

MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

Meeting of the Board of Directors

August 20, 2024

A meeting of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (“MWRA”) Board of Directors was held on August 20, 2024 via remote participation, on Webex.

Chair Tepper presided remotely. Board Members Flanagan, Foti, Peña, Swett, Vitale, Jack Walsh, and Wolowicz also participated remotely. Board Members Pappastergion, Taverna and Patrick Walsh were absent.

MWRA Executive Director Frederick Laskey; General Counsel Carolyn Francisco Murphy; Chief Operating Officer David Coppes; Deputy Chief Operating Officer Rebecca Weidman; Director of Finance Thomas Durkin; Acting Special Assistant for Affirmative Action Tomeka Cribb; Environmental Permitting Project Manager Hillary Monahan; Chief of Staff Katie Ronan; Associate General Counsel Angela Atchue; and, Assistant Secretary Kristin MacDougall attended remotely.

Chair Tepper called the meeting to order at 3:04pm.

ROLL CALL

MWRA General Counsel Francisco Murphy took roll call of Board Members in attendance and announced that Board Members Tepper, Flanagan, Foti, Peña, Swett, Vitale, Jack Walsh and Wolowicz were participating via remote participation. The Chair welcomed Board Member Brian Swett to the Board of Directors, and announced that the meeting was being held remotely on Webex. She added that the meeting would be recorded, and that the agenda and meeting materials were available on MWRA’s website.

WATER POLICY AND OVERSIGHT**Approvals****Emergency Water Supply Agreement-Period One with the Town of Wayland**

A motion was duly made and seconded to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute an Emergency Water Supply Agreement-Period One with the Town of Wayland for a period of up to six months, substantially in the form attached to the August 20, 2024 staff summary presented and filed with the records of the meeting.

Rebecca Weidman, MWRA Deputy Chief Operating Officer, summarized the reasons for a proposed Emergency Water Supply Agreement-Period One (WSA) with the Town of Wayland. She discussed Wayland’s July 25, 2024 request for a short-term, emergency connection to MWRA’s water system due to a positive *E. coli* raw water result in the Town’s Chamberlain Well, and DEP’s subsequent issuance of an Emergency Declaration.

Ms. Weidman explained that MWRA had approved the Wayland’s emergency connection

request. She noted that the Town has been working to identify and resolve the source of *E. coli*, and is replacing the Chamberlain Well's pump. She summarized the expected timeline for flow testing, water quality sampling and well reactivation.

Ms. Weidman then noted that DEP's Emergency Declaration for Wayland also includes previously-planned maintenance work on the Town's PFAS system at a second well. She noted that the Town expects to complete work on both wells and to be fully supplied by its own water sources by the end of September, 2024.

Next, Ms. Weidman explained that the MWRA Executive Director or a designee has the authority to approve emergency water connections for up to a 30-day period, and that connections of longer duration require the Board of Directors' approval. She requested Board approval for the WSA with the Town of Wayland, for a period of up to six months, which would allow MWRA to continue providing emergency water supplies while the Town completes work on its wells.

Finally, Ms. Weidman advised that the proposed WSA would have no impact on MWRA's ability to provide water to its existing customers, and that the Town of Wayland is actively seeking admission to the MWRA water system and beginning the environmental review process.

Board Member Jack Walsh expressed support for the WSA, and noted that in his view, WSAs should include water cost minimums. Ms. Weidman explained that DEP Emergency Declarations are required for non-member communities to withdraw water from MWRA; that these declarations stipulate water withdrawal amounts; and, that MWRA charges a 10% surcharge for any water withdrawn under emergency WSAs.

Board Member Swett asked how many non-customer communities have standby infrastructure in place to connect to the MWRA water system. MWRA Chief Operating Officer David Coppes explained that a Fire Chief study had shown that many MWRA communities have their own infrastructure that connects with adjoining cities and towns. MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey cited Cambridge as an example. Mr. Swett noted the value and costs of providing emergency water services to non-customer communities. Mr. Coppes explained that in cases of successive emergencies, MWRA adds asset values to water withdrawals that increase with each instance so that they are paying the equivalent of an entrance fee payment, and that the fees are credited back to communities if they join the MWRA system.

Mr. Laskey noted that staff could perform an inventory of non-customer community connections that are capable of taking water from the MWRA system. Chair Tepper expressed her agreement.

Chair Tepper asked if there was further discussion or questions from the Board. Hearing none,

she requested a roll call vote in which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tepper		
Flanagan		
Foti		
Peña		
Swett		
Vitale		
J. Walsh		
Wolowicz		

(ref. I A.1)

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was duly made and seconded to adjourn the meeting.

A roll call vote was taken in which the members were recorded as follows:

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Tepper		
Flanagan		
Foti		
Peña		
Swett		
Vitale		
J. Walsh		
Wolowicz		

(ref. IX)

The meeting adjourned at 3:16pm.

Approved: September 11, 2024

Attest:  for
 Brian Peña, Secretary

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS USED

- August 20, 2024 Staff Summary – Emergency Water Supply Agreement-Period One with the Town of Wayland (ref. I A.1)

Documents used for this meeting and cited in these minutes, including meeting materials/staff summaries, presentations, and approved minutes, are posted on MWRA’s website: <https://www.mwra.com/about-mwra/governance-management/board-directors/archive-agendas-and-minutes>