



NEWS & NOTES

A Publication of the MWRA Advisory Board

July 2019

Sewer Rate Relief Fund

Kept Alive in Final FY20 State Budget

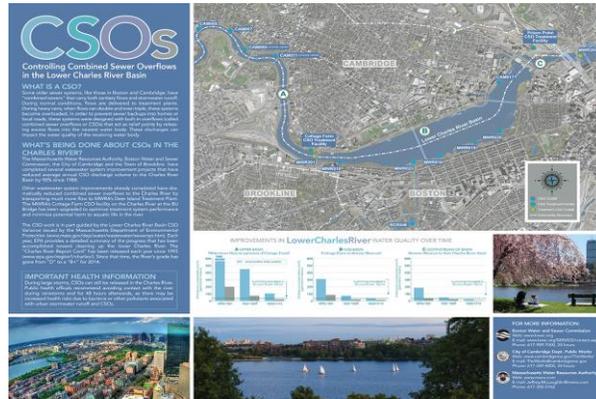


The FY20 State budget includes \$1.1 million to fund the Commonwealth Sewer Rate Relief Fund (also known as Debt Service Assistance). The Advisory Board thanks Governor Baker, the House, and the Senate for their continued support for ratepayers.

As is the policy and practice of the MWRA and Advisory Board, the funds, once in the door, will be used to offset the following fiscal year's assessments. The MWRA share of the FY19 line item was \$895,235, and was directly used to offset FY20 assessments.

Proposed Extension for CSO Variances

For the Charles, Mystic, and Alewife Brook



This past month, MassDEP held a hearing for public comment on the proposed extensions on the MWRA’s CSO discharges to the Lower Charles/Charles Basin and Alewife Brook/Upper Mystic River. Set to expire at the end of August 2019, the current variances would be extended to August 2024 if approved. Extending the variances allows MWRA to continue implementing its court-ordered CSO performance assessment as part of the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP). Activities include flow metering, hydraulic modeling, analysis of rainfall, and water quality impact assessments. The information will be used to evaluate whether MWRA is meeting the LTCP objectives in its level of CSO control. The assessment also informs how remaining CSO discharges contribute to violations of water quality standards, namely those for bacteria.

The Advisory Board supports the extension of the variances to 2024. Ratepayers’ nearly \$1 billion investment in CSO improvements have allowed the Authority to complete all major CSO milestones, and the extended period further lets MWRA continue its commitment to improving water quality. Comments submitted by the Advisory Board can be read [here](#), along with MWRA’s comments [here](#).

Reminder: Sign Up for the August 22 Field Trip!

Less than One Month Away



Already 70 people have signed up for this year's field trip on Thursday, August 22. If you haven't yet, [sign up today](#). Join us at Deer Island for coffee and pastries before we kick off the morning with presentations on CSO improvement projects. A guided cruise of Boston Harbor will follow, going over progress in water quality as a result of the Boston Harbor Case. We'll return to Deer Island for a barbeque lunch, with optional tours of renewable energy available. A detailed itinerary is available [here](#). We hope to see you on the 22nd!

Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

Braintree Pump Station Parallels Massport Issue

MWRA Board of Directors Meeting July 17, 2019 Voting Summary Sheet

Item Name	Type	Notes	Vote	Presentation
Approval of Minutes	n/a	n/a	Unanimous	
Report of the Chair	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Report of the Executive Director	n/a	n/a	n/a	
Legal Services Furnished by Special Assistant Attorney General Jonathan Ettlinger/Foley Hoag LLP in the Boston Harbor Case, U.S. v. MDC, et al., USDC No. 85-089-855	Approval	The Board voted to approve an increase to the hourly rate at which the Authority compensates Foley Hoag LLP for the legal services furnished by Attorney Jonathan Ettlinger in his capacity as a Special Assistant Attorney General in representing the Authority in the Boston Harbor case, from \$460 an hour to \$625 an hour for FY2020 and \$700 an hour for FY2021.	Unanimous	
Amendments to the MWRA Regulations for Adjudicatory Proceedings, Enforcement and Administrative Penalties, and Sewer Use	Approval	The Board voted to authorize the adoption of amendments to MWRA's Regulations for Adjudicatory Proceedings (860 CMR 1.00), Enforcement and Administrative Penalties (860 CMR 2.00), and Sewer Use (860 CMR 10.00) (summary chart attached) by publication in the Code of Massachusetts Regulations.	Unanimous	
Memorandum of Agreement with the Town of Braintree Regarding MWRA's Use of the Town's Howard Street Pump Station	Approval	The Board voted to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement, substantially in the form attached hereto, with the Town of Braintree for a term of five years, for MWRA's use of the Town's Howard Street Pump Station and which provides for payment to the Town for past and future operations and maintenance costs and capital improvements.	Unanimous	Presentation
FCI Amendments - July 2019	Approval	The Board voted to approve amendments to the Position Control Register (PCR) as presented and filed with the records of the meeting.	Unanimous	
Appointment of Director, Management Information Systems, Administration Division	Approval	• Appointment: M.L. Paula Weadick • Salary: \$162,825 • Effective: To be determined by the Executive Director	Unanimous	
Maintenance Coating - Deer Island Treatment Plant Soap Painting Corp., Contract 3583	Contract Award	• Awarded: Soap Painting Corporation • Amount: \$2,495,000 • Term: 600 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed	Unanimous	Presentation
Sewer Protection System Replacement - Deer Island Treatment Plant; JF White Contracting Co, Contract 7167	Contract Award	• Awarded: J. F. White Contracting Company • Amount: \$1,402,995 • Term: 540 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed	Unanimous	
Piping Relocation at the Pretreating Plant - Fore River Shoyard Walsh Construction Company II, LLC, Contract 7173	Contract Award	• Awarded: Walsh Construction Company II, LLC • Amount: \$4,250,445 • Term: 450 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed	Unanimous	Presentation
Technical Assistance Consulting Services - Deer Island Treatment Plant Brown and Calvert, Contract 7646, Hazen and Sawyer, P.C. Contract 7645, Wright-Perris, Contract 7646	Contract Award	• Awarded: Hazen and Sawyer, P.C. and Wright-Perris • Amount: \$1,800,000 each • Term: 3 years from the Notice to Proceed	Unanimous	
Section 22 Rehabilitation Alternative Analysis and Environmental Permitting - Black & Veatch, Contract 7156	Contract Award	• Awarded: Black & Veatch Corporation • Amount: \$52,870,000 • Term: 36 months from the Notice to Proceed	Unanimous	
Bellevee 2 and Turkey Hill Water Tank Painting Project: Worldwide Industries Corp., Contract 7634, Change Order 2	Contract Amendment/Change Order	The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Change Order 7 to Contract 7634, Bellevee 2 and Turkey Hill Water Tank Painting Project, for an amount not to exceed \$750,000.00.	Unanimous	Presentation
Thunderstorm Impacts on Wastewater System Operation	Information	• Please see related staff summary	n/a	Presentation
Delegated Authority Report - June 2019	Information	• Please see related staff summary	n/a	

For complete meeting materials, including staff summaries, please view the [MWRA website](#).

Administration and Finance
 Wastewater
 Water
 Personnel

In their [July 2019 meeting](#), the MWRA Board of Directors approved a Memorandum of Agreement with the Town of Braintree for MWRA's use of the Town's Howard Street Pump Station. The Agreement provided payment for past and future operations and maintenance costs and capital improvements. The last MOA had expired in 2003 and the Authority had not been invoiced for pump station use since then. Discussions over a new agreement were recently commenced by Braintree amid the Town's rehabilitation project to the pump station. Using metered flow data and capital assessments, the MWRA and Braintree were able to calculate an appropriate value for Authority use of the facility over the past 16 years and establish a method for calculating use in the future.

Board Member Andrew Pappastergion expressed concern with the Authority's eagerness to calculate a fair usage value with Braintree while the unfair costs associated with maintaining an MWRA pump station continue to accumulate. Mr. Pappastergion explained that "it's good that we're satisfying our obligations and paying for services at someone else's pump station, but now it's time to look into our own pump stations and any users who may not be paying for our services." He went on to

point out that the Wiggins Pump Station, which services the Massport's Conley Terminal, is operated and maintained solely at the expense of the MWRA despite the fact that it only serves non-MWRA entities. Mr. Pappastergion advised that using the precedent set with the new Braintree MOA, the Authority needs to evaluate its own pump stations and address anyone who may be getting a "free ride."

Upcoming Events

For the Month of August

August 22 | 8:00 AM

[Annual Advisory Board Field Trip](#) (meets at Deer Island)

No MWRA Advisory Board meeting or MWRA Board of Directors meeting in August

[Visit web site](#)

Connect with us!



MWRA Advisory Board | 617-788-2050 | mwra.ab@mwraadvisoryboard.com

MWRA Advisory Board · 100 1st Ave Bldg 39 · 4th Floor · Boston, MA 02129-2043 · USA