

MASSACHUSETTS



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, Chair, MWRA Advisory Board

Fred Heyes, Swift River Valley Historical Society

Water Supply Protection Trust

September 24, 2015

Department of Conservation and Recreation

Blue Meadow Conference Room

Belchertown, MA

Trustees

Joseph Favaloro, as designee for 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

MWRA

Kathy Soni, Budget 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

Herm Eck, Chief Forester

Brian Keevan, Forester

Ann Marie Niejadlik, Accountant

Cliff Read, Program Coordinator

WSCAC

Lexi Dewey, Executive Director

Heidi Waugh, Assistant

The meeting convened at 10:03.

Chairman Laskey noted for the record that Katherine Dunphy has stepped down as Chairman of the MWRA Advisory Board, and that Lou Taverna was the new Chairman. A letter from the Advisory Board was read in to the record indicating that Lou had designated Ms. Dunphy as his designee to continue to serve on the Trust. (For today's meeting, however, Ms. Dunphy could not attend and appointed Joe Favaloro in her place).

1. Approval of June 4 minutes

A motion to approve the June 4, 2015 minutes was made, seconded and unanimously approved.

2. FY15 Financial Report – Jonathan Yeo

Prior to the meeting, *FY15 Final Actual Spending vs. Budget* was distributed and is appended to the minutes of the meeting. The documentation and presentation indicated that more than 99% of the FY15 was expended. It was also noted that DCR received a total of \$951,677 in revenues (with hydropower, fish and boating, and forestry sales the dominant revenue generators).

3. FY 15 Accomplishments – Jonathan Yeo

The Fiscal Year 2015 Final Report was made available (and is appended to the minutes).

FY15 accomplishments were also addressed in a PowerPoint presentation by Jonathan, also appended to the minutes. Key areas addressed for the Quabbin/Ware watershed included: gull control program, land acquisition, forestry, the boat seal program, public/ranger interactions, mountain biking violations and public education in the Ware watershed. Also presented were energy efficiency improvements and other capital project undertakings (road paving, gate 8 stream crossing improvements, security improvements, dam maintenance, garage upgrades, and modifications of the water quality laboratory). Another year of the highly successful MA. Special Olympics at Quabbin was also summarized. For Wachusett/Sudbury, FY15 highlights included but were not limited to the following topics: a railway incident training exercise, Wachusett Dam/Dike maintenance, public/school education activities, Wachusett ranger interactions, demolition of the Chapman building, renovation of the carpentry shop, security improvements, continued and significant progress on current phases of the Wachusett Direct Discharge elimination project, in conjunction with MADOT (and with DOT funding), the Gates Brook Culvert replacement project, and invasives removal via a coordinated effort with MWRA.

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously approved to accept the Fiscal Year 15 Final Report and place it on file.

4. FY16 Financial and Progress Reports – Jonathan Yeo, DCR

The following items were distributed (and are appended to the minutes): *DCR – Office of Watershed Management Monthly Expenditure Analysis, September 2015* (includes data through either Sept. 5 or September 18, depending upon spending category), and *Water Supply Protection Revenue BFY2015, Period 1(July 2015)*.

Jonathan noted that limited data is available, given that the FY year has just begun. In terms of FY16 progress reports, Jonathan highlighted that roadway work has started at Blue Meadow Road, that the Division is in the process of purchasing vehicles and that although the expenditure analysis suggests a large variance on personnel costs, it is a matter of timing of the accounting. In terms of reporting on revenues, Trustee Meehan suggested

that going forward; it would be helpful if revenue generated was compared against revenue expectations included in the budget.

5. Quinapoxet Dam Removal – Pam Heidell, MWRA; Georgeann Keer, DFG

Pam Heidell provided brief background on the Quinapoxet Dam removal project, noting the dam's location and history as well as the presence of landlocked salmon in Wachusett Reservoir. She noted that MWRA, in conjunction with DCR, have pursued grants for dam removal, based on the premise dam removal should be explored if it can be MWRA ratepayer neutral. She noted the leadership of the Division of Ecological Restoration (DER), and introduced Georgeann Keer from DER. Georgeann presented a PowerPoint, *Quinapoxet Dam: Dam Removal Investigation*, which is appended to the minutes. The presentation addressed the mission of DER, and the key issues/actions related to the Quinapoxet Dam removal. A series of graphics provided an understanding of the dam site, and the potential for dam removal. In response to questions regarding funding, Georgeann indicated the very high success rate of DER in securing funds for dam removal.

6. Certification of Trust Expenditures

Kathy Soni distributed a Memo for the Trustees' signatures, certifying FY 15 Trust Expenditures. A copy of the certification is appended to the minutes.

7. Other Updates– Jonathan Yeo, DCR

- **Watershed Management Forestry.** It was noted that DCR is receiving good bids for its lots. The discussion then turned to practices/certification, with Trustee Heyes suggesting that the forestry program goal should be to comply with the STAC report, rather than pursue green certification, and that adherence to the STAC report recommendations should be overseen by an independent committee. After some continuing discussion about Green Certification, it was decided to discuss the topic at a future WSPT meeting (December, 2015), when all Trust members could be present. DCR also presented a video, shot from the air, showing re-growth in areas previously forested.
- **Deer Hunt.** Dan Clark presented a PowerPoint, *Quabbin Reservation White-Tailed Deer Management Program: Results from 2014 and Plans for 2015*. The presentation included data on participation in the deer hunt, the deer harvest, and regeneration in hunted areas, with Dan noting measures of success. In response to a question, DCR staff indicated that there are no deer hunts in Wachusett, that regeneration of forests is not an issue in this watershed, and if a problem with regeneration were to arise, then a deer hunt in the Wachusett would be reconsidered.
- **Single Track Bicycling in Ware River Watershed.** Staff indicated that single track biking is still an issue, that staff are working hard to limit damage, and have issued tickets when perpetrators have been able to be apprehended.

The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.