



News & Notes

A Publication of the
MWRA Advisory Board

October 2017

John Carroll Sworn In

Congratulations!



John Carroll was sworn in for the tenth time earlier this month by Governor Baker. John was first elected by the Advisory Board to the Board of Directors in 1985 and is now the only original member still serving. In fact, the Advisory Board has the three

longest-serving members on the Board. Congratulations, John!

Although John is remaining on the Board of Directors, he has decided to retire from his post in Norwood. He served as Town Manager since 1978. There is a dinner planned in John's honor scheduled for November 16 ([click to see event details](#)).



Auditor Bump Calls for Primacy Funding

Promoting a Successful Program

Last week, in her statement of support of state administration of NPDES permits, State Auditor Suzanne Bump advocated for changes to program funding as currently proposed in H.2777. First, Auditor Bump called for a user fee in addition to a small component from the general fund. To promote long-term sustainability, she also called for major industrial and commercial sources to contribute through a fee. Her comments stressed that the current funding estimates are



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October 20, 2017

Honorable Anne M. Gobi, Senate Chair
Honorable Smitty Pignatelli, House Chair
Honorable Committee Members
Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
24 Beacon Street
Room 513
Boston, MA, 02133

Dear Senator Gobi, Representative Pignatelli and Honorable Committee Members:

I write today in qualified support for H.2777, *An Act to enable the Commonwealth's administration of the Massachusetts Pollutant Discharge Elimination System*. While I support providing the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) with the responsibility for administration of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) program, I believe changes are necessary to the proposed funding levels and mechanisms in order to ensure successful implementation of the program.

In January, my office released a study, entitled "*Costs, Regulation, and Financing of Massachusetts Water Infrastructure: Implications for Municipal Budgets*," which calls for greater collaboration between state and local governments to develop a holistic approach to addressing our state's considerable municipal water infrastructure needs. Our analysis found the Commonwealth's cities and towns anticipate the need to spend at least \$17.88 billion on drinking water, waste water and stormwater infrastructure over the next two decades.

In addition to the monetary needs, our study also demonstrates the benefits of a simplified regulatory framework for cities and towns. This will allow municipal leaders to more effectively work with regulators to develop mutually agreed-upon capital plans that help get the most out of every dollar spent across all types of water infrastructure. That is why we concluded that consolidating NPDES administration into DEP's current portfolio makes sense.

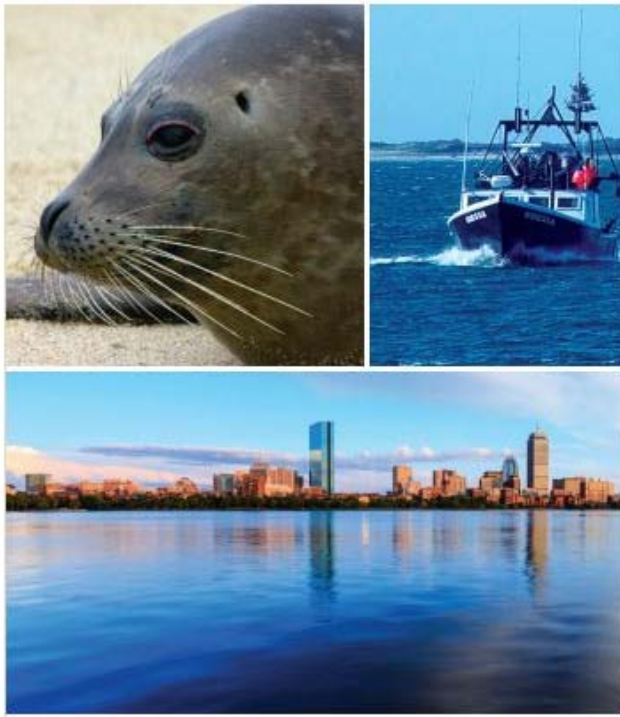
As you have heard from the Massachusetts Municipal Association and a number of individual cities and towns, this change is one supported by local governments. In our survey, we asked if municipalities would rather have federal stormwater regulations managed by DEP or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Only nine percent of respondents told us they wanted the EPA to continue direct administration of the program.

too low to maintain a successful program, echoing her office's [January report](#) about the need for increased water infrastructure spending.

