



**WATER SUPPLY CITIZENS  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
to the Mass. Water Resources Authority

485 Ware Road  
Belchertown MA 01007  
(413) 213-0454  
fax: (413) 213-0537  
email: [info@wscac.org](mailto:info@wscac.org)

**WSCAC Tuesday, November 18th, 2025, In-person Meeting Minutes**

**Time and location: 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM at 270 Boston Rd, Southborough, MA 01772**

**WSCAC Members in Attendance in Bold:**

- Christine Bennett, MWRA Advisory Board
- William Copithorne, Town of Arlington
- Steven Daunais, Tata & Howard
- **Bill Fadden**, OARS
- **Bill Kiley**, BWSC
- **Paul Lauenstein**, Neponset (Chair)
- **Paul Rybicki**, Partially Supplied Community
- **Martin Pillsbury**, MAPC
- **Janet Rothrock**, League of Women Voters
- Bill Merriam, Framingham resident, Foss reservoir abutter
- **Erin Bonney Casey**, Ipswich River Watershed Association
- **Warren Kimball**, Nashua River Watershed Association
- **Lydia Olson**, Mass Rivers Alliance

**Non-Members in Attendance:**

- Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, MWRA
- Andreae Downs, WAC
- Adriana Ceilo, BWSC
- Moussa Siri, WSCAC

## I. Introduction

The meeting was called to order at approximately **10:00 AM** by **Moussa Siri**, the Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee (WSCAC) Executive Director (ED). Moussa Siri welcomed committee members and guests and explained that the decision to meet in person was intentional. He noted that in-person meetings encourage more substantive discussion, informal exchange, and relationship-building than virtual meetings, which often conclude abruptly without opportunities for follow-up dialogue.

Moussa Siri informed attendees that the meeting was being audio-recorded to ensure the preparation of accurate and comprehensive meeting minutes.

## II. WSCAC Businesses

### 1. Roll Call and Vote on Meeting Minutes

#### a. Roll Call and Attendance Check

Paul Lauenstein, WSCAC Chair, called the roll to check attendance and confirmed that the quorum was reached, then moved to vote on approving the October 14<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes.

#### b. Vote to approve November 18th meeting minutes

Moussa Siri reported that the October 14, 2025, meeting minutes had been circulated in advance. He noted that only minor edits were made, including adding a missing link to the presentation materials, and that no substantive changes were made.

- **Motion:** Approve the October 14, 2025, meeting minutes as revised
- **Moved by:** Bill Fadden
- **Seconded by:** Bill Kiley
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval

### 2. Election of Executive Committee Members and Nomination of Prospective Members

#### a. Presentation of Candidates

Moussa Siri explained that WSCAC bylaws require annual renewal of the Executive Committee each November. He presented the proposed candidates, emphasizing the returning members, and welcomed new volunteers to serve for this year.

#### i. Returning Members:

- Paul Lauenstein (Chair)
- Janet Rothrock
- Bill Fadden

- Warren Kimball

**ii. New Members:**

- Erin Bonney Casey
- Paul Rybicki

*b. Votes*

After the introduction by Moussa Siri, Paul Lauenstein called for a motion to approve the candidates for the Executive Committee.

**Motion:** A motion was made and seconded to approve the six Executive Committee members for a one-year term.

**Vote:** The six members were approved unanimously with no further discussion.

*c. Discussion (exchange after votes)*

Members discussed governance-related considerations, including:

- The bylaws specify eight Executive Committee members, while only six are currently serving.
- Whether an eight-member Executive Committee remains appropriate given the current overall committee size.
- Concerns that the existing three-member Executive Committee quorum may be insufficient to ensure representative decision-making.

**Action Item:** WSCAC will revisit Executive Committee size and quorum requirements and consult MWRA legal counsel regarding potential bylaw updates.

**3. Designation/Nomination of Prospective Members**

Moussa Siri presented five candidates for designation as new WSCAC members. He emphasized that the designation by WSCAC is subject to joint designation with the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA), including legal review and conflict-of-interest compliance.

