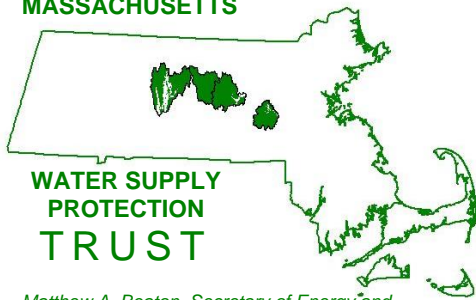


MASSACHUSETTS



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

Louis Taverna, Chairman, MWRA Advisory Board

Fred Heyes, Swift River Valley Historical Society

Water Supply Protection Trust

May 31, 2018

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

Kathy Soni, Budget Director

Chris Lam, Assistant Finance Manager

John Gregoire, Reservoir Program Manager

Bethany Card, Director of Environmental and Regulatory Affairs

Sean Navin, Director Intergovernmental Affairs

Mike Altieri, Associate General Counsel

Katie Ronan, Public Affairs

Louise Miller Budget Manager

DCR

John Scannell, Director, Division of Water Supply Protection

Ken MacKenzie, Acting Director, Natural Resources Section

Dan Clark, Director, Quabbin/Ware Region

Dan Crocker, Environmental Analyst, EQ Section, Wachusett/Sudbury Region

Scott Campbell, Regional Engineer

Joel Zimmerman, Regional Planner

Erica Tefft, Watershed GIS Coordinator

Trish McNally, Budget Manager

MWRA Advisory Board

Joseph Favaloro, Executive Director

WSCAC

Lexi Dewey, Executive Director

Swift River Historical Society

Jane Pierce

The meeting convened at 10:15am. It was noted that there was a slight shift in the agenda and that Erica Tefft would present first.

1. DWSP GIS Presentation - Erica Tefft, GIS Coordinator

The goal of developing and expanding GIS at the DWSP has been to maximize efficiency and utilize new technology to visualize data more easily. ArcGIS Online is a cloud based platform that allows collaboration and easy sharing of data with the public. Erica explained the many differences between ArcGIS Online and Desktop GIS software and noted that the online platform is more user friendly and easier for less experienced users. She also explained that the cloud based platform is more accessible than Desktop GIS which encourages collaboration and enables use in the field. Erica demonstrated a variety of ArcGIS Online projects that DWSP has been developing.

- ArcGIS Story Maps – Allow users to create a narrative and tell a story using maps, pictures, other documents, etc. DWSP has been working to replace static watershed maps on their website with interactive story maps that allow users to scroll through and learn about the watersheds and what protecting them means. Erica explained that DWSP is also using story maps for Watershed Protection Achievement Reports and that Foresters at Quabbin are using them for harvesting proposals. She also pointed out that although story maps are useful for telling stories and creating narratives, they do not provide the data ability of traditional Desktop GIS.
- Customizable Applications
 - New Watershed Protection Act Viewer – Joel Zimmerman noted that in the past, the Watershed Protection Act Viewer has been managed by MassGIS, whereas the new Watershed Protection Act Viewer is managed directly by DWSP staff. This mapping application allows users to search for properties by address and has a map legend that users can use to control the visibility of various data layers by turning them on/off and adjusting transparency and buffers. Users can also search for and add a variety of MassGIS data, such as vernal pool data. In addition to this public-facing version, there is an internal version of the application which was specifically developed to allow DWSP staff to easily create maps with legends of areas they are interested in. This is beneficial because it frees up regional GIS staff time for more complex and involved projects.
 - Trustee Laskey asked about the unusual boundary of a certain parcel shown in West Boylston and John Scannell remarked that the town likely owned the parcel.
 - Trustee Heyes asked about the background Imagery in the application and if Google Earth Imagery could be used. Erica explained that the background imagery is limited to what ESRI provides, including MassGIS imagery which is typically the best available.
 - Trustee Rao asked about the geographic boundary of the application. Erica explained that the watershed data exists within the geographic boundaries of the watershed while the base map is visible anywhere.
 - Quabbin Deer Harvest Application – Ken MacKenzie, Acting Director of Natural Resources developed this application to visualize where deer were harvested in the DWSP watersheds. Each point within the Application represents a specific location where a deer was harvested and contains a variety of information about the deer including the year of harvest, age, weight, points and in some cases photos. Erica also demonstrated how the data can be filtered to identify deer harvested by year and other characteristics.
 - Trustee Laskey asked the time frame of deer harvested and Ken explained that the application contains all available digitized deer harvest information.
- ArcGIS Field Applications - Erica explained that one of the benefits of ArcGIS online is that it supports a host of field applications that can be used to collect data and attributes directly in the field including Mobile Field Data Collection and Survey 123.

