



NEWS & NOTES

A Publication of the MWRA Advisory Board

September 2019

Joe Foti Sworn In

7th Term on the Board of Directors



On September 20, Joe Foti was sworn in by Governor Baker to serve his seventh term representing the Advisory Board on the MWRA Board of Directors. Thank you, Joe, for making sure communities' voices are heard. We appreciate your service.

Operations Committee Meeting

October 1 in Burlington

Overview of Partial Sewer Separation

The City of Cambridge is requesting MWRA's support and approval for partial sewer separation to support improved water quality in our receiving waters through continued sewer separation in the City of Cambridge. This request will reduce stormwater going to the MWRA system and is for combined sewer areas only.

Continued sewer separation is critical to the MWRA meeting the Long Term Control Plan and continuing to improve the level of CSO, however, sewer separation cannot continue without considering and mitigating the water quality impacts of sending additional stormwater to the receiving waters.

Working together we can develop designs that meet both CSO and water quality (phosphorous) controls.

These projects significantly benefit the MWRA by reducing flows to the system and reducing CSO activations and volumes. These projects are being implemented at no cost to the MWRA and will result in a better performing MWRA system for all communities.



The next Operations Committee meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, October 1, 2019, at 10:00 AM at the Grand View Farm Conference Room, 55 Center Street, Burlington, MA 01803**. This meeting will continue the discussion on understanding the MWRA's wastewater system as it relates to stormwater and the MWRA system. There will be a presentation from the City of Cambridge to provide an overview of their request for partial sewer separation. A copy of their presentation is available on the [Advisory Board website](#). Please let us know if you have any questions. We hope to see you on the 1st.

FY20 Challenges

An Advisory Board Perspective



At the Advisory Board meeting earlier in September, Advisory Board staff [outlined some of the challenges](#) facing both the Authority and the Advisory Board in FY20.

On the water side:

- The Advisory Board raised concerns regarding the inability of DCR's Division of Water Supply Protection to hire staff.
- Staff talked about the need to reconvene a task force to develop a plan to sell more water.
- Staff highlighted how FY20 will be a critical year for the tunnel redundancy program with preliminary design contracts being awarded.

On the wastewater side:

- Staff outlined upcoming MS4 permit requirements, along with the MWRA's role in stormwater.
- With the next contract coming in first quarter of FY21, staff discussed potential concerns regarding the beneficial reuse of pellets, particularly as the PFAS issue looms.

Regarding rates:

- Rates management continues to be the number one job for the Advisory Board.
- Staff outlined how to achieve "2.4 by '24."
- FY20 brings potentially significant increases to pension costs and for the cross-harbor electric cable.

Award-Winning Drinking Water

MWRA Wins Again



At the New England Water Works Association Annual Conference this month, MWRA was named as having ["New England's Best Drinking Water"](#) in the taste test for 2019.

Congratulations to the Authority on this honor, the third time they have won since 2011.

