



Matthew A. Beaton, Secretary of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Frederick A. Laskey, Executive Director, MWRA
William Meehan, North Worcester County Quabbin Anglers, Quabbin Fishermen's Association
Katherine Haynes Dunphy, MWRA Advisory Board
Fred Heyes, Swift River Valley Historical Society

Water Supply Protection Trust

December 2, 2015

Massachusetts Water Resources Authority
John J. Carroll Water Treatment Plant, Marlborough MA

Trustees

Katherine Haynes Dunphy, MWRA Advisory Board
Frederick A. Laskey, Executive Director, MWRA
Brigadier General William J. Meehan, North Worcester County Anglers and the Quabbin Fishermen's Association
Fred Heyes, Swift River Historical Society
Kathleen Basin, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

MWRA

Michael Hornbrook, Chief Operating Officer
Kathy Soni, Budget Director
Tom Durkin, Chief Financial Officer
Dave Coppes, Waterworks Director
John Gregoire, Reservoir Program Manager
Pam Heidell, Policy and Planning Manager
Chris Lam, Senior Financial Analyst
Sean Navin, Director Intergovernmental Affairs

DCR

Jonathan Yeo, Director, Division of Water Supply Protection
Bill Pula, Regional Director, Quabbin
Lisa Gustavsen, Assistant Regional Director, Quabbin
Marcelle Payen, Budget Manager
John Scannell, Regional Director, Wachusett
Scott Murphy, Assistant Regional Director, Wachusett-Sudbury
Dan Clark, Director Natural Resources
Joel Zimmerman, Regional Planner
Bill Moulton, Regional Engineer, Wachusett
Brian Keevan, Forester

WSCAC

Lexi Dewey, Executive Director

The meeting convened at 10:02 a.m.

Chairman Laskey congratulated Katherine Dunphy for her many years of service as Chairman of the Advisory Board, and welcomed Lou Taverna as the new Chairman.

1. Approval of September 24, 2015 minutes

A motion to approve the September 24, 2015 minutes was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

2. Financial and Progress Reports – Jonathan Yeo

The following items were distributed (and are appended to the minutes): *DCR – Office of Watershed Management Monthly Actual 11/23/2105 (YTD October)*, and *Water Supply Protection Revenue BFY2016, Period 1-4*.

Jonathan provided a brief report of current FY16 financials, noting that revenues from hydropower, forestry, and fishing were all good. He also noted low fuel prices had resulted in a surplus in the GG account. However, Jonathan noted that spending on the design for the direct discharge elimination project was being accelerated, with DOT funding the construction. Also discussed was DCR's efforts to arrange a "lease to own" deal for a bulldozer, since DCR's existing bulldozer is 30 years old. A bulldozer is required for some of DCR's work, and DCR is not set up to make the capital investment required to own one (over \$100,000).

3. Preview of Draft Work Plan FY17, Jonathan Yeo

Jonathan noted a more detail preview of the FY17 work plan would be presented in February. DCR plans to share draft workplan with MWRA shortly. A few PowerPoint slides (attached to the minutes of the meeting) reflected highlights of planning underway, including expectations for significant facility and vehicle/boat expenditures. It was also noted that salary increases as a result of collective bargaining agreements with the union are consuming the budget.

Trustee Meehan suggested that enhancing the Boat Launch Area 3 Access Road should be a priority, since the access road has deficiencies that he believes affect safety. DCR indicated that access road improvements are on the list of draft capital improvements, but that the cost of improving BLA 3 access road would be over \$200,000. Mr. Favaloro noted that capital expenditures such as this are uncharted territory for the Trust. Trustee Laskey said the MOU envisioned that MWRA could undertake certain capital projects, and it was necessary to have a conversation regarding what is a capital expense versus what is a maintenance expense to be addressed in DCR's operating budget. Trustee Baskin suggested that the Trust take a step back and recognize the Commonwealth's investment in watershed facilities (for example DCAMM's roof repair at John Augustus Hall in West Boylston and MassDOT's control of stormwater near the reservoirs). Trustee Dunphy expressed the feeling that the BLA access enhancement is distinctly different than a capital investment made for water quality.

