



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

March 3, 2016

DCR Office of Watershed Management
West Boylston, 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

Dan Clark, Director Natural Resources

Joel Zimmerman, Regional Planner

Bill Moulton, Regional Engineer, Wachusett

WSCAC

Lexi Dewey, Executive Director

EEA

Vandana Rao

The meeting convened at 10:10 a.m.

1. Approval of Minutes – December 2, 2015 meeting

A motion to approve the December 2, 2015 minutes was made and seconded. Trustee Meehan clarified his comments at the December 2, 2015 meeting regarding fees and boat rentals, but indicated that the minutes did not need to be revised. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. FY16 Spending Update – Jonathan Yeo and Marcelle Payen

The following items were distributed (and are appended to the minutes): *DCR – Office of Watershed Management Quarterly Expenditure Analysis December 2015, Water Supply Protection Revenue BFY2016, Period 1-7 (January 2016)*, and FY2016 Line Item # 2830-0100 (showing spending through 12/19/2015 showing spending, Budget 6 month projection, and total FY2016 budget).

DCR staff noted that personnel (and related fringe costs) is the largest spending component, and variances between actual vs. budget projections are in part due to the fact that the Department is not fully staffed due to terminations and retirements.

3. FY 16 Budget Amendment

The following items were distributed (and are appended to the minutes) : *Memorandum to the Water Supply Protection Trust from Jonathan Yeo and Marcelle Payen Re: 2016 Budget Amendment Request #1*, and a *Table of Budget Categories*, indicating variances/transfers requiring approval by the Board of Trustees.

Jonathan described the budget amendment request, which includes a transfer of \$225,000 from the Personnel category due to under-spending, to Operational Services categories (\$150,000) and to IT expenses (\$75,000). The transfer to accounts JJ, LL, and NN in the Operational Services Categories would fund a lease-to-own deal for vehicles, and would also support accelerated spending on the Direct Discharge Elimination program. Re: the latter, Jonathan emphasized that additional funds were requested to accelerate design of two sub-projects so that packages are ready to go this summer: DCR emphasized that DOT is picking up several million dollars in construction costs. The transfer of \$75,000 to the IT account would fund the ongoing replacement of radios (office, vehicle, and hand-held) with digital units that comply with upcoming system requirements: radios will be replaced over two fiscal years and by next summer, all radios should be new.

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

To approve DCR Water Supply Protection’s request to transfer \$225,000 from the Personnel Category (AA_DD) to the following budget categories, \$150,000 to the Operational Services (JJ, LL, NN) and \$75,000 into IT Expenses (UU).

4. FY16 Work Plan Updates (not on agenda) – Jonathan Yeo

Regarding current activities, Jonathan noted the following:

- Bird management: the lack of snow and ice has required bird harassment activities through the winter.
- Brice-Lemon. The Brice-Lemon development received its MEPA Certificate, and has submitted documents related to a Watershed Protection Act Variance request to DCR. DCR has not deemed the submission complete at this time and has identified a number of requirements for a Variance to be issued.
- Public Access Rules. Infractions are a continuing concern. A serial tree-cutter was identified and a citation issued, which has been appealed. Criminal charges are being contemplated. DCR is contemplating social media campaign.
- Marlborough Filter Beds Settling Basin. DCR is doing clearing on the dam embankments. There has been sediment in the basin for many years, and follow-up water quality testing is being done. DCR is working with City of Marlborough on trash cleanup and possible site management options.

5. Draft Work Plan and Budget for FY17 – Jonathan Yeo

A PowerPoint presentation appended to the minutes lists highlights of the FY17 Work Plan, some of which were touched upon by Jonathan in his presentation.

Separate handouts, *Draft FY17 Budget (Baseline and 5 Year Capital Program Projects)* and *FY17 Watershed Vehicle/Boat/Equipment Purchase List*, were distributed and are appended to the minutes. Regarding the proposed FY17 budget, there are two parts to the budget in FY17: one part includes the Baseline budget which is similar to past years' budgets, and a second part consists of the FY17 Capital Budget as part of a Five-Year Capital Program. The program is a first for the Trust, following up on discussions between DCR and MWRA about the backlog of larger building renovation or replacement project needs at Quabbin and Wachusett Reservoirs, as well as larger equipment needs.

The proposed FY 17 budget evoked discussion. Trustee Laskey stated that he was concerned that the baseline budget (\$16,182,356) was almost 8% higher than the FY2016 Final Budget, and when you couple this with the proposed spending on Capital Program projects, the total proposed spending represents a 20% increase over last year. He indicated that the annual increase should be more in line with what is proposed for the MWRA budget, 3.97%, and requested that DCR take another look at the list of capital spending projects. The FY17 Watershed Vehicle/Boat/Equipment list was also discussed, including the magnitude of the vehicle/boat/equipment costs (\$990,000) and the purchase and lease to purchase approach for acquiring vehicles.

Mr. Favaloro echoed Mr. Laskey concerns regarding the proposed FY17 budget, and stated that there is a spending cap in place and a philosophy of "4 no more" (MWRA annual rate revenue requirement increase should be less than 4%). He stressed that watershed spending cannot

happen at the expense of everything else, including other MWRA priorities like water redundancy.

Projected revenues were also discussed, with fishing and hydropower revenues projected to be similar to prior years, whereas forestry revenues are projected to increase. Re: forestry, it was discussed that access to the forestry lots can be problematic and that roads must be improved. The Trustees requested that DCR conduct an analysis of what the extent of the access problem is, corrective measures, and cost. Roadways providing public access were also discussed, with DCR staff noting budget requirements to improve roads, and indicating that whereas DCR labor could perform some road improvement tasks, gravel must still be purchased.

6. Timber Rattlesnake Project at Mt. Zion – Bill Pula and Dan Clark

DCR staff described Mt. Zion, the proposed location for the Timber Rattlesnake project, noting that Mt. Zion is a 6 mile long island occupying 13,000 acres, with its southern extent across from Shaft 12 and the baffle dam. The snakes are proposed to be located at the Island's northern extent. Mt. Zion is already off-limits to the public, and staff stated that relocation of the snakes would thus not change public access. The proposal calls for placing the snakes in 2017, and adding less than ten a year.

In terms of opinions regarding the program, it was noted that the legislative delegation hasn't taken a position yet, nor has the Quabbin Advisory Committee. The Trustees would like to understand the project better and suggested that Dr. French from the Division of Fisheries and Wildlife should be invited to a future Trust meeting and present scientific information. Trustee Heyes noted he held DFW in high regard.

Trustee Meehan also offered the following: 1) There has to be a guarantee that if snakes are put on Mt. Zion, there can be no further restrictions on public access; and 2) if there is litigation in the future regarding relocation of the snakes, DCR and MWRA must be held harmless.

7. Other Updates

The contract for construction of the CVA-Fish Hatchery project, a joint project of MWRA and DFW, was awarded and a Notice to Proceed issued.