- Trustee Meehan asked if this can be used for boundary walking, to take pictures of encroachments, and John Scannell agreed this would be a good use of the application.
- Equipment Inventory – Erica reviewed new equipment that has been recently purchased including 20 iPads, 20 Bad Elf Pro+ GPSs, and 2 Arrow 100 GNSS Receivers which are very accurate.
- Spring and Summer GIS Projects – Erica gave a brief overview of a host of GIS projects being undertaken by various departments including Natural Resources, Wachusett & Quabbin Rangers to export Incident Reports, Forestry to find points and navigate, Wachusett Engineering for Dam assessment and Environmental Quality for environmental quality assessments. Erica also mentioned that these Applications are receiving positive feedback, appear to be increasing efficiency and that staff like them.
- Erica also demonstrated a variety of specific ways that DWSP staff can use ArcGIS Online in the field including Encroachment Monitoring and Boundary Walking.
 - Trustee Laskey mentioned that a few years ago there had been discussion about using satellite imagery to identify encroachment. John Scannell replied that this method provides better accuracy.
 - Joe Favaloro asked about transparency and user-friendliness, questioning the potential good and bad implications of making this information easier and more accessible. He pointed out that this is a lot of information, which has many advantages but perhaps not from a security standpoint.
 - Erica mentioned that all field collector Applications are password protected and that all the data in the Story Maps is already publicly available on MassGIS or Oliver. Joe Favaloro asked if Emergency Preparedness and Security staff had been involved.
 - Trustee Laskey mentioned that the Hultman Aqueduct is on Google Maps. He also acknowledged that Mr. Favaloro made a good point and that data sensitivity is something to be cognizant of.
 - The Trustees congratulated Erica on the good work.
 - Beth Card asked if there would be a direct link from DCR's website or Mass.gov to the new WSPT ArcGIS Online Applications. Erica answered that the DWSP website links directly to the WsPA Viewer and Deer Hunt Application and that when the Watershed Story Maps are finished there will be links on Mass.gov.

2. Approval of the Minutes - A motion to approve the minutes of the March 29, 2018 meeting was made and seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. DWSP Spending Update – John Scannell, DCR

John Scannell gave a spending update on FY2018 Expenditures and explained that spending in some of the line items is a little misleading as bills often come at the end of the year.

- UU is phone systems and is only 23% expended, however charge backs come at different times. Despite this they expect this line to be underspent by \$6500 or more.
- Personnel is slightly under spent.
- John noted that a new challenge is a location for the New Salem Facility and meeting immediate needs as well as planning for the future.
 - Clean up and removal of hazardous materials
 - Supplies –\$100,000 of lost supplies, some are important
 - Storage space
 - Vehicle Equipment
 - Office trailer rental – DWSP labor staff want to continue to report to New Salem.

4. Update on Fire – John Scannell, DCR

John Scannell transitioned from the general spending update to give an update specifically on the fire at the New Salem Facility. He reported that in addition to various equipment and supplies, five vehicles were lost and that DWSP has received quotes to replace these vehicles. He also noted that a contract is in place to complete clean-up of the site and that the decommissioned gas tanks must be put back on-line within five years or be removed.