*a. Proposed Members*

Lydia Olson – Mass Rivers Alliance

Phil Larocque – WPS

Evan Pesut – Engineer

Christopher Dreher – Educator

Nina Gordon-Kirsch – Connecticut River Conservancy

*b. Votes*

**Motion:** A motion was made and seconded to designate all five candidates for joint designation with MWRA. The MWRA designation will complete the appointment of candidates.

**Vote:** Unanimous approval

*c. Discussion*

Members highlighted the importance of:

- Maintaining a diversity of professional, geographic, and stakeholder perspectives.
- Preserving balance among advocacy, technical, donor, and user interests.
- Expanding membership to strengthen quorum reliability and committee continuity.

**4. Discussion on WSCAC Priorities and Sub-groups format and their Meeting Frequency**

Moussa Siri proposed transitioning from formal subcommittees to informal working groups to reduce administrative burden and minimize constraints under the Open Meeting Law.

**Rationale:**

- Formal subcommittees require strict quorum monitoring and agenda limitations.
- Working groups would enable exploratory discussion without formal votes or decisions.

**Proposed Framework:**

- Working groups meet as needed.
- No formal votes or decisions occur at the working-group level.
- Written summaries and recommendations are presented to the full WSCAC for deliberation and action if needed.

**5. Water Conservation Working Group Update**

Paul Lauenstein reported on the progress of the Water Conservation Working Group:

- Two drafts of a presentation to the Water Resources Commission (WRC) have been completed.
- A third draft is in development, incorporating subcommittee members' feedback.
- The goal is to deliver a refined presentation in Spring 2026, focusing on practical conservation tools and policy options.

Members were encouraged to review the second draft and provide comments.

**III. Briefings**

**1. WSCAC Briefing**

*a. Drought Conditions*

Moussa Siri reported that although October conditions showed modest improvement, drought conditions persist statewide. WSCAC is a member of the Drought Management Task Force, with Moussa Siri serving on its behalf.

WSCAC, in addition to voting on the drought conditions, contributes to the DMTF by visiting the headwater streams feeding the Quabbin Reservoir to document drought impacts. Moussa noted that:

- Photographs are taken at consistent locations to allow comparison over time.
- Visual documentation supplements long-term hydrologic data, particularly in areas without automated stream gauges.
- Attendees discussed the importance of contextualizing photographs with long-term data to avoid misinterpretation.

*b. Invasive Species Management*

Moussa Siri reported that the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is developing a draft of the invasive species management plan that includes glyphosate use. Members emphasized that:

- Mechanical and non-chemical controls should be fully explored first.
- Pilot studies and rigorous monitoring should precede any chemical approach.
- WSCAC intends to review and comment once the draft plan is released.

*c. Deer Population Monitoring*

Moussa Siri reported that DCR is also exploring the use of drones to assess deer density. Privacy and regulatory issues are under review. WSCAC may consider submitting a letter of support for the drone approach if DCR is not granted the use of the drones, as deer play an important role in forest regrowth, a point of interest for WSCAC.

## **2. Wastewater Advisory Committee (WAC) Briefing – Andreae Downs**

Ms. Downs provided an update on Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Long-Term Control Plan proposals for the Charles, Mystic, and Alewife watersheds.

Key Points:

- Estimated costs range from approximately \$400 million to \$6 billion, depending on the selected alternative.
- Concerns were raised that prioritizing CSO separation could divert funding from stormwater management and sewer pipe repair.
- Some alternatives may exacerbate flooding risks. Ms. Downs emphasized the need for
- pilot programs, data-driven prioritization, and balanced investment strategies.

Andreae Downs also discussed proposed restrictions on land application of biosolids due to PFAS concerns and stressed the importance of upstream source reduction.

