

MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

Meeting of the Board of Directors

February 12, 2025

A meeting of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (“MWRA”) Board of Directors was held on February 12, 2025 at MWRA Headquarters at Deer Island, Boston, and via remote participation.

Chair Tepper presided at MWRA Headquarters. Board Members Flanagan, Pappastergion, Peña, Taverna, Vitale, Patrick Walsh and Jack Walsh also participated at the MWRA Administration Facility. Board Members Foti, Swett and Wolowicz participated remotely.

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; Director of Administration Michele Gillen; Director of Tunnel Redundancy Kathleen Murtagh; Special Assistant for Affirmative Action Rita Mercado; Senior Program Manager for Planning Michael O’Keefe; Deer Island Treatment Plant Director David Duest; Chief Engineer Brian Kubaska; MIS Director Paula Weadick; Director of Planning and Sustainability Stephen Estes-Smargiassi; Human Resources Director Wendy Chu; Budget Director Michael Cole; Deputy Finance Director/Treasurer Matthew Horan; Engineering Services Manager Richard Adams; Assistant Director of Engineering Lisa Hamilton; Chief of Staff Katherine Ronan; Associate General Counsels Angela Atchue, Kimberley McMahon and Kristen Schuler Scammon; and, Assistant Secretary Kristin MacDougall attended at MWRA Headquarters.

Vandana Rao, EEA, attended remotely, and Matt Romero, MWRA Advisory Board, attended at MWRA Headquarters.

Chair Tepper called the meeting to order at 1:00pm.

ROLL CALL

MWRA General Counsel Francisco Murphy took roll call of Board members in attendance and announced that Mr. Foti, Mr. Swett and Ms. Wolowicz were participating remotely. The Chair announced that the meeting was being held at MWRA Headquarters and virtually, via a link posted on MWRA’s website. She added that the meeting would be recorded, and that the agenda and meeting materials were available on MWRA’s website.

APPROVAL OF JANUARY 15, 2025 MINUTES

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors’ meeting of January 15, 2025.

Chair Tepper asked if there was any 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>
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Tepper		
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Flanagan		
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Foti		
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Pappastergion		
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Peña		
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Swett		
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Taverna		
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Vitale		
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J. Walsh		
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P. Walsh		
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Wolowicz		
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(ref. I)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey reported that MWRA received DEP approval for a filtration waiver for the Wachusett Reservoir, and advised that the Quabbin Reservoir waiver application is under review.

Next, Mr. Laskey presented a time lapse video of the Quinapoxet Dam Removal Project and provided an update, noting that the contractor worked throughout the winter. He highlighted facilities to promote fish safety, and thanked Board members for their support of the project. Mr. Taverna requested more information about the construction status. MWRA Chief Operating Officer David Coppes explained that the project is close to completion, and described work scheduled for spring 2025, such as plantings. There was brief, general discussion about project features, including specialized stonework to facilitate fish spawning.

Next, Mr. Laskey advised that the MWRA Affirmative Action Plan would be presented for approval at a future Board Meeting, and that staff are evaluating the impacts of recent federal Executive Orders.

Mr. Laskey then reported that MWRA Director of Administration Michele Gillen was selected to participate in the Water and Wastewater Leadership Center program. Finally, he advised that MWRA has informed DCR that flows measured in the Rutland Holden Sewer need to be corrected for 2023 and 2024 due to a data handling error. He explained that staff are working with DCR and the impacted communities to address this issue. (ref. III)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Tepper requested that the Board move into Executive Session to discuss Real Estate and Collective Bargaining, since discussing such in Open Session could have a detrimental effect on the negotiating and bargaining positions of the Authority. She announced that the planned topics for Executive Session were a watershed land acquisition approval; the acceptance of a grant of easements from the MBTA related to MWRA Contract 7725; and, a Collective Bargaining Update for Units 1, 2, 3, 6 and 9. She advised that the Board would return to Open Session after the conclusion of Executive Session.

A motion was duly made and seconded to enter Executive Session for these purposes, and to resume Open Session after Executive Session adjournment.

General Counsel Francisco Murphy reminded Board members that under the Open Meeting Law members who were participating remotely in Executive Session must state that no other person is present or able to hear the discussion at their remote location. A response of “yes” to the Roll Call to enter Executive Session when their name was called would also be deemed their statement that no other person was present or able to hear the Executive Session discussion.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, 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		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Swett		
Taverna		
Vitale		
J. Walsh		
P. Walsh		
Wolowicz		

Voted: to enter Executive Session, and to resume Open Session after Executive Session adjournment.

