



**WATER SUPPLY CITIZENS  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
to the Mass. Water Resources Authority

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Meeting Summary-Joint MWRA Advisory Board, WSCAC & WAC  
September 18, 2014  
Boston Water and Sewer Commission

Executive Director Fred Laskey-MWRA Priorities & Challenges-FY15

1. Deer Island piping and valve replacement project-This is a \$17 million dollar project that requires a lot of preparation and coordination. There will have to be many shutdowns done at night. Eleven locations will be monitored. Weather conditions will play a major role affecting shutdowns and work locations.
2. City Tunnel Redundancy & Shaft 7-The infrastructure is sixty years old. A failure at Shaft 7 would affect most of the MWRA service area. One option being considered is a new tunnel. Construction is ten years out.
3. Water System Expansion-The MWRA is in discussions with the following towns for possible admission to the water system:  
Ashland-has come to the MWRA twice for emergency water  
North Reading-in the MEPA process  
Southfield  
Tri-Town (Braintree, Randolph and Holbrook) The state has pledged \$25 million for a new water treatment plant.  
Dedham Westwood Water District-considering an increase in the amount of the water the district buys. The approximate total if all were to come into the system would be 9.5mgd.
4. MWRA Staffing-The Authority currently has 1150 employees and has met the target set by the staffing study. Retirements continue to increase thus the need to continue working toward a steady state.
5. Other challenges:
  - Rate projections-the defeasance strategy continues to work well but the lack of or/too little debt service assistance remains an ongoing issue.
  - Near completion of the UV at the Ware disinfection facility/CVA
  - Ongoing construction of the Spot Pond storage tank and redundant pump station
  - Northern Intermediate High route
  - Southern Extra High-currently in design process
  - HEEC Cable-(Background information) In September 2008, MWRA staff informed Board members of a proposal by NStar whereby NStar and MWRA would participate in providing excess electric generating capacity over the cross harbor cable, a facility owned by NStar affiliate Harbor

Electric Energy Corporation (HEEC), to the grid from the Deer Island facility through the Forward Capacity Market (FCM).

There was a discussion among Board members and staff regarding the best offer presented by NSTAR. Negotiations came to a standstill because NSTAR's offer provided the MWRA with little benefit and shifted the costs of NSTAR's cable repositioning obligation to MWRA. The risk and danger of agreeing to the NSTAR proposal is that NSTAR and MWRA would become joint venturers with respect to the use of the cable which would make it appear that MWRA was responsible for some of the repositioning costs.

#### Executive Director Joe Favaloro-MWRA Advisory Board Priorities & Challenges

1. Managing future rates through the defeasance strategy
2. NPDES co-permittees-EPA should not position MWRA as the enforcer of NPDES permit conditions with its ratepaying communities.
3. Molybdenum-finding a solution to reducing molybdenum levels in NEFCO fertilizer during the summer months so that the fertilizer can be sold in Massachusetts.
4. Cross Harbor cable-ratepayers are not responsible for the costs associated with cable repositioning. (See additional HEEC information above)
5. Co-digestion-costs of implementing the changes/infrastructure needed to move forward with the co-digestion pilot project at Deer Island should come from state agency grants, not ratepayers.
6. Hatchery pipeline and hydro. project-the cost of the pipeline should be paid for by the Division of Fish & Game who are the financial beneficiaries through lower energy costs, not the ratepayers.
7. Water system expansion-extend the sunset provision, identify potential new communities and how this could affect rates.
8. Infrastructure bill-authorization and appropriation is needed at the legislative level. An increased level of debt service assistance is also needed.

#### Lexi Dewey-WSCAC topics for FY15

1. UV treatment at Carroll and Ware/CVA water treatment plants
2. Source water protection projects through DCR-Watershed Protection Act, watershed forestry, land acquisition, continuation of aquatic invasives identification and removal program, monitoring of insect damage and climate change in the watersheds.
3. MWRA water distribution system redundancy projects-Spot Pond storage tank and redundant pump station, the Northern Intermediate High and Southern Extra High design process.
4. New strategies in water conservation and sustainability at the industrial level.
5. Water quality-the study and treatment of different forms of algae in the reservoirs.
6. At the state level-following the rollout of the new WMA (SWMI) regulations, the proposed changes to the Interbasin Transfer Act, and the recently passed Water and Wastewater Infrastructure bill.
7. At the federal level-following the proposed PHMSA and FRA regulations on trains carrying hazardous materials such as crude oil and ethanol.

#### Andreae Downes-WAC topics for FY15

Since 1990, when the MWRA Board of Directors created it, the Wastewater Advisory Committee has served as a balanced forum and source of independent advice. WAC has 12 members, all volunteers, including academics, environmentalists, planners, industry representatives, engineers, municipal utility administrators.

Andreae noted that this year WAC will focus on questions around co-digestion and storm water. The October meeting will focus on the market for organic wastes. The February meeting will be on storm water planning and best practices.

Andreae mentioned that the public is welcome at all WAC meetings and tours.

Meeting adjourned