



Water Supply Protection Trust
May 25, 2017
MWRA Southborough Facility

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
Louis Taverna, Chairman, MWRA Advisory Board
Fred Heyes, Swift River Valley Historical Society

Trustees

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

MWRA

Michael Hornbrook, Chief Operating Officer
Kathy Soni, Budget Director
Louse Miller, Budget Manager
Chris Lam, Assistant Finance Manager
John Gregoire, Reservoir Program Manager
Pam Heidell, Policy and Planning Manager
Dave Coppes, Director of Waterworks
Sean Navin, Director Intergovernmental Affairs

DCR

Jonathan Yeo, Director, Division of Water Supply Protection
John Scannell, Director, Wachusett-Sudbury
Joel Zimmerman, Regional Planner
Lisa Gustavson, Assistant Regional Director, Quabbin
Dan Clark, Director Natural Resources
Scott Murphy, Assistant Regional Director, Wachusett
Trish McNally, Budget Director
Brian Keevan, Natural Resource Analyst

MWRA Advisory Board

Joseph Favaloro, Executive Director

WSCAC

Lexi Dewey, Executive Director

The meeting convened at 10:08 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes – March 3, 2017 meeting

A motion to approve the March 3, 2017 minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. FY17 Spending Update – Jonathan Yeo

A PowerPoint presentation accompanied the FY17 presentation and is appended to the minutes of the meeting.

Jonathan noted the following:

- Expenditures are on track, and hiring is going well (including new Budget Manager and GIS Director).
- Hydropower revenue is down since the Quabbin Aqueduct transfer is starting later this year
- Quabbin Reservoir level is only slightly below normal.
- Watershed Rangers have been busy with patrols, with a number of violations due to dogs. In response to Jonathan's remarks, Trustee Meehan stated that DCR should be more forceful about enforcements and move to citations even for first encounters, and they should be written (but without a fine).
- Eagles have been busy at both reservoirs.
- Wachusett Reservoir was named "top attraction" by Clinton Paper.
- The Quabbin Power and Security contract has included installation of cameras at Shatt 12 and elsewhere, eliminating need for Quabbin Rangers to visit multiple times daily. Project has also enabled electricity to boat cove and lights and cameras to assist DCR operations.
- Progress continues on Wachusett Direct Discharge Elimination Projects (pictures shown of storm water treatment devices installed).
- Old Clinton Crew HQ was demolished.
- Changes for the Quabbin Fishing Program this year including new sign-in and forms for boats, with names of all boaters required: no push-back.
- Gate 8 Road work going well, area 1 was closed for two days.
- MWRA's screen replacement project has presented some challenges, causing some turbidity issues, but no water quality impacts for downstream communities.

3. Approval of FY18 Work Plan and Budget – Jonathan Yeo

The Final *Draft Fiscal Year 2018 Work Plan* was distributed and is appended to the minutes.

Jonathan noted that little has changed from the Draft Plan distributed in March. The Final budget is 16.66 million. The increase from FY17 Budget is due to personnel costs, which are projected to increase due to collective bargaining agreements as well as increase in the fringe rate. Total revenues from hydropower, forestry, fishing and recreation and miscellaneous are projected to be \$990,000. A series of slides in the PowerPoint presentation (appended to the minutes) noted plan highlights.

A PowerPoint presentation accompanied the FY18 Work Plan and Budget presentation and noted the following highlights:

Division Wide

- Land acquisition, new EEA-funded WPR monitoring position
- CLMP completion and implementation in all forestry programs
- GIS improvements across all teams
- Water quality database (Q+W) development with UMass Team
- Water quality monitoring in tributaries and reservoirs, coordination with MWRA
- Aquatic invasives monitoring, removal, coordination with MWRA
- Security coordination with MWRA, MSP
- Vehicle and major equipment replacement
- Bird Harassment Program (with new boats, maybe drones, full-res program at Wachusett)

Quabbin/Ware

- Improved Watershed Ranger staffing, adjusted and targeted patrols and use of citations including in Ware River Watershed
- Dam/Dike mowing, monitoring and maintenance (turf work on Winsor Dam)
- Project work including Maintenance Building construction, FA3 bridge repairs (Boat Launch area), coordination with MWRA on HQ Building Reno project, various building repairs

Wachusett/Sudbury

- Continue work with DCR on Framingham Reservoir lands transfer
- Dam/Dike mowing, monitoring and maintenance
- Continue work with MWRA on rail spill preparedness, implement various drill responses
- Oversee construction of Phase 2 Direct Discharge projects at Beaman St and South Bay
- Complete new Clinton Labor Crew HQ and garage expansion construction

Remarks/Questions/answers ensued:

- Forestry: A series of slides showed the lots in the Quabbin and Ware watersheds. Trustee Heyes remarked that public meetings have been held on all individual projects. Trustee Laskey inquired as to how close the forestry lots in the Ware watershed are to Lonergan Intake. In response, Jonathan committed to taking another look at forestry lots in the Ware Watershed.
- Quabbin HQ Building Reno Project: the large capital project that was to be funded by MWRA will not be undertaken at this time due to the need to direct funds instead to replacement of the Harbor Energy Cable supplying power to Deer Island.
- Ware Public Access Plan. DCR indicated while the Plan is due to be updated for 2020, DCR has been asked to undertake a Plan update earlier. Mr. Favaloro indicated that an independent evaluation be conducted on mountain biking riding before any policy changes were discussed. Trustee Heyes agreed and noted long term implications for other watersheds as well. It was suggested that the FY 18 Work Plan be approved, with the exception of the conduct of any work associated with the Ware Public Access Plan. Trustee Rao indicated she would convey the thoughts expressed to others at EEA.

Also discussed were the Wachusett Boat Dock and Gate 2 Quabbin Fishing Access.

The following motion was then made, seconded, and unanimously approved:

To Approve the FY 18 Work Plan and Budget with an amendment to defer any work on the Ware Public Access Plan until the September 2018 Trust Meeting.

4. Update of Watershed Forestry – DCR Staff (Dan Clark, Brian Keevan)

Dan Clark noted that the Administration has been very supportive of forestry and then went on to provide a broad overview of the Comprehensive Land Management Plan that the DCR is embarking upon. A PowerPoint presentation entitled *DCR Division of Water Supply Protection, Comprehensive Land Management Plan 2017*, appended to the minutes, accompanied his presentation. Highlights:

- Whereas in past years, each of the watersheds had its own Forestry Management Plan, this year, the Plans are being combined into a Comprehensive Land Management Plan, bringing more consistency as well as more efficiency in plan preparation. The Plan will include more than forestry, and also address non-forestry management, wildlife, land protection, and cultural resources.
- Regarding forestry, over time, DCR would like to see a nice mosaic of multiple age structure forests, to foster resiliency and a mix of species. A series of pictures were presented showing the growth of understory and regeneration.

5. Other Updates – Jonathan Yeo

- Rattlesnakes. Trustee Meehan indicated that the meeting to discuss relocation of rattlesnakes on Zion has been suspended indefinitely. He indicated that it has been noted that there are shortcomings in the literature that was intended to support relocating the snakes.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 pm.