*** EXECUTIVE SESSION ***

The meeting entered Executive Session at 1:10pm and adjourned at 1:43pm.

*** CONTINUATION OF OPEN SESSION ***

ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND AUDIT

Information

FY2025 Second Quarter Orange Notebook

Michael O’Keefe, MWRA Senior Program Manager for Planning, presented highlights of the Orange Notebook for the second quarter of FY2025 (“Q2”). He reported that low precipitation continued through the start of Q2 (16% below average), and discussed the drought’s impacts on Deer Island Treatment Plant (“DITP”) flows; Quabbin Reservoir levels; and, Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant compliance. Mr. O’Keefe explained that the Quabbin was within normal operating range by the end of Q2, and that its levels dropped to below normal on February 1, 2025, when its seasonal target rose to 85%. He advised that staff have reached out to customer communities to encourage water conservation and leak detection. He then discussed Q2 Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant violations attributable to drought, including the October 2024 exceedances of 12-month average flow limits and effluent copper levels. He noted that these levels have since improved with increased rainfall.

Next, Mr. O’Keefe reported that in Q2 molybdenum levels in sludge fertilizer pellets exceeded state land limits, but were below federal limits. He advised that the exceedances were not permit violations because the pellets were not distributed in Massachusetts. He explained that cooling tower corrosion inhibitors were likely the main sources of the molybdenum in the pellets, and that MWRA’s Toxic Reduction and Control staff are developing educational materials and outreach plans to identify where corrosion inhibitors are being distributed. Finally, Mr. O’Keefe noted that the molybdenum levels have dropped since the Q2 reporting period.

Brief, general discussion followed about the negative gastrointestinal effects of molybdenum on grass-fed cows, and the use of salt licks to reduce such effects.

With respect to a recent major wildfire in California, there was general discussion about the MWRA water distribution system’s capacity if a similar, hypothetical wildfire event were to occur locally. Mr. Laskey noted that MWRA maintains backup water supplies for such emergencies.

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Mr. Flanagan moved to the next Information item. (ref. V A.1)

Delegated Authority Report – January 2025

Mr. Flanagan invited Board Members’ questions on the Delegated Authority Report.

Mr. Jack Walsh requested more information about Report Item C-5: *Wachusett Dam Lower Gatehouse Pipe and Boiler Replacement*. Mr. Coppes explained that Item C-5 was necessary to address a stray voltage issue at the Lower Gate House that posed a worker safety hazard. He provided background on the circumstances and its resolution. Brian Kubaska, MWRA Chief Engineer, added that staff are investigating the issue.

Mr. Jack Walsh then asked staff to describe the purpose of Item P-2: *Purchase Order for Quest Software Subscriptions—State Contract ITS75*. Paula Weadick, MWRA MIS Director, explained that Quest is a suite of software used by Oracle software developers. Mr. Walsh asked how many staff use this software. Ms. Weadick advised that it is used by approximately 25 employees. Mr. Walsh asked if Item P-2 was a sole source purchase. Ms. Weadick responded in the negative.

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Mr. Flanagan moved to the next Information item. (ref. V A.2)

FY25 Financial Update and Summary through January 2025

Thomas Durkin, MWRA Finance Director, reported that overall expenditures were approximately 2.8% under budget; direct expenses were 6.9% underspent, primarily driven by continued low FTE counts (-8.7%); and indirect costs were 2.8% under budget, mostly attributable to lower Watershed reimbursements.

Next, Mr. Durkin discussed capital expenditures, which were at budget after the transfer of \$2.2 million to the defeasance account. He briefly described staff's defeasance strategy and noted that staff expect to recommend a defeasance at a future meeting.

Mr. Durkin then reported that revenues were 0.4% over the estimate, primarily driven by investment income from higher than assumed interest rates and money market account balances.

He then reported that the Capital Improvement Plan ("CIP") is progressing well and that the FY25 CIP was 25.4% under planned spending, after accounting for programs that are not directly under MWRA's control, such as Inflow and Infiltration ("I/I") grants/loans and Local Water System Assistance loans. Finally, Mr. Durkin noted that timing explained most budgetary variances, citing schedule changes and supply chain issues.