- Mr. Scannell noted that it is within the FY19 Budget to replace the office space and that DWSP is proposing temporary trailer replacement, specifically modular units for which the Commonwealth has a provision.
- Joe Favaloro asked if the funding was coming out of the State's insurance or reserve and John replied that the Commonwealth is not insured.
- Trustee Laskey asked if there had been an assessment as to whether it would be better to relocate elsewhere. John answered that DWSP believes it makes sense for the Heavy Equipment Crew to remain at the New Salem location but that the two foresters could potentially relocate elsewhere.
- Joe Favaloro stated that moving forward, the Advisory Board and Communities do not want ratepayer dollars to be used to pay for rebuilding DWSP facilities until they are insured. He explained that the community position is that there will not be investment in DCR facilities until there is a plan moving forward. Trustee Laskey said that they are working on a plan and mentioned that the Quabbin Building repair was in CIP Budget. He also noted that The WSPT fully understands the Advisory Board's position and is trying to find a way to resolve the issue.

John Scannell noted that the goal had been to do the reconstruction of the Clinton Headquarters in-house, however, the addition of one subcontractor resulted in the need for it to go out to bid. He explained that because certain information had not been provided in the bid, it did not move forward. He explained that DWSP had been having conversations about using unused funding from this project to meet the immediate needs following the New Salem fire. Specifically, John explained that DWSP is proposing to reallocate \$331,000 from *Line NN* previously designated for the Clinton Headquarters project to meeting the immediate needs at the New Salem facility.

- Trustee Laskey asked if \$750,000 was the total amount and if the rest would be going back to the ratepayers. Kathy Soni noted that the entire \$331,000 would not be spent; John explained that DWSP had worked to find replacement vehicles for this year. He also explained that vehicles were identified from staff need and that trucks will have plows.
- Trustee Taverna asked if this will be off the state contract and John replied that it would be.
- Trustee Laskey asked about the state fuel standards and John noted that DWSP has a wavier from this requirement for heavy equipment.
- Trustee Rao asked if any other subsidiaries would go over-budget and John replied that they would not go over by more than the allowable amount. He also noted that the Well and Septic Systems at the New Salem Facility are still functional. Trustee Laskey asked if DWSP was doing cost comparison for building replacement options. John confirmed that they were and that they are considering a module unit because it is a cheaper option.

A motion was made to transfer \$187,000 from *Line NN* to *Line KK* for purchase of replacement vehicles and it was approved.

5. FY19 Work Plan and Budget – John Scannell

DWSP staff are currently writing the Watershed Protection Plan and it is expected it to go to DEP in the next week or so.

- Division wide highlights of the Watershed Protection Plan include the following.
 - Land Protection – Need to evaluate the Land Acquisition Program and be more selective
 - Gull Harassment
 - Land Management Plan
 - Terrestrial species – Developing a new plan
 - Emergency response – Investigating fire foam
 - Public Access Plans
 - Changes to the Quabbin Plan to enhance protection were not accepted by the Advisory Committee. DWSP is going back to the plan approved from Fall 2018. There is a proposal that Geocaching only be allowed off reservation.
 - Ware River Public Access Plan Update – It was noted that public access in the Ware River needs to be reevaluated to best protect watershed resources.

Trustee Meehan mentioned that the GIS Applications presented earlier in the meeting were impressive. He suggested that they could be used to address boundary issues and suggested that it would be helpful if towns could interface with the data. He asked for an email with links to the mapping tools that were presented.

- Wachusett/Sudbury Region WsPP Highlights
 - Trustee Laskey asked about the large collection ponds and if DOT came close to flooding them in the early spring rain storms. John noted that the ponds did not overflow, although the detention basins filled as designed.
 - Joe Favaloro asked what role DWSP plays with communities and MS4 permits. John answered that DWSP's role is mostly educational and that they work with DPWs, help communities, share information, and conduct training on spill response. John also mentioned that DWSP does not pay for anything and only provides technical assistance.
- Quabbin/Ware Region WsPP Highlights
 - John noted that DWSP is working on the Quabbin Park Maintenance Plan. Trustee Laskey asked if Quabbin Park is affected by deer and John confirmed that it was.
 - Trustee Laskey asked about gravel and John mentioned that DWSP maintains pits and that they have a legislative obligation to provide gravel resources to the towns of Petersham and New Salem. He noted that there are over 300 miles of gravel roads that DWSP maintain and therefore they use a lot of the gravel that is available. Trustee Taverna asked if the taking of gravel is controlled and if there is a policy in place. John answered that there is a policy and that the towns must come to DWSP with a proposal. John also mentioned that DWSP is trying to work with loggers to try to make sure roads are already graveled.
- Trustee Meehan asked for an update on Quabbin and Ware Aquatic Invasive Species at the next meeting, John answered that DWSP could do a presentation.
- Trustee Taverna asked about trail access in the Ware Watershed and if it was still being discussed. John noted that DWSP is working on it and that it is an ongoing process that will likely take time. Joel Zimmerman mentioned that Sarah Cohen, a trained mediator, successfully facilitated a recent stakeholder meeting with over 100 people in attendance. He noted that Cohen helped walk through some of the issues.
- Joe Favaloro asked about mountain biking and if there had been an increase in compliance. John answered that DWSP had seen more compliance and mentioned that part of the solution might be providing more non-watershed mountain biking alternatives.

