

Minutes
June 1, 2018

WAC met at the MAPC, 60 Temple Place, Boston

Attendees/Contributors:

WAC: Craig Allen (chair), Karen Lachmayr (vice chair), Stephen Greene, Philip Ashcroft, Mary Adelstein, Taber Keally, Adrianna Cillo, Dan Winograd (phone), Karen Golmer, Zhanna Davidovitz, George Atallah

Guests: Wendy Leo (MWRA), John DiModica (NorESCO)

Staff: Andreae Downs

FUTURE MEETING DATES/TOPICS

NEXT: Advisory Board Tour in the watershed Thursday, **August 16**. Includes new Wachusett Pump Station.

Joint WAC/WSCAC/Advisory Board meeting, **Thursday, Sept. 20**, 11:00 am – 1 pm Location: TBD

VOTES:

April 2018 minutes and May 2018 notes approved

Sign-on to Mass Rivers' state budget letter approved

Draft 2018 Annual Report approved

FY2019 Chair: Karen Lachmayr; Vice-Chair: Zhanna Davidovitz

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

See attached

ADVISORY BOARD UPDATE:

MWRA BUDGET REVIEW

On Wednesday, the Advisory Board presented its FY19 Comments & Recommendations to the MWRA Board of Directors. The statutory role of the Advisory Board is to submit these comments and recommendations to the Authority on its Current Expense Budget (CEB) and its Capital Improvement Program (CIP). The Advisory Board recommended a reduction of the proposed 3.91% CEB rate revenue increase down to 3.07% and a reduction of the FY19-23 capital spending cap from \$1.2 Billion to \$950 million. In response, Authority staff supported the AB rate revenue recommendation as well as a reduction of the capital spending cap to below \$1 billion. While the AB and MWRA staff were in agreement on the rate revenue increase of 3.07%, there were differences in how to reach the number. These differences including projections on variable rates in FY19, OPEB contributions, and reductions to personnel costs. The Advisory Board also proposed a challenge to Authority Staff, called "2.4 by '24", which would bring rate increases to no higher than 2.4% by FY24. The MWRA Board of Directors will review the presentations of the Advisory Board and the MWRA staff and vote on a final FY19 budget on June 20. The full Comments & Recommendations document for FY19 will be available online very soon.

MWRA UPDATE

Deer Island won a platinum award this year for 11 years without a permit violation. John Vetere is retiring, his position will be restructured into a Director of Wastewater reporting to the COO (see Ex. Director's Report for details).

Also retiring is Bob Gorham, superintendent of the Clinton wastewater treatment plant. He will be replaced by Larry Thomas, a long-time MWRA employee and operator at Clinton.

The Clinton Phosphorus Removal project has completed its functional testing. Tried different polymers to find one that works the best. Now in the compliance period to figure out the optimal rate to meet the summer limit on phosphorus.

DISCUSSION:

As part of the discussion on whether to sign on to the Mass Rivers Alliance letter, the fire at the DCR Watershed garage came up. Members were curious why the Advisory Board would advocate to "punish" DCR for not carrying insurance or having a reserve (several state-funded agencies cannot carry reserves because their funding would be reduced by the governor's office). Instead, why not a risk audit?

WAC reviewed the Annual Report—not a lot of changes outside of membership and leadership because of WAC's continued and sustained interest in many of the same subjects.

Highlights change each year based on meeting topics. Discussion of possible meeting topics—suggestions included looking at disaster and cyber security preparedness. A member suggested a better handle on the salt-water inflows and talking with municipal officials in Quincy, Weymouth or other coastal members of MWRA (Boston?) about possible tide gate issues.

Andreae moved to topic suggestions, and noted that the MWRA five-year draft plans were on the fall schedule with a joint meeting with WSCAC, possibly in November.

A member suggested that as part of the master plan presentation, WAC get an update on maintenance—which is part of the discussion around the CIP, since most of the projects are large replacement projects for the Deer Island plant. Also ask about corrosion protection, bacterial/organics controls. Question of whether MWRA looks at injection treatment in the pipes? Monitoring of H₂S?

Also, possible topics include the continuing CSO monitoring/modeling.

A member asked when the NEFCo contract expired. Wendy Leo suggested Ned Beecher of the New England Biosolids association as a presenter.

A member mentioned a biological startup that injects bacteria into sewer pipes to prevent H₂S build-up by pre-digesting some of the solids. (KG)

Tour ideas: tiny wastewater installations, Wayland, Everett Casino? Clinton phosphorus removal?