Mr. Jack Walsh asked why I/I grant and loan requests were below anticipated levels during Q2. Mr. Durkin described how program participation is estimated, and noted that community participation is voluntary, therefore variable.

MWRA Director of Planning and Sustainability Stephen Estes-Smargiassi suggested that I/I

program applications may have temporarily stalled in Q2 because communities may have prioritized the labor-intensive lead service line inventories that were due on October 16, 2024. He added that staff expect to see an uptick of I/I program applications during Q3. There was brief discussion about the importance of I/I reduction.

Mr. Vitale requested the average duration of a MWRA worker's compensation claim, and more information about MWRA's workers' compensation policy. Wendy Chu, MWRA Human Resources Director, explained that claims are managed on a case-by-case basis, and noted staff would provide more information about the average length of claims at a later date.

Mr. Taverna asked for staff's perspectives on the potential budgetary impacts of new federal tariffs on products from Canada and Mexico. Mr. Durkin relayed MWRA does not conduct business with vendors headquartered in Mexico, and with only a few vendors headquartered in Canada, for a total of approximately \$800,000 over the last fiscal year. He added that staff are evaluating the potential budgetary impacts of tariffs on steel and aluminum. Mr. Durkin advised that the SRF program is not expected to be impacted due to existing policies; however, new tariffs on foreign goods could cause domestic prices to rise.

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Mr. Flanagan moved to the next Information item. (ref. V A.3)

Fiscal Year 2025 Mid-Year Capital Improvement Program Spending Report

Mr. Durkin reported that the FY25 CIP was 21% underspent at the midyear mark, not counting the previously discussed I/I and Local Water Assistance programs. He noted that FY25's midyear CIP spending aligns with the five-year average (28% underspent).

Hearing no discussion or questions from the Board, Mr. Flanagan moved to the next Information Item. (ref. V A.4)

Preliminary FY26 Water and Sewer Assessments

Mr. Durkin explained that the foundation of MWRA's water and sewer assessments is the rate of change, year over year, on a combined basis, for all service communities combined, on average. He reported that staff are proposing a preliminary combined rate increase of 3% for FY26, and noted that this increase is slightly less than last year's projection (3.3%). Mr. Durkin advised that staff remain concerned about the potential impacts of inflation on MWRA assessments. He also discussed MWRA's multi-year rate strategy, which includes projected increases of 3% for FY26-28, and 3.1% for FY29-30, and staff's approaches for sustainable long-term rates management. Finally, Mr. Durkin described the next steps in the FY26 assessments development process.

Referring to page 8 of the Staff Summary for agenda item V A.4 (Fiscal Year 2025 Mid-Year CIP

Spending Report), Mr. Vitale asked staff to provide examples of priority changes that could prompt staff to shift a planned contract award beyond FY25. Mr. Durkin explained that some examples of priority-changing factors include emergencies, unpredicted systems failures, and staffing challenges. Mr. Coppes agreed with Mr. Durkin, and described the current need to reprioritize some CIP projects due to understaffing for engineering positions.

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Mr. Flanagan moved to Approvals. (ref V A.5)

APPROVALS

Transmittal of the FY26 Proposed Current Expense Budget

Mr. Durkin briefly discussed ongoing budgetary challenges due to inflation and supply chain issues, such as the rising cost of chemicals. He advised that staff are managing MWRA's budget through the current period of economic volatility. Staff then presented an overview of MWRA's proposed Preliminary FY26 ("PFY26") Current Expense Budget ("CEB") for transmittal to the MWRA Advisory Board ("Advisory Board"), pending Board approval.

Michael Cole, MWRA Budget Director, reported that staff proposed a PFY26 CEB totaling \$922.2 million, which represents a 2.4% increase over FY25. He presented more details on PFY26 budgets for direct expenses (+2.6% over FY25), primarily driven by the Other Services line item (+19.8%), including potential pellet landfill costs due to PFAS concerns; wages and salaries (+2.6%), including anticipated cost of living adjustments and a FTE reduction (-\$5.6 million); and, maintenance (-7.1%), driven by the completion of some large projects.

