



Summary of:
MWRA Board of Directors' Meeting
November 4, 1998

[Return to Meeting Summary Page](#)

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority was held on November 4, 1998 at the Authority Headquarters in Charlestown. **Present:** Chair Trudy Coxe, Gubernatorial Representative; John Carroll, Andrew Pappastergion, Norman Jacques, Advisory Board Representatives; Andrea d'Amato, Vincent Mannering, Robert Spinney, City of Boston Representatives; Joseph MacRitchie, City of Quincy Representative; Lucile Hicks, Donald Mitchell, Gubernatorial Representatives. **Absent:** Marie Turner, Town of Winthrop Representative.

[Approvals](#)

[Contract Awards](#)

[Contract Amendments/Change Orders](#)

[Other Business](#)

AGENDA

Report of the Chair

No report.

Report of the Executive Director

Mr. MacDonald told the Board that following the water treatment vote at the last meeting, staff filed the request for a waiver of filtration with DEP. A tentative hearing date has been set for December 1. In addition, the Executive Director notified the Board that the hearing on claims relative to hard rock conditions in the Outfall Tunnel was taking place. Walter Armstrong, Director of the Program Management Division, has been keeping Mr. MacDonald updated on the progress of the hearing.

APPROVALS

Authorization to Issue Refunding Bonds

The Board adopted the twenty-third Supplemental Resolution authorizing the issuance of up to \$350 million of Massachusetts Water Resources Authority General Revenue Refunding Bonds, 1998 Series D and the supporting Issuance Resolution.

Staff explained that current interest rates make it possible, in conjunction with a floating to fixed interest rate swap, to refund certain outstanding MWRA debt and achieve significant debt service savings. At current Treasury interest rates (30-year bonds yield approximately 5.15%) and associated swap rates, the MWRA could realize debt service savings of approximately \$9-13 million. The refunding will take place the first week in December if interest and swap rates remain at current levels or improve.

Authorization to Issue Bonds for Capital Program

The Board voted to adopt the twenty-fourth Supplemental Resolution authorizing the issuance of up to \$195 million of Massachusetts Water Resources Authority General Revenue Bonds, 1998 Series E and the supporting Issuance Resolution.

The MWRA has approximately \$90 million of construction funds on hand, which it anticipates expending by the end of January 1999. This authorization to issue \$195 million in revenue bonds will support the ongoing capital program. Sixty percent (\$117 million) of the new funds will be used to finance wastewater capital projects and forty percent (\$78 million) will be used for water capital projects. This authorization permits the bonds to be issued either as fixed rate bonds or variable rate bonds. Mr. Favaloro noted that if the bonds are issued as fixed rate, this will be another issuance of 40 year debt.

MAPC/MetroWest Growth Management Committee, Technical Assistance Grant - Request for Time Extension

The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to extend the technical assistance grant to the Massachusetts Area Planning Council (MAPC) for its subsidiary organization, the MetroWest Growth Management Committee (MWGMC), for a period of two years, from June 30, 1998 to June 30, 2000, with no increase in funding.

In 1995, a technical grant was awarded in the amount of \$125,000 per year for three years to the MAPC and its subsidiary organization MWGMC to provide coordinated technical support to the six communities affected by the construction of the MetroWest Water Supply Tunnel, the Walnut Hill Water Treatment Plant, and other related MWRA Waterworks projects. The contract expired on June 30, 1998. Proposed revisions to the design or schedule of the construction of these projects have resulted in the need to extend the time of the contract.

November PCR Amendments - Fiscal Year 1999

The Board voted to approve amendments to the Position Control Register. The PCR amendments include position changes related to the reorganization of the Treatment and Transmission Section of Waterworks Operations; reclassifications in the Metering and Monitoring Section of Waterworks Operations; and reclassifications in several Divisions that reflect assessments of changing workload and priorities.

Appointment of Program Manager, Monitoring & Control, Operations Department, Waterworks

The Board approved the appointment of Richard Udden as Program Manager, Monitoring and Control, in the Operations Department of the Waterworks Division at an annual salary of \$68,980, to be effective on the date designated by the Executive Director.

The Program Manager is responsible for planning and implementing the Waterworks Central Monitoring Program. Mr. Udden has twenty-five years in the industry, with a mix of experience that balances management and controls engineering. He holds a Bachelor Degree in Industrial Technology and a Grade 6C Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator's License.

Appointment of Contract Employee, Waterworks

The Board voted to approve the contract for personnel services for Lorraine Downey as Advisor, Watershed Management, Waterworks Division, for a period of four months from November 2, 1998 to March 2, 1999, at an hourly rate of \$38, for total compensation not to exceed \$25,500.

Staff explained that based on the recent Board vote to pursue non-filtration options to ensure water quality, this contract position was created to oversee all watershed management and basin-wide actions for the MWRA. According to staff, Ms. Downey will utilize her experience in related areas, as well as her familiarity with the MWRA as a former Board member, to strengthen MWRA's outreach efforts with agencies, communities and interested citizens and increase the effective implementation of watershed protection policies and goals.

This position had been proposed as a permanent Manager position under the PCR amendments. The proposal was held due to unresolved issues with the MDC Division of Watershed Management. Several individuals questioned the need for the position given the size of the MWRA Waterworks Division staff and the \$11 million spent annually to fund the MDC Division of Watershed Management.

[Top of Page](#)

CONTRACT AWARDS

Emergency Distribution Reservoir Water Management Study, Camp Dresser & McKee

The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve the selection of Camp Dresser & McKee to provide consulting services for the Emergency Distribution Reservoir Water Management Study, and to authorize the Executive Director to execute said contract in the amount of \$858,225 with a contract term of 18 months from the Notice to Proceed.