Board of Directors Meeting Highlights

Focusing on Debt Service

MWRA Board of Directors Meeting
September 18, 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	
Battery Storage Demonstration Project at Brettle Court Pump Station and Chelsea Facility – Utility Tariff Optimization Service and Site License Agreement: Stem, Inc.	Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board voted to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute a Utility Tariff Optimization Service and Site License Agreement with Stem, Inc. for the operation and maintenance of a battery storage system at the Brettle Court Pumping Station and the Chelsea Facility for an amount not to exceed \$300,100. 	Unanimous	Presentation
PCR Amendments - July 2019	Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board voted to approve amendments to the Pollution Control Register (PCR) as presented and filed with the records of the meeting. 	Unanimous	
Appointment of Program Manager, Process Control and Project Support	Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed: Ms. Kristen Hall Salary: \$128,908.93 Effective: To be determined by the Executive Director 	Unanimous	
Appointment of Program Manager, Wastewater Operations	Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed: Mr. William Lana Salary: \$114,681.68 Effective: To be determined by the Executive Director 	Unanimous	
Appointment of Manager, IT Security, Architecture and Engineering, MIS	Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed: Mr. Murali Rajoo Salary: \$137,000 Effective: To be determined by the Executive Director 	Unanimous	
Appointment of Communications Manager, Metropolitan Tunnel Redundancy Program	Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed: Ms. Kristin MacDonnell Salary: \$99,150.71 Effective: To be determined by the Executive Director 	Unanimous	
Appointment of Senior Staff Counsel, Law Division	Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Appointed: Nicholas A. Ogden Salary: \$127,481.99 Effective: To be determined by the Executive Director 	Unanimous	
Bond Defeasance of Future Debt Service	Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board voted to execute and deliver all necessary agreements and other instruments and to take such other actions necessary to effectuate the redemption and defeasance of an aggregate principal amount of \$10,115,000 of outstanding MWRA senior bonds including to cause the escrow of cash and/or securities in an amount necessary to fund such redemption and defeasance, in order to reduce the debt service requirement by \$11,482,250 in the FY21 through FY23 timeframes. 	Unanimous	
Approval of the Eighty-first Supplemental Resolution	Approval	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board voted to adopt the Eighty-first Supplemental Resolution authorizing the issuance of up to \$623,000,000 of Massachusetts Water Resources Authority Taxable and Tax-Exempt General Revenue Bonds and General Revenue Refunding Bonds and the supporting Issuance Resolution. 	Unanimous	
Design and Engineering Services During Construction for Quinepoet Dam Removal: Milone & MacBroom, Inc. Contract 7347	Contract Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded: Milone & MacBroom, Inc. Amount: \$425,442.87 Term: 24 months from the Notice to Proceed 	Unanimous	
Station 56 Treatment Saugeun River Crossing: Design and Engineering Services During Construction: AECOM Technical Services, Inc., Contract 7434	Contract Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded: AECOM Technical Services, Inc. Amount: \$3,345,887 Term: 31 months from the Notice to Proceed 	Unanimous	
Purchase of Vehicles: Liberty Chevrolet, Inc. and Colonial Ford, Inc. Bid WRA-4736	Contract Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded: Liberty Chevrolet, Inc. and Colonial Ford Amount: \$1,025,043 to Liberty Chevrolet and \$184,967.43 to Colonial Ford, Inc. 	Unanimous	
Supply and Delivery of Sodium Hypochlorite to the Deer Island Treatment Plant: Borden & Ramington Corporation, WRA-4731	Contract Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awarded: Borden & Ramington Corporation Amount: \$1,644,486.98 Term: One year, from November 17, 2019 through November 26, 2020 	Unanimous	
Wachusett Aqueduct Pumping Station Design, Construction Administration and Resident Inspection Order	Contract Amendment/Change Order	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Board voted to approve Amendment 5 to Contract 7146, Wachusett Aqueduct Pumping Station Design, Construction Administration and 	Unanimous	

At the [September MWRA Board of Directors meeting](#), the Board voted on two proposals to assist the MWRA in achieving the Advisory Board's mantra of "2.4 by '24." The first was the defeasance of an additional \$10.6 million to reduce future year rate increases. This will reduce debt service in the next three years by these amounts:

FY21: \$505,750 | FY22: \$3,505,750 | FY23: 7,470,750

A second authorization allows MWRA to issue up to \$625 million in MWRA taxable and tax-exempt general revenue bonds and general revenue refunding bonds. Matt Horan, MWRA Treasurer, stated that over the last several months, global market conditions have resulted in downward pressure on long-term interest rates. The compression in the taxable and tax-exempt markets have resulted in historically low yields.

MWRA expects to benefit from the market conditions and the proposed refundings could save the Authority over \$84 million from FY20 to FY42. The Advisory Board applauds MWRA staff for their efforts in reducing further debt.

Upcoming Events

For the Month of [October](#)

October 1 | 10:00 AM

[Operations Committee Meeting](#) in Burlington

October 3 | 10:00 AM

OMSAP Meeting in Scituate

October 4 | 1:00 PM

Water Infrastructure Alliance Meeting in Boston

October 14 | office closed

Columbus Day

October 16 | 10:00 AM

[MWRA Board of Directors Meeting](#) in MWRA Board Room

[Visit web site](#)

Connect with us!



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