4. End-of-Season Fishing Report - Bill Pula

A revenue summary was distributed, and DCR staff noted that fishing revenues are weather dependent, with higher fishing revenues this year reflecting the fact that there was not lot of rain on weekends. Also, DCR's mechanic did a good job of keeping boats maintained, and most of fishing revenue is from boat rentals. Regarding the numbers of boats decontaminated by DCR, staff noted that the need for this has declined, as many people are devoting a boat to Quabbin and not bringing it to other water bodies. In response to a suggestion that DCR should consider discounts for fishing permits for military personnel, staff noted that the

fees were set by regulation, but that this suggestion could be considered by the Quabbin Advisory Committee. The End-of-Season Fishing Report was accepted by the Trust and placed on file.

5. Discussion of Green Certification for Forestry - Jonathan Yeo

Jonathan noted that Dan Clark and his team had looked at the question of green certification and at this time are recommending that Green Certification not be pursued citing that was a number of downsides with Green Certification. That said, Jonathan noted that some form of third party independent review of forestry practices be pursued in the future, and that his staff had reviewed a number of third party review programs. DCR staff suggested that 3rd party review be pursued next year.

Trustee Laskey accepted the following motion:

The Trust not pursue Green Certification at this time and a discussion of 3rd party review be placed on the table for discussion next year.

In the discussion that followed, Trustee Baskin noted that EEA has taken a look at the history of green certification: review determined that while DCR Watersheds were first in the nation to be certified, since that time many things have changed: opponents of forestry in whatever form have become engaged in the Green Certification process, and requirements have become very onerous and expensive. Ms. Baskin indicated that EEA was in favor of transparency, but not at a cost of \$100,000 for Green Certification. Like others, EEA believes that there is value in some form of 3rd Party Review.

Trustee Meehan urged that transparency in forest operations was important and that he was not in favor of postponing discussion of 3rd party review until next year. It was then proposed that DCR staff present a report at the May-June WSPT meeting. The original motion was modified:

The Trust not pursue Green Certification at this time and a 6-month review of forestry practices and discussion of 3rd party review occur at the May/June WSPT meeting.

The revised motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

6. Other Updates – Jonathan Yeo

- Forestry: Lots were recently sold above the minimum price, indicating competition amongst bidders.
- Work continues on the power line and security project to bring power and communications to locations at Quabbin and to upgrade an existing power line, with DCR supporting MWRA's effort.
- The Deer Hunt for Quabbin is imminent.
- Off-Road Biking. This issue has continued, and Mountain Biking organizations have organized a letter writing campaign. WSCAC, the Advisory Board, and others have written letters opposing so called "single-track" mountain biking in watershed forest areas. It was also reported that during a DEP inspection, Watershed Protection Act violations resulting from illegal trail building were observed. Jonathan also noted that no other big water suppliers managing unfiltered water supplies permit off-road mountain biking. Discussion ensued. It was noted that while public access was allowed on watershed lands, watershed lands were not state parklands. It was also noted mountain bikers think that the State paid for watershed lands, so the lands should be accessible, whereas research indicates that MWRA rate payers paid for watershed purchases.
- Gull harassment. Program is going well. There was one exceedance at Wachusett at a time of high winds and heavy rains, but in general, bacterial numbers are down.
- MWRA/DCR are seeking cyanobacteria guidance from DEP regarding future testing

7. Wachusett Rail Spill Drill Event – John Scannell

John reported that in October, MWRA and DCR staff, along with a number of other agencies participated in the Wachusett Rail Spill Drill event, and that great cooperation amongst the agencies and the railroad, Pan Am, was displayed. A PowerPoint was presented, with a series of slides depicting the drill activities.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.