



*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*

Water Supply Protection Trust

March 23, 2017

MWRA Southborough Facility

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
Tom Durkin, CFO
Kathy Soni, Budget Director
Louse Miller, Budget Manager
Chris Lam, Assistant Finance Manager
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
Joel Zimmerman, Regional Planner
Lisa Gustavson, Assistant Regional Director, Quabbin
Bill Moulton, Regional Engineer, Wachusett
Kerry Princiotta, Ranger Captain, Quabbin/Ware

MWRA Advisory Board

Joseph Favaloro, Executive Director

WSCAC

Lexi Dewey, Executive Director
Whitney Beals, Chairman

The meeting convened at 10:14 am.

1. Approval of Minutes – December 1, 2016 meeting

A motion to approve the December 1, 2016 minutes was made and seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

2. FY17 Spending Update and Budget Amendment – Jonathan Yeo

The following items were distributed (and are appended to the minutes): *DCR – Office of Watershed Management, FY17 Budget Approved May 2016, Amended 2017; FY2017 Budget Amendment Request #1, March 13, 2017 Memo; and Water Supply Protection Revenue BFY2017, Period 1-4 (October 2016)*. A PowerPoint Presentation accompanied the discussion (and is appended to the minutes to provide detail).

Jonathan noted the following:

- DWSP is on track to spend 98-99% of the budget.
- Revenue is tracking slightly lower due to less hydropower revenues (less water is being moved from Quabbin to Wachusett, thereby reducing Oakdale generation). Forestry revenues, though, are above target.
- A budget amendment is proposed to move money from the Personnel accounts (where there is under-spending due to retirements, terminations, resignations) into Operational Services Categories to cover unexpected costs associated with the Wachusett Reservoir Direct Drainage Discharge Elimination System Project (due to MassDOT's acceleration of construction, a good thing).

In response to a question from Trustee Taverna, Jonathan clarified that the additional monies required for the Direct Discharge Elimination Project budget are not due to a design change increasing the budget, but more so due to the accelerated schedule.

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

To approve the proposed Budget Amendment Request #1 to transfer money for the Personnel category to the Operational Services Category.

3. Draft Work Plan and Budget for FY18, Jonathan Yeo

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

A series of slides in the PowerPoint presentation (appended to the minutes) noted plan highlights. Jonathan briefly described a number of the projects on the list for the Quabbin-Ware River Region, including to but not limited to the following:

- Quabbin Public Access Plan and beginning of the Ware River Plan update. DCR is accelerating the Ware River public access plan, which is not due for an update until two years from now. Regarding the Ware watershed, it was also noted that there is illegal mountain bike activity and DCR has an enforcement plan update due to DEP: the plan shall be a joint MWRA/DCR submittal (a copy of which will be provided to the Trust).
- MWRA and DCR are working jointly on the Quabbin Headquarters building rehabilitation, which could cost \$20-30 million and which requires capital funds by MWRA to accomplish versus DCR DWSP expenditures as part of its current expense budget.
- Shaft 12 project. DCR will assist MWRA. This project includes the addition of a gate at the intake to regulate the flow of water to Quabbin Aqueduct.
- Brice Lemon Project oversight. DCR is monitoring this project closely. The development is now under construction, but reflects changes made as a result of DCR's comments and involvement.
- Intake water quality protection. There will be continued efforts to enhance agency understanding of turbidity and bacteria issues.
- Passenger and Vehicle Replacement – normal replacement activities are proposed, including replacement of a 1997 Tractor that is used for many services and that has extensive mechanical issues.
- Quabbin Reservoir Boat Launch Area – Bridge Repair

The following highlights of the Workplan for Wachusett- Sudbury were noted:

- Completion of Phase II of the Direct Discharge Elimination Project construction at Beaman Street and South Bay.
- Construction of new crew headquarters in Clinton, with DCR crews doing the construction work.
- Continued implementation of a full reservoir gull harassment program, following the success of the Pilot Program.
- Framingham Reservoir land transfer. Whereas the intent was previously to transfer the land to Framingham University that did not occur, but there is renewed interest to transfer the land to MassParks.

In terms of the FY18 budget, Jonathan noted that a \$16.6 million operating budget is proposed, which represents a 3.6% increase. Much of the increase is due to personnel and more specifically a collective bargaining agreement as well as an increase in the fringe rate. Slightly higher (3%) energy costs are also assumed, although the budget still reflects fairly low gas and fuel prices. Budget includes funding of UMASS water quality modeling. Additional expenses are for equipment for the maintenance garage and IT needs.

Questions and answers ensued:

- Regarding boats, in response to a question if expenditures being made to replenish the fleet, it was reported that some motors were previously replaced, and now DCR is working on the boats, including the purchase of three boats this year, and the development of a strategic boat replacement plan. In discussion of the boats, it was also noted that some people renting the boats abuse them; in response, DCR is looking at sanctions for those who abuse the boats. DCR will also have new forms that will require a signed statement that the renters are responsible for loss or damages and can have privileges revoked if proper care is not taken. Jonathan noted that this has previously been discussed with QWAC.
- Ware River Public Access Plan. While the DCR Commissioner is designated by statute to be the approval authority for any update to a Public Access Plan, Trustees noted that the administration of the Plan has budgetary implications, e.g., if public access is expanded it has costs, and therefore it is within the purview of the Trust. Trustees also questioned why the Plan is being updated now, even though typically the Public Access Plans are updated every ten years and the Plan update is not due for another two years. Trustee Heyes expressed concern that the Update is being done to respond to political pressure. Advisory Board Executive Director Favaloro noted that the extent of public access now allowed is more than what other unfiltered water suppliers permit (82% of the watershed is open to the public, and the percentage is larger if you exclude Prescott Peninsula which is not accessible). He noted that if mountain bikers prevail and more of the watershed is opened up to mountain biking, water quality will decline and may result in the need for MWRA to construct filtration, which could cost at least \$400-500 million. He stated it would be a shame if mountain bikers prevailed on opening up more lands to mountain biking.
- Re: gull harassment, Trustee Meehan questioned if there are harassment techniques/programs that are less labor intensive. DCR staff indicated that while they have looked at various technologies, and have done a lot of work to remove food sources throughout the watershed, the program by its nature is labor intensive.

4. Other Updates – Jonathan Yeo

Train derailment: A derailment occurred on January 29, in an area of track that needed a lot of work. The derailed train was carrying contaminated soil.

Personnel Updates: John Scannell is acting Quabbin Regional Director until the position is filled. DWSP is in the final stages of picking a new Quabbin Regional Director. DWSP is also in the process of filling the GIS Director position. For rangers, there are 7 Rangers at Quabbin, 9 at Wachusett, and 3-4 seasonal positions. Staff plan to convert some seasonal to full time.

Snakes: A meeting in Ware the night before that was held to discuss snakes at Mt. Zion was well attended, with approximately half those in attendance in support of snakes at Mount Zion, with the other half seemingly against it. In April, a final report and recommendation to the Snake Working Group is planned.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.