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#### IV. Presentation: Lead and Copper Rule Compliance Update

**Presenter:** Stephen Estes-Smargiassi, Director of Planning and Sustainability, MWRA

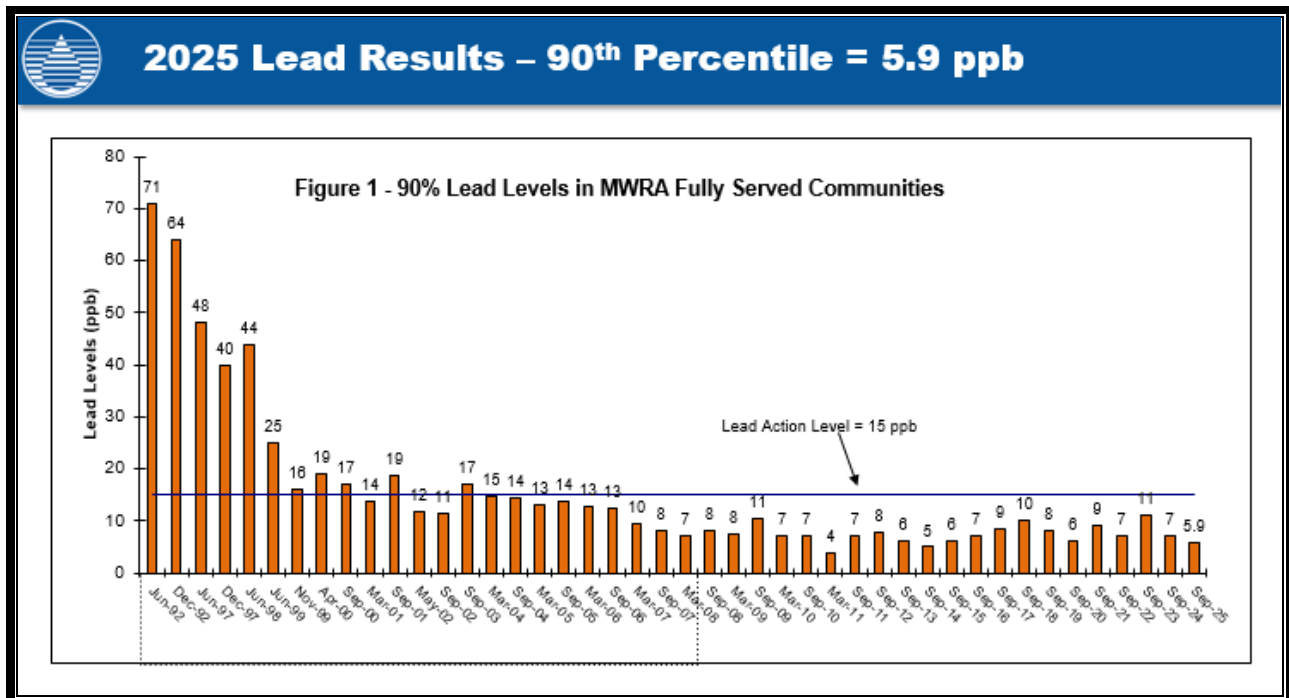
Steve Estes-Smargiassi indicated that the presentation was a larger version of the one to be given at the November MWRA Board of Directors and represents the work being done to comply with new regulations regarding Lead Service Lines (LSLs). The presentation is summarized as follows.

##### 1. 2025 Lead Sampling Results

Lead Results – 90th Percentile (see graph)

- The reported 90th percentile lead concentration was 5.9 ppb, well below the former Action Level of 15 ppb.
- 18 of 594 samples exceeded the Action Level.
- 16 of the 18 exceedances occurred at homes with Lead Service Lines (LSLs).
- Three communities exceeded the Action Level individually and were required to issue 24-hour public notices and mail public education materials.

Steve Estes-Smargiassi explained that year-to-year variability reflects changes in source water blending, rainfall, and the evolving pool of sampling sites as LSLs are replaced.



##### 2. Distribution System and Site Assessments

Distribution System and Site Assessment Summary (see figure)


- Residents were contacted within three days of elevated results.
- Follow-up sampling and investigations were conducted at affected homes.
- Several LSLs were replaced as a result of elevated findings.

- MWRA confirmed that all evaluated sites met Operational Water Quality Parameter (OWQP) limits.

