



*Summary of:*  
**MWRA Board of Directors' Meeting**  
**September 24, 1997**

[Return to Meeting Summary Page](#)

---

A meeting of the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority was held on September 24, 1997 at the Authority Headquarters in Charlestown. **Present:** Chair Trudy Coxe, Gubernatorial Representative; Norman Jacques, Andrew Pappastergion, John Carroll, Advisory Board Representatives; Joseph MacRitchie, City of Quincy Representative; Lorraine Downey, Robert Spinney, City of Boston Representatives; Sam Mygatt, Gubernatorial Representative. **Absent:** Marie Turner, Town of Winthrop Representative; Vincent Mannering, City of Boston Representative; Donald Mitchell, Gubernatorial Representative.

---

[Approvals](#)

[Contract Amendments/Change Orders](#)

---

## **AGENDA**

### ***Report of the Chair***

No report.

### ***Report of the Executive Director***

Mr. MacDonald told the Board that the House/Senate Conference Committee has not yet reached a decision on federal funding for the Boston Harbor Project. It is possible that Congress will pass a short-term continuing resolution bill to allow deliberations on the FY98 budget to continue after the start of the new federal fiscal year (which begins October 1).

[Top of Page](#)

---

## **APPROVALS**

### ***Revision to Manual Check Signing Policy***

The Board voted to approve the revision of MWRA's check signing policy to allow a facsimile signature on all non-payroll checks.

This change will repeal the portion of MWRA policy which requires that non-payroll checks in excess of \$25,000 have two manual signatures. Staff explained that the payables process has been automated since July 1993. The change in policy will allow the Authority to utilize the automated process for all non-payroll checks. Mr. MacRitchie asked if sufficient controls exist. Staff said that both Internal Audit and the MWRA's independent auditor, KPMG Peat Marwick, have reviewed the policy and agree that the change will not weaken the Authority's controls.

#### **Extension of Date for MARAD and MHI Closing**

The Board authorized the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to amend sections 4a, 4b and 4d of the Escrow Agreement with Massachusetts Heavy Industries (MHI) and Fleet Bank in order to allow the closing date with MARAD to occur at any time until October 31, 1997, in order to accommodate MHI and MARAD final negotiations prior to their closing on the yard renovation financing.

Staff explained that representatives from Massachusetts Heavy Industries (MHI) and MARAD have been finalizing the numerous documents required for the MARAD closing. It is anticipated that the closing will occur by mid-October. In addition, the City of Quincy is finalizing the documents for the \$7.8 million HUD loan guarantee for the yard renovations. The Commonwealth has finalized its agreement with the federal Office of Management and Budget whereby Massachusetts is providing \$6.6 million to fulfill the government's reserve requirements under the Federal Credit Reform Act. The Massachusetts Development Finance Agency is providing a \$6 million loan to MHI. The commitment for ship construction funding is still outstanding.

#### **Approval of Sewer Connection Under Straddle Policy (Natick/Dover)**

The Board voted to approve an application for connection to the MWRA sewer system through the Town of Natick for a single family house owned by William Rogers and sited partially in Dover, in accordance with MWRA Policy and Procedures for Sewer Connections Serving Property Partially Located in a Non- MWRA Community, referred to as the "Straddle Policy".

This vote will allow the household to discharge wastewater through a connection to the sewer system of Natick. Staff determined that the requirements of the Straddle Policy have been met and the Advisory Board approved the connection at its meeting on September 18. The MWRA will receive a \$7,400 entrance fee which is based on DEP's estimated statewide average for replacement, upgrade or repair of a septic system. The customer will be billed by Natick.

#### **Authorization to Submit Filtration Waiver Application for Wachusett Reservoir (Walnut Hill Water Treatment Plant)**

The Board authorized the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to submit to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection a *Request and Revision of MDEP Determination that Filtration is Required for Wachusett Reservoir*.

This application seeks to demonstrate that the steps taken by MWRA and MDC to date meet current criteria and treatment requirements for unfiltered drinking water systems and that filtration is not currently required for Wachusett Reservoir. Approval of this application will allow the Authority to pursue a phased approach to compliance which will assure the selection and implementation of new treatment programs that will be protective of public health, cost effective and in compliance with current regulatory requirements. Bill Elliott of the Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee spoke in support of the waiver application and recognized MWRA staff for their work in developing the application. Mr. MacDonald noted that this action is a continuation of the Advisory Board's efforts to ensure that the Authority only spends what is necessary.