Mr. Cole also discussed the PFY26 budget for indirect expenses (+\$6.2 over FY25), including its key drivers: pension (+13.3%); watershed reimbursement (+8.0%), and the Harbor Electric Energy Company ("HEEC") cable (-16.8%). Next, Matthew Horan, MWRA Deputy Finance Director/Treasurer, discussed the PFY26 capital finance budget. He provided background on MWRA's capital finance strategy, noting that over 90% of MWRA's capital financing budget is applied to pay debt service on outstanding bonds, and for anticipated FY26 bond issuances. He explained that staff's active debt management practices, such as structuring; targeted defeasances; and, refundings help to offset inflation and control rate increases. Mr. Horan reported a proposed 4.5% variable interest rate assumption for FY26, and discussed the PFY26 capital finance budget's Other category, including revenue for capital and an optional debt payment to manage rates.

Mr. Horan also discussed trends and budget assumptions for tax exempt and taxable long-term interest rates, and for short-term tax-exempt rates, and how they factor into MWRA's budgets and rate management strategies, and presented a graph illustrating these trends. He noted that interest rates are variable and currently rising, and advised that staff will continue to monitor

them as the budget cycle continues.

Mr. Vitale asked if MWRA has a cap on the amount of reserves it can use per year. Mr. Horan explained that for rate stabilization, there is a 10% cap for senior debt. There was brief, general discussion about bond rating agencies and MWRA's liquidity fee strategies.

Next, Mr. Cole presented staff's PFY26 CIP revenue assumption of \$922.2 million, which is in line with the expense total; noting the largest component of the PFY26 revenue line item is the Rate Revenue Requirement (\$881.0 million), which represents a 2.4% increase over FY25. He also discussed rates associated with investment income (-17% for PFY26), and reported that staff do not anticipate the use of Rate Stabilization in FY26.

Mr. Durkin then discussed MWRA's multi-year rate strategy and projections, noting that staff aim to keep rate increases level and predictable. He explained that staff's current projections might vary from the finals, because MWRA's model uses conservative estimates that compound on each other.

Next, Mr. Durkin noted that projections are a tool for managing future rate increases with today's dollars. He presented graphs of historical and projected rates on a combined basis, and by utility for FY21-FY30, highlighting the overall consistency of rate increases over time. Finally, Mr. Durkin reviewed the next steps of the CEB process.

(Mr. Taverna left and returned to the meeting during the presentation.)

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve transmittal of the FY26 Proposed Current Expense Budget to the MWRA Advisory Board for its 60 day review and comment period.

Chair Tepper asked if there was any 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		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Swett		
Taverna		
Vitale		
J. Walsh		
P. Walsh		
Wolowicz		

(ref. V B.1)

Contract Amendments/Change OrdersEnterprise Content Management System Purchase and Implementation: Cadence Solutions Inc., Contract 7438, Amendment 4

A motion was duly made and seconded that the Board of Directors, on behalf of the Authority, approve Amendment 4 to Contract 7438, Enterprise Content Management System Purchase and Implementation, with Cadence Solutions Inc., to increase the contract amount by \$372, 750.67, from \$2,532,323.19 to \$2,905,073.86, and extend the contract term by 24 months, from March 24, 2025 to March 2, 2027.

Ms. Weadick provided background on the Enterprise Content Management System (“ECM”), which is used to manage documents electronically. She explained: MWRA’s ECM went live in two phases (i.e. March and November 2023); the contract’s previous amendments; work is progressing on schedule; staff seek approval for Amendment 4 to increase application support due to increased ECM system adoption; the significant size and complexity of the system; and benefits of extending this managed services contract.

There was brief discussion about the term “custom configurations” with respect to the scope of the ECM contract. Ms. Weadick noted that in the case of this contract, the term does not refer to code, but to available options inherent to the application. There was also general discussion about the benefits of using out-of-the-box software functionalities.

Chair Tepper asked if there was any 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		
Pappastergion		
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Swett		
Taverna		
Vitale		
J. Walsh		
P. Walsh		
Wolowicz		

(ref. V B.1)

WASTEWATER POLICY AND OVERSIGHT

Information

Combined Sewer Overflow Program Update

Mr. Coppes presented background on MWRA's Combined Sewer Overflow ("CSO") Program, including its start under the Boston Harbor case, development of the CSO Long Term Control Plan ("LTCP") and its 35 projects using a range of CSO controls, their locations and, costs. He noted that the original Program emphasized the elimination of CSOs at beaches and shellfish areas in addition to CSO reductions across the service area. Mr. Coppes explained that MWRA and the CSO communities have continued to make system improvements after the completion of the LTCP projects, with measurable results. He presented a graph of system-wide CSO discharge volume reductions since the 1980s, and described how program initiatives resulted in an 88% reduction of CSO discharge volumes in a typical year, with 94% of the remaining discharges receiving treatment.

