at Quabbin. Dan Clark answered that people renting boats at Quabbin are exempt from the law. Rental boats in general are exempt from the legislation (Addendum: Following the meeting, Dan Clark researched the law and determined that in the final recorded law, there is no exemption for rental boats. This language was dropped between the proposed legislation and the recorded law. Customers renting boats at Quabbin in 2026 will need a boater safety certificate).

Meeting End Time: 6:58 PM

Upcoming QWAC Meetings:

- Monday, October 6, 2025, at 6:30 PM – DCR Les and Terry Campbell Quabbin Visitor Center, 100 Winsor Dam Road, Belchertown, MA 01007