



Purchase of Supplemental Water from the MWRA

**Informational Public Meeting
March 20, 2006**



Outline

- Purpose
- Background and approvals
- Water system changes
- Water quality
- When will this happen?
- Questions

Purpose

- Voluntary purchase of Supplemental Water from the MWRA to help reduce the stress on the Ipswich River

Project Background

- 1999 Long Term Water Supply Study
- Explore possible alternative sources of supply

Permits and Approvals

- November 2003 Town Meeting
- MEPA (Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act)
- Department of Environmental Protection (DEP)
- Water Resources Commission (WRC)
- MWRA
 - Advisory Board
 - Board of Directors
- State Legislature
- Governor

Project Description

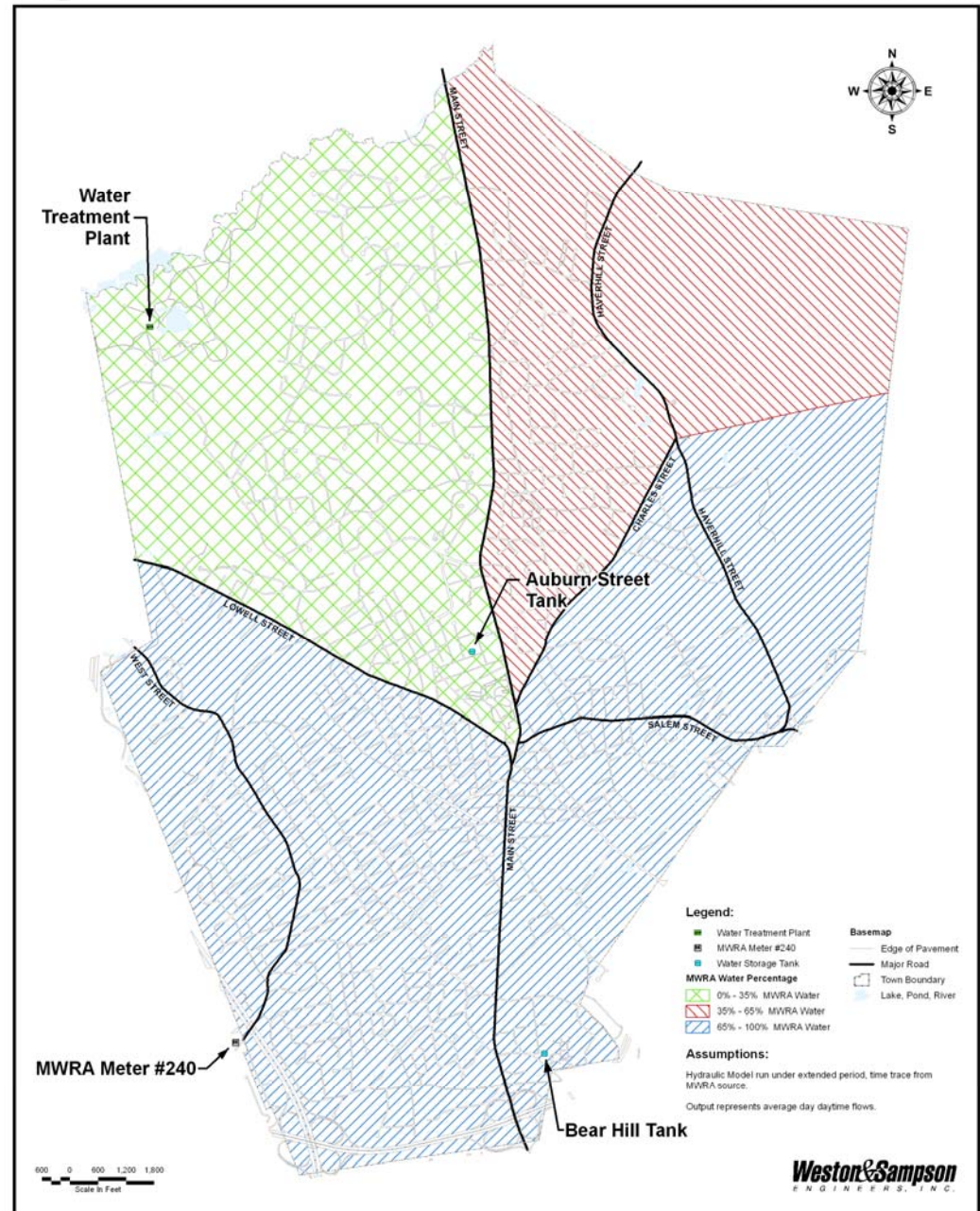
- Current water use
 - 2.0 million gallons per day (mgd) on average
 - 3.5 mgd maximum
 - All supplied from Town wells in the Ipswich basin
- Starting in this year (May):
 - 1.0 mgd from Ipswich basin wells (Louanis WTP)
 - Purchase remainder from MWRA (avg. 1.2 mgd)
 - Annually between May 1 – October 31
- Maximum amount from MWRA = 219 million gallons per year

Water System Changes

- MWRA Connection is at Woburn/Reading Line
 - Washington Street and Mishawum Road
- Construction needed
 - Control valve installation
 - Electrical and instrumentation equipment installation
- Pattern of water flow in the distribution system piping network will change

Flow Distribution

- Green: 0 – 35% MWRA Water
- Red: 35 – 65% MWRA Water
- Blue: 65 – 100% MWRA Water



Possible Water Discoloration

- Caused by change in direction of flow in the pipes
 - Sediments may be disturbed
 - Primarily iron/rust
- Water is safe for drinking and bathing, but may be unpalatable
- Avoid doing laundry until it clears up
- Running the COLD water for several minutes may help
- Town will be conducting proactive flushing as well as spot flushing of the water pipes
- Should clear up in 48 hours

Water Quality

- The Town and MWRA are required to meet all state and federal standards for water quality
 - Testing is done in accordance with all standards
 - Results are published in the annual Consumer Confidence (Water Quality) Report

Water Quality Comparison

	MWRA	Town of Reading
Water Source	Surface Water (Reservoir)	Ground Water (Wells)
Hardness/ Mineral Content	Low	Moderate
Temperature	Slightly warmer 72 deg. F	Average 65 – 70 deg. F

Water Quality *(continued)*

- Previous issues with the taste and odor of the MWRA water have been addressed
 - Spot Pond Reservoir is no longer used
 - New state-of-the-art treatment facility in Marlborough with ozone disinfection
 - Improves taste and clarity
 - Meets tougher state and federal standards
 - Noticeable improvement in the taste of the MWRA water

When Will this Happen?

- Target date is May 2006
- Actual activation will depend on final construction
 - Piping and equipment being installed at the MWRA service at Woburn/Reading line
- Check for updates at
 - www.ci.reading.ma.us
 - Daily Times Chronicle, Reading Advocate, RCTV 22

Questions and Follow-Up

Please call us at 781-942-9077 during the transition to report:

- Discolored water
- Taste problems
- Anything unusual

Questions and Answers

A scenic view of a river flowing through a forested area under a cloudy sky. The river is in the foreground, and the forest is in the background. The sky is blue with white clouds. The text 'Questions and Answers' is overlaid on the top part of the image.

We appreciate your cooperation as we work toward reducing the stress on the Ipswich River