[Top of Page](#)

## **CONTRACT AMENDMENTS/CHANGE ORDERS**

### **Dental Insurance: Delta Dental Plan**

The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Amendment No.1 to exercise the option to extend the term of Contract A320 with Delta Dental Plan of Massachusetts by twelve months to December 31, 1998 and increase the contract amount by \$340,000. This contract will maintain the level of dental coverage currently offered to eligible employees. The renewal rate represents a 2% increase over current rates.

### **Workers Compensation Claims Administration: Murphy & Beane**

The Board authorized the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Amendment No.3 to increase the contract price on Contract No. A279, Workers Compensation Claims Administration, with Murphy & Beane, in the amount of \$57,000 and to extend the time for completion by 3 months to December 31, 1997.

Murphy & Beane provides the MWRA with a variety of services related to the management and processing of Workers' Compensation Claims. The Authority is currently soliciting new bids for these services. The three month extension will allow for continued services during the procurement process.

### **MetroWest Water Supply Tunnel - Construction Management Services: Stone & Webster Civil & Transportation Services.**

The Board authorized the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Amendment No. 3 to increase the contract price on Contract No. 5284, MetroWest Tunnel Construction Management Services, with Stone & Webster Civil and Transportation Services, Inc. and Stone & Webster Engineering Corp., in an amount not to exceed \$674,160.

Staff explained that it has been over two years since the Notice to Proceed was issued to the Construction Manager for the MetroWest Tunnel. Since that time, construction contracts for the tunnel have increased from five to nine, Memoranda of Understanding have been established, and all Notice of Project Change have been finalized. This amendment includes changes recommended by MWRA staff to the staffing levels and scope of construction management services on this contract.

### **Braintree-Weymouth Relief Facilities: Metcalf & Eddy**

The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Amendment No. 3 to increase the contract price on Contract No. 5331, Braintree-Weymouth Relief Facilities, with Metcalf & Eddy, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$275,000. The original price of this contract was \$4,730,038. Amendments now total \$1,633,029.

This amendment will increase Metcalf & Eddy's contract scope to include the following tasks: perform a wave energy analysis at the Replacement Pump Station site due to DEP's requirement for additional structural support within the federally defined "velocity" zone; conduct additional geotechnical/hazardous material borings on BECo property to confirm and define the limits of contamination found in the boring program; evaluate the construction risks and costs of alternative interceptor construction techniques; and additional level of effort for the finalization of the hydraulic analysis report and the river crossing report.

Mr. MacRitchie and Mr. Mygatt questioned the need for the wave energy analysis which will cost the Authority \$65,620. Staff explained that in order for DEP to remove its requirements for additional structural protection to prevent damage from wave action, the Authority must perform the wave analysis to prove that the protection is not necessary. Although the flood hazard map of Quincy shows the Replacement Pump Station to be within the velocity zone, waves have never crossed the salt marsh in front of the existing pump station. Staff agreed to look into the issue further.

On a related topic, Mr. MacDonald noted that the Authority is moving toward the deep rock tunnel option rather than the marine pipeline for the Braintree-Weymouth project. Staff will make a recommendation to the Board as soon as

possible.

### **Sludge Processing Facility Expansion: Tighe & Bond**

The Board authorized the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Amendment No. 3 to increase the contract price on Contract No. 5667, Sludge Processing Facility Expansion, with Tighe & Bond, in the amount of \$656,342 and to extend the time for completion by 14 months to September 1, 1999. The original price of the contract was \$4,161,460. Amendments now total \$2,041,010.

Most of the items included in this amendment represent an increase in scope, mainly for evaluating and designing additional safety and efficiency improvements as a result of experience gained during the first four years of plant operation.

Mr. MacDonald told the Board that the Authority is not going to meet the Court date for completion of expansion. He said that construction is moving slower than expected and that they are having trouble getting the contractor to speed up. However, since the MWRA believes that there is enough capacity at the plant to handle additional sludge that will be brought over with the startup of secondary treatment, they will seek permission to extend the contract time indefinitely. This will save on speed-up costs to the contractor.

### **North Main Pump Station J.F.White/PKF Mark III, JV**

The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Change Order No. 129 to increase the contract price on Contract No. 5722, North Main Pump Station at Deer Island, with J.F. White/PKF-Mark III, JV, in the amount of \$165,936. Further, the Board authorized the Executive Director to approve additional change orders as may be needed to Contract No.5722 in amounts not to exceed the aggregate of \$250,000. The original contract price was \$59,240,000. Change orders now amount to \$27,494,429 or 46% of the original contract amount.