### 3. Comparative and Long-Term Trends

Lead Levels at LSL vs. Non-LSL Sites (see table)

- Non-LSL sites exhibited significantly lower lead concentrations.
- Red indicators denoted exceedances of the new Action Level of 10 ppb, effective October 27, 2025.
- Five-bottle sampling protocols were noted to increase reported lead levels.

 <b>90<sup>th</sup> Percentile Results Significantly Lower for Non-LSL Sites</b>								
Year	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
90th Percentile Full System	10	8	6	9	7	11	7	6
90th Percentile Just LSL	12	11	8	13	9	14	8	7
90th Percentile Just Lead Solder	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	2

Red shows results over new Action Level of 10 ppb (effective 10/27)  
 Five bottle sampling will tend to increase reported lead levels

### 4. Service Line Inventory Findings

Initial Service Line Inventory Summary

- Total service lines reported: 524,810
- Lead Service Lines: 14,078 (2.7%)
- Galvanized Requiring Replacement: 2,856 (0.5%)
- Unknown material: 75,050 (14%)
- Communities are preparing annual notifications to residents with LSLs, GRRs, and unknown service lines.

### 5. Regulatory Changes and MWRA Programs

Key Lead and Copper Rule changes include:

- Increased focus on homes with LSLs.
- First and fifth-liter sampling at LSL homes.
- Expanded sampling at schools and childcare facilities.
- Option to accelerate LSL replacement rather than modify corrosion control.

#### MWRA Lead Loan Program:

- Launched in 2016 with \$100 million in interest-free loans.
- Expanded in 2024 with an additional \$100 million, including a 25% grant incentive.
- \$64.9 million distributed to 21 communities.
- Program achievements include more than 9,500 LSL replacements, 1,579 lead gooseneck replacements, and 4,131 unknown service line identifications.

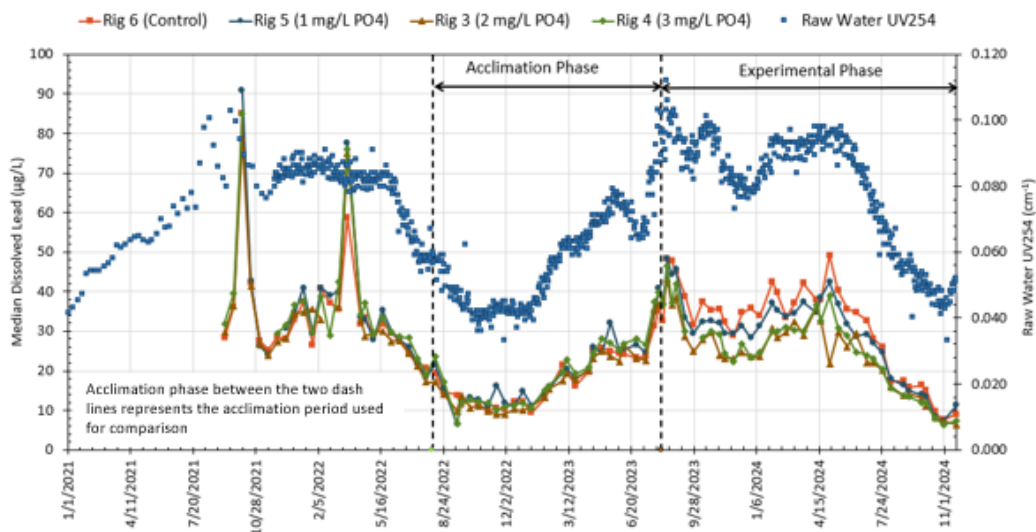


#### ***6. Pipe Rig Corrosion Control Study***

- Orthophosphate reduced total lead by 15–30% and dissolved lead by 15–35%.
- Organic matter (as measured by UV254) in raw water was identified as a strong factor in lead solubility.
- Adding phosphorus presents challenges for downstream nutrient management.