Motion to approve the FY19 work plan was made and approved.

6. FY19 Budget – John Scannell, DCR

John noted difficulties with the Clinton Crew Headquarters project and the loss of the New Salem Facility. He explained that there would be a \$500,000 increase in the budget from the February proposal to address the Clinton Crew Headquarters project and New Salem Facility replacement. Together the projects are expected to cost about \$1.6 million. John explained that cuts were made within the budget to make up the difference. These cuts include repairs to the boat launch, paving of Boat Launch Area 2, and bridge repairs.

- Trustee Meehan asked if there were any safety implications to these cuts and John confirmed that the bridge is structurally sound.
- Trustee Taverna asked if the total value of the cuts were \$1.6 million. John Scannell replied that it is not, that the funds were rearranged, and that the \$500,000 is a place holder for the New Salem Facility.
- Trustee Taverna asked how much money the Clinton Crew Headquarters project will cost and John noted that DWSP is working with Kathy and Chris to determine that.
- Joe Favalaro expressed a hope that approval of the budget would be subject to the resolution of an insurance provision.

A motion to approve the FY19 Budget was made. The motion was approved subject to ongoing DCR and MWRA review of, and subsequent update on, options to address FY19 spending in the event of future loss (e.g., insurance, insurance reserve, etc.).

7. Miscellaneous Updates

- Trustee Laskey asked if DWSP puts out a reminder on Twitter that swimming is not allowed in the reservoirs.
- Wachusett Hunting, John Scannell – A Public Meeting is planned for June 13th where a description of the Fall Wachusett Hunting Proposal will be presented.
 - Trustee Meehan asked who is responsible for marking safe zones for the hunt and John noted that DWSP will not mark the boundaries but will have information available that hunters need to follow. He also noted that all regular hunting laws will apply.
 - Ken MacKenzie noted there will be public maps with buffers electronically available on devices. Trustee Meehan suggested that there should be strong language regarding not wounding deer.
 - Ken also noted that the Quabbin Deer Hunt will be restricted to Hardwick and Petersham only, while the other three areas will be rested according to the results of the pellet survey. He noted that the hunt does not need to be run the same way every year and John agreed that the hunt is a land management activity.
- Forestry at Quabbin, Dan Clark – Foresters have been trying to assess the potential impact of Gypsy Moths and are observing areas of Oak Mortality at Quabbin. Although they are still doing an assessment, Dan noted that DWSP plans to adjust their salvaging efforts in the upcoming fiscal year to focus on area of dead Oak trees instead of Red Pine. He explained that salvaged Oak could be sold and would help to accomplish regeneration goals.
 - Trustee Taverna asked if the salvaging efforts could be perceived as clear cutting and Dan Clark answered that the Oaks to be harvested are large standing dead trees, so he did not think so.

- Framingham Reservoir, John Scannell - DWSP is working to turn over ownership of the Framingham Reservoir to the Parks Division as it is no longer used as a water supply. John noted that he hoped that in the fall The Commissioner would sign the letter and make it available to the public.
- Trustee Meehan asked if there has been, or will be, a public review of the Oak salvaging project. It was noted that DWSP would be making a presentation to the QWAC and that the process would be very public.

Meeting was adjourned at 12:02pm.