This change order includes the purchase of a fully assembled spare pump rotating assembly which is necessary to assure minimum downtime in the event that any portion of an installed assembly requires repair. The need for the spare pump assembly was recently identified by the discovery of cracks in sleeves on three pumps requiring disassembling for removal, return to the manufacturer for repair, and re-assembly in the pump.

### **Secondary Reactor Batteries A&B: J.F. White/PKF Mark III. JV**

The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Change Order No. 78 to increase the contract price on Contract No. 5484, Secondary Reactor Batteries A&B, with J.F. White/PKF-Mark III, JV, in the amount of \$15,181. Further, the Board authorized the Executive Director to approve additional change orders as may be needed to Contract No.5484 in amounts not to exceed the aggregate of \$250,000. The original contract amount was \$110,549,000. Change orders now total \$8,730,940 or 7.9% of the original contract price.

This change order will allow the contractor to replace carbon steel flanges, bolts and nuts on gas pipes in the yard area of the cryogenic facility with stainless steel. The carbon steel material, which was specified in the original contract documents, cannot withstand the extremely cold temperatures to which the pipes will be subjected (approximately 200 degrees below zero).

### **Residuals Treatment Facilities, Phase I, Secondary A&B: George Hyman Construction Co.**

The Board voted (Mr. Mygatt abstained) to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Change Order No. 69 to increase the contract price on Contract No. 5493, Residuals Treatment Facilities Phase I, Secondary A&B, with Hyman Construction Co. Inc., in the amount of \$114,354. Further, the Board authorized the Executive Director to approve additional change orders as may be needed to Contract No.5493 in amounts not to exceed the aggregate of \$250,000. The original contract price was \$97,452,000. Change orders now amount to \$5,238,322 or 5.4% of the original contract amount.

Staff explained that this change order will allow for the addition of control switches and pump selector switches to the

12 Waste Sludge Auxiliary Centrifuge Control panels, which will allow the operator to continue to keep the process system running without interruption in the event of a Process Instrumentation and Control shutdown or failure.

**Nut Island Headworks: Modern Continental/SAE Americon JV**

The Board authorized the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Change Order No. 75 to increase the contract price on Contract No. 5850A, Nut Island Headworks, with Modern Continental/SAE Americon, JV, in the amount of \$240,740. Further, the Board voted to authorize the Executive Director to approve additional change orders as may be needed to Contract No. 5850A in amounts not to exceed the aggregate of \$250,000. The original contract price was \$62,864,000. Change orders now total \$10,461,009.

Staff explained that this contract includes the installation of a duckbill valve and spool on the three 60" outfall pipes at Nut Island to prevent marine life from growing inside the pipe during the time it is not in use. This change order is necessary because the concrete collar which was to be used as a base for the valve and spool has deteriorated from the inspected condition during design. The contractor is now required to replace the base with reinforced concrete.

**Inter-Island Tunnel - Design and Engineering Services During Construction: Sverdrup Civil, Inc.**

The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Amendment No. 9 to increase the contract price on Contract No. 5494, Inter-Island Tunnel Design and ESDC, with Sverdrup Civil, Inc., in the amount of \$200,500 and to extend the time for completion by six months to March 31, 1998. The original contract amount was \$2,120,376. Amendments now total \$3,059,793.

This amendment is to compensate Sverdrup for its continuous effort in review and comment on construction methods and submittals, and technical support on pending change orders, and also additional efforts related to daily project management including subcontractor management, progress reporting, contract administration and other management tasks related to project budget and schedule.

Mr. MacDonald told the Board that the concrete work is being done on both shafts of the Inter-Island Tunnel. Staff said they hope to introduce flow and begin coordinated testing with the South System Pump Station by mid-December, but noted that the testing process will be complicated.

**Rental of Three High Temperature Water Boilers: Indeck Power Equipment Company**

The Board authorized the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Change Order No.6 to extend the time for completion of Bid No. WRA-1311, Rental of Three High Temperature Water Boilers, with Indeck Power Equipment, by one month to October 31, 1997.

Staff explained that the one month extension is necessary to allow staff to determine the best option for heating Deer Island Treatment Plant this winter. Staff will present a recommendation to the Board at the October 15th meeting.

[Top of Page](#)

---

*This summary does not include every item discussed by the Board nor the full extent of the discussions. Please contact Ann Chamberlin-LaBelle at the Advisory Board Office with questions, comments and requests for additional information.*