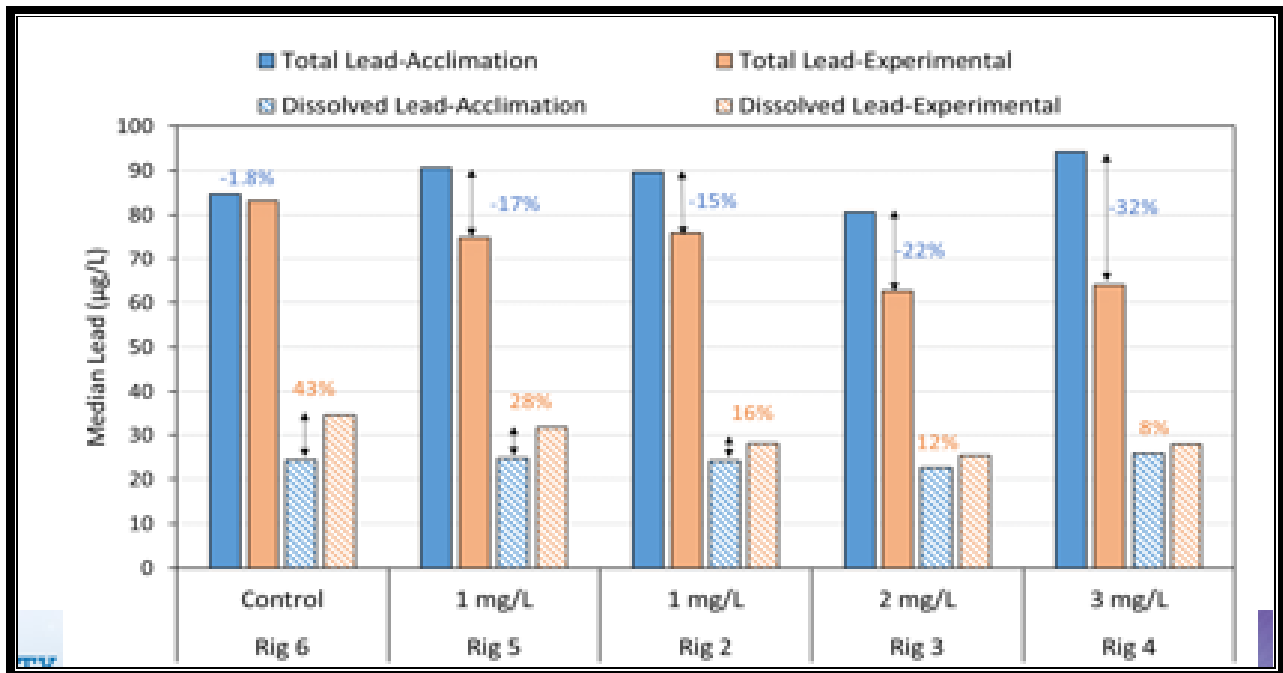
**Conclusion:** Accelerated LSL replacement provides greater long-term benefit than additional chemical corrosion control.

# Median Dissolved Lead and Raw Water



## Pipe Rig Median Total and Dissolved Lead

- Total Lead: 15-30% reduction by 1-3 mg/L PO4 compared to control
- Dissolved Lead: 15-35% reduction at 1-3 mg/L PO4 compared to control



Steve Estes-Smargiassi concluded the presentation with a few points (see presentation for details)

- Distribution system data show that LSLs are the largest contributor to high lead levels in MWRA communities
- Pipe rig data show that adding PO4 modestly reduces lead levels, but not to the extent seen in some water systems.
- Adding phosphorus as a nutrient significantly impacts simultaneous compliance for the distribution system and receiving waters.
- Etc.

To learn more about the topic, please follow this link for the presentation slides: <chrome-extension://efaidnbmnnnibpcajpcglclefindmkaj/https://www.mwra.com/media/file/111825-leadupdatepdf>

#### **V. Other Businesses**

- Paul Lauenstein explained the carbon estimation fieldwork to which several WSCAC members (Paul Lauenstein and Janet Rothrock) and the Executive Director (Moussa Siri) participated. This field tour involved using tape measures and rulers to estimate the carbon stock of standing trees. Bill Moomaw led the field tour and work.
- To learn more about it, contact Moussa Siri or Paul Lauenstein.

#### **Adjournment**

**The meeting adjourned at approximately 12:30 PM.**