As part of the MWRA's long term Drinking Water Quality Improvement program, the Authority plans to provide covered distribution storage reservoirs and place existing open distribution reservoirs on emergency stand-by status. The Authority will use information from this study to develop a plan to maintain these reservoirs in a way that minimizes degradation of water quality and sustains appropriate water levels. Mr. Carroll asked if this work could be done in-house over time. Staff said that the Authority does not have the expertise needed in this area to perform such a study.

[Top of Page](#)

CONTRACT AMENDMENTS/CHANGE ORDERS

Rehabilitation of Water Storage Tanks: W.T. Rich Company, Inc

The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Change Order 4 to Contract 5136, Rehabilitation of Water Storage Tanks, with W.T. Rich Company, Inc. increasing the contract amount by \$197,912 from \$4,912,467 to \$5,110,380. Further, the Board authorized the Executive Director to approve additional change orders in an amount not to exceed the aggregate of \$250,000. The original contract amount was \$4,749,000. Change orders now total \$361,380.

Staff explained that during the sandblasting operation of existing trusses and steel beam members at Bellevue 1 water storage tank, it was discovered that portions of the structural steel roof supports were deteriorated to such a condition that repairs are required to restore the integrity of the roof support system. This change order will fund the repair work.

Water Pumping Station Rehabilitation, Phase II: Barletta Engineering Corporation

The board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Change Order 16 to Contract 5051, Water Pumping Station Rehabilitation, Phase II, with Barletta Engineering Corporation, to extend the Contract Completion Time by 56 calendar days from October 10, 1998 to December 5, 1998 at no additional cost to the Authority. Further, the Board authorized the Executive Director to approve additional change orders to Contract 5051 in amounts not to exceed the aggregate of \$250,000 and 6 months.

This contract is for the rehabilitation of the Gillis (Spot Pond) Pumping Station, Newton Street Pumping Station and Lexington Street Pumping Station. This time extension is for work ordered in Change Order 2, underpinning the existing building walls at the Gillis Pump Station.

Weston Aqueduct Supply Mains 1 and 2 Rehabilitation Project, Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc.

The Board authorized the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute Amendment 2 to Contract 6142, Weston Aqueduct Supply Mains 1 and 2 Rehabilitation Project - Newton and Boston, with Camp Dresser & McKee, Inc., in the amount of \$2,737,100, to extend the time for completion by 2 ½ years to October 2004, and to increase the contract scope to include engineering services for 29,500 linear feet of pipeline in the "Phase B" construction program.

Staff explained that this amendment revises the contract scope, schedule and budget. The design will expand to include all of the Phase B-design. The construction will continue to be divided into two phases, but Phase A construction will be expanded. The new schedule accelerates Phase B and eliminates the three year gap originally planned between the design completion of Phase A and the notice to proceed for Phase B. This will allow the design team to continue uninterrupted in completing the WASM rehabilitation program. This amendment will result in \$109,124 in savings from the original proposal, resulting from reduced cost escalation due to the accelerated schedule, better construction packaging and efficiency of keeping the same design team intact by avoiding a gap in the design effort.

Master Planning and CSO Facilities Planning, Metcalf & Eddy, Inc.

The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute Amendment 7 to Contract 5716, Master Planning and CSO Facilities Planning, with Metcalf & Eddy, Inc., increasing the contract amount by \$1,004,251, from \$17,701,960 to an amount not to exceed \$18,706,211, and extending the contract duration from March 31, 1998 to December 31, 2000. The original contract price was \$9,674,835. Amendments now total \$9,031,376. The amendment requires a contingency transfer of \$754,251, related primarily to new work required in the recently issued Charles River variance.

Metcalf & Eddy has provided engineering and planning services to develop a long-term CSO control plan and complete the associated Facilities Plan and Environmental Impact Report. The contract was to end on March 31, 1998, following regulatory determinations on the final plan. While certain regulatory actions over the past year bring most of the CSO plan into compliance with Surface Water Quality Standards, other actions by EPA and DEP require MWRA to perform additional planning work before the remainder of the CSO plan can be approved. The portions of the CSO plan subject to additional review include the recommendations for the Charles River, Alewife Brook and Mystic River and the recommendations for system-wide floatables control. The total cost of the additional work is \$1,004,251, although this amendment does not cover new work that is anticipated in yet-to-be issued variances for the Alewife Brook and Mystic River.

Effluent Outfall Tunnel Design Services, Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade and Douglas, Inc.

The Board authorized the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Amendment 11 to contract 5531, Effluent Outfall Tunnel Design Services, with Parsons, Brinckerhoff, Quade and Douglas, Inc., extending the term of the contract from October 31, 1998 to April 30, 2001. This extension will retain the designer for two years after the project is completed, during the period of tunnel start-up.

Ancillary Design Modification - Phase III, R. Zoppo Corp./Interstate Engineering Corp., JV

The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Change Order 16 to Contract 6180, Ancillary Design Modification - Phase III, with R. Zoppo Corp./Interstate Engineering Corp., a joint

venture, in the amount of \$13,031. Further, the Board authorized the Executive Director to approve additional change orders as may be needed to Contract No. 6180 in amounts not to exceed the aggregate of \$250,000. Staff anticipate a number of additional change orders.

[Top of Page](#)

OTHER BUSINESS

Settlement of Litigation with Modern Continental

The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to enter into a settlement with Modern Continental Construction Company, Inc. of a lawsuit by payment of \$187,500. This settlement resolves litigation ongoing over three years, at a fraction of the potential cost. The settlement avoids costly and time consuming litigation over events that go back to 1991.

[Top of Page](#)
