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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*

Water Supply Protection Trust

December 1, 2016

MWRA John J. Carroll Treatment Plant, Marlborough

Trustees

Lou Taverna, MWRA Advisory Board

Frederick A. Laskey, Executive Director, MWRA

Vandana Rao, Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs

MWRA

Michael Hornbrook, Chief Operating Officer

Louse Miller, Budget Manager

Chris Lam, Assistant Finance Manager

Dave Coppes, Waterworks Director

John Gregoire, Reservoir Program Manager

Pam Heidell, Policy and Planning Manager

Sean Navin, Director Intergovernmental Affairs

DCR

Jonathan Yeo, Director, Division of Water Supply Protection

John Scannell, Director, Wachusett-Sudbury

Priscilla Geigis, Deputy Director

Joel Zimmerman, Regional Planner

Scott Murphy, Assistant Regional Director, Wachusett-Sudbury

Lisa Gustavson, Assistant Regional Director, Quabbin-Ware

Trish McNally, Budget Director

MWRA Advisory Board

Joseph Favaloro, Executive Director

WSCAC

Lexi Dewey, Executive Director

The meeting convened at 10:15. At the onset, Jonathan introduced Priscilla Geigis, DCR Deputy Commissioner. She noted that an Agency priority was to balance conservation with recreation and a commitment to shine the spotlight on conservation.

1. Approval of Minutes – September 29, 2016 meeting

A motion to approve the September 29, 2016 minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. Financial and Progress Reports – Jonathan Yeo and Trish McNally

The following items were distributed (and are appended to the minutes): *Water Supply Protection Revenue BFY2017, Period 1-4 (October 2016)* and “budget_fiscal_year 2017” (showing spending through November 2016).

DCR staff noted that there was much forestry and hydropower revenue in October and November and that fiscal year spending to date was tracking close to the budget.

The Financial Report was accepted and placed on file.

3. Miscellaneous Updates – Jonathan Yeo (the order of this agenda item and FY18 Work Plan were switched). The update presentation was accompanied by a series of PowerPoint slides.

- Bill Pula, long-time Quabbin-Ware Regional Director, was retiring at the end of December and was not in attendance at today’s Trust meeting given the day was also the first day of the Quabbin Deer Hunt.
- Wachusett Reservoir Direct Discharge Elimination program. Drainage improvements at the Route 12/Causeway Reservoir crossing have been completed and discharges into the reservoir at the causeway have now been eliminated. An Interpretive kiosk for the project has also been constructed. Approximately 5 million dollars has been spent by MADOT on the Wachusett Direct Discharge elimination program, and an additional phase has recently been put out to bid.
- Wachusett Reservoir Gull harassment. DCR is conducting a Pilot Project that extends the harassment zone beyond the historical area (the upper part of the reservoir) that includes the whole reservoir (five zones vs. two zones), and that includes traditional roosting areas in the southern and western part of the reservoir. The program includes 1 boat and 2 crew per zone and multiple shoreline observers/harassers. For fall 2016 when the Pilot Program began, the number of roosting gulls declined significantly.
- Clinton Crew Headquarters. An emergency abandonment of the facility occurred due to rodent infestation and major damage to walls. Crew are being temporarily housed in a Carpenter shop corner.
- Public Access Plan. The Quabbin Public Access Plan is being updated, but no changes proposed other than to restrict drones. There will be an opportunity for MWRA and WSCAC review. When the Quabbin is completed, attention will turn to the Ware River public access plan: completion of Plan anticipated in 2019.

The update on public access, particularly the Ware Watershed invoked discussion. Joe Favaloro indicated that regarding public access, the MWRA Advisory Board's message to DCR was that MWRA pays 25 million dollars a year to DCR for the water supply protection program and makes pilot payments to watershed communities for lands held for water supply protection: these investments are made to avoid spending hundreds of million dollars on filtration treatment. If mountain biking is allowed in the Ware Watershed, that would be the foot in the door and further erosion of watershed protection restrictions would ensue, endangering MWRA's waiver from filtration. Mr. Favaloro emphasized that DCR's message cannot be it is OK to open up more watershed lands for mountain biking.

- Forestry. In response to questions from Trustee Laskey, DCR indicated that for some forestry lots put out to bid, there are multiple bidders, and other times there are no bidders. That has been the pattern both historically and currently. In some instances, when there are no bidders, DCR may reduce the size of the lots or the price and rebid the lots.
- Drought. A series of pictures were presented showing areas of the reservoir that were historically covered with water that are now exposed with sandbars and land bridges now present. This brings new public access challenges.

4. Preview of Draft Work Plan FY18 – Jonathan Yeo

Jonathan indicated that a draft Plan had been shared with MWRA and will be discussed further with MWRA, with the intent to provide a draft plan to the Trustees in February. A PowerPoint slide on the Work Plan is included in the PowerPoint appended to the minutes.

5. End of Season Fishing Report – Jonathan Yeo

The boat launch areas were indicated on a Figure "Quabbin Boat Launch Area Facilities" as were restricted areas. A series of PowerPoint slides presented data on total visits and revenues and 2016 data compared to prior years. Revenue was less in 2016 and is attributed in part to the drought which limited accessibility as waters became shallower.

6. Other Updates

MWRA reported continuing progress on both the CVA Fish Hatchery project and security upgrades at Quabbin. On the former, the pipeline to the hatchery will start up by the end of December.

It was also reported that Joe Favaloro prepared an editorial on mountain biking in the Ware River watershed.

The meeting adjourned at 11:20.