You can read [Auditor Bump's comments in full here](#), as well as the [Advisory Board position here](#).

Environmental Quality Update

The Science Looks Good



With drastically reduced bacteria levels in Boston Harbor water, swimmable beaches, and healthier Massachusetts Bay wildlife, the vast scores of MWRA monitoring data paint a picture of a reinvigorated ecosystem. Much of this success can be attributed to the creation of the MWRA, its renovation of Deer Island, and controlling combined sewer overflows as part of the Boston Harbor Project.

The Environmental Quality (EnQual) department has released a helpful brochure describing these improvements. Highlighted is the monitoring data on Enterococcus, an indicator bacteria found in human waste, and how Enterococcus levels have changed since the court-ordered upgrades to treatment. A before and after comparison demonstrates an extreme reduction in Enterococcus levels in the Bay, as well as in contributing waters.

Check out [EnQual's pamphlet here](#). And you can find the Advisory Board's [Just The FAQs video on Enterococcus here](#).

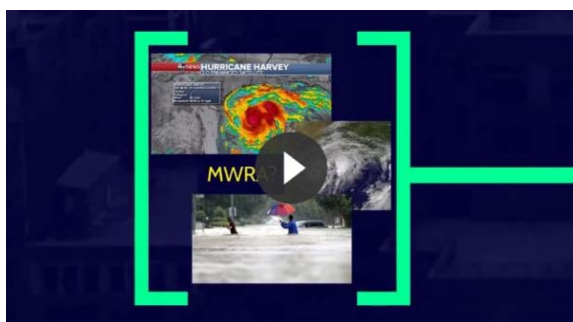
Upcoming Webinars

And Our Climate Change Video



Charles River Watershed Association and Geosyntec Consultants are hosting a **stormwater management webinar** today, October 31 from 12:00 PM to 1:30 PM. The event is free and focuses on TMDL compliance. More information about joining the webinar can be found [here](#).

EPA's **Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA)**, which works in coordination with the State Revolving Fund, is having a number of webinars in December related to eligible water and wastewater projects, program loans, and the application process. Register for the upcoming webinars [here](#).



In case you missed it, our video on the MWRA's approach to **storm preparedness and climate change** is available online. From routine deployment of emergency equipment to strategic long-term

planning, learn more about what the Authority is doing to protect its assets in the event of major storms [here](#).

A Day Without Water

Hosted by the Value of Water Campaign

On October 12, 2017, the

Advisory Board was one of 750 organizations to encourage water users (i.e., everyone) to consider the essential value of water in our everyday lives. Everyone from community leaders to water agencies to students engaged in a conversation about how difficult it would be to live even just one day without water. Especially after environmental disasters like Flint, Michigan and the recent wave of hurricanes, the need for improved water



infrastructure becomes all the more acute. Find more resources available from the campaign [here](#). Make sure you follow us on Twitter (@ABmwra) and search #ValueWater to see how we contributed to the campaign.

Upcoming Events

For the Month of [November](#)

- November 9* | 8:30 AM, [Executive Committee Meeting](#) at AB Offices
- November 10 | Veteran's Day (Office Open)
- November 14 | Advisory Board and WAC Discuss Primacy
- November 15 | 10:00 AM, [MWRA Board of Directors Meeting](#), Charlestown
- November 16 | 11:30 AM, [Advisory Board Meeting](#) at BWSC
- November 16 | John Carroll's Retirement Party
- November 23 | Happy Thanksgiving!
- November 24 | Office Closed

****Executive Committee meets on a Thursday this month due to the Friday holiday.***

Have a **Happy Halloween!**

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