Next, Mr. Coppes explained that water quality standards for most of the CSO receiving waters were changed, permitting the Authority to discharge; but not for the Charles River, Upper Mystic River and Alewife Brook water bodies where the water quality standards do not allow CSO discharges. He explained that MWRA and the cities of Somerville and Cambridge each have CSO outfalls that discharge to these waterbodies under variances issued by DEP.

He further noted that under the variances MWRA, Cambridge and Somerville are each required to draft and submit an updated CSO control plan by December 2025, to include alternatives up to and including CSO elimination; consideration of climate change in evaluating control alternatives; and an extensive public outreach program. He outlined the public outreach activities, including four public meetings. He summarized the topics covered at the meetings, and invited Mr. Kubaska to discuss the fourth public meeting, held on January 22, 2025.

Mr. Kubaska noted that the first step in developing an updated CSO control plan was to create a new means of measuring CSO performance with the expected impacts of climate change, including use of storm events projected out to 2050 and the development of a new 2050 typical year and the series of storms used for such development. He presented a table highlighting expected impacts of climate change, including a comparison of the CSO volume predicted for the prior typical year against the new 2050 typical year.

Mr. Kubaska then presented some information concerning the CSO planning process including discussion of development of a unified hydrologic and hydraulic models, creation of alternatives utilizing various CSO reduction tools, development of conceptual layouts and preliminary cost estimates, comparison using weighted criteria, preparation of a Financial Capability Assessment and the ultimate development of a draft updated CSO control plan by

the end of the year.

Next, Mr. Kubaska presented a working preliminary list of potential alternatives that are under investigation for elimination under different conditions for each of the three waterbodies, noting that staff also intend to investigate alternatives that do not achieve full elimination in the 2050 typical year to have a full array of control alternatives. Mr. Kubaska discussed and provided some examples of preliminary potential alternatives for a 2050 typical year; a 2050 5-year storm; and, a 2050 25-year storm. He also discussed characteristics, benefits, costs and feasibility, and some potential LTCP alternatives presented at the most recent public meeting, such as sewer separation for the Mystic River; an integrated alternative for the Alewife Brook (sewer separation plus storage); and potential storage tunnels for the Alewife Brook and Charles River.

Next, Mr. Coppes advised that the full elimination of CSO discharges under the various control standards would require an immense amount of construction and, by way of example, for the Charles River alone at a high projected cost of ~\$2.3 billion; and staff are also developing alternatives for lesser levels of CSO control. Finally, he discussed the next stage of the process that includes organizing all of the alternatives, use of the criteria previously discussed, weighing alternatives, broaden public outreach to involve more stakeholders, robust discussion and collaboration with the Advisory Board and recommendations to the Board.

There was general discussion about potential strategies for public participation, and informing stakeholders about the Updated Control Plan benefits. There was also discussion about achieving substantive water quality improvement in comparison with the potential alternatives' considerable cost. During this discussion, Mr. Coppes discussed the importance of reaching out to as many stakeholders as possible and the challenges of optimizing and navigating the process. Mr. Swett asked why 2050 was selected as a design target. Mr. Coppes explained that regulatory framework requires MWRA to look back at a period and develop a yardstick based on the past (that's the minimum requirement); and he discussed MWRA's decision to look forward and base the analysis on a 2050 typical year, using it as yardstick – a means to evaluate alternatives. Mr. Swett commended staff for taking this step and advised that in his view, a later target, such as 2070, would be more useful. Mr. Coppes acknowledged Mr. Swett's recommendation, and described how the decision to develop alternatives based on projections to 2050 was made. Chair Tepper also acknowledged Mr. Swett's suggestion, and noted that the 2050 target aligns with the planning practices of most Massachusetts state agencies.

With respect to public participation for the Updated CSO control plan, Chair Tepper recommended that MWRA and its partners engage as many diverse stakeholders as possible, including those who were involved during the development of the LTCP. Mr. Kubaska noted

that over 300 people attended the fourth public meeting, indicating a high level of community interest. (Mr. Peña temporarily left the meeting after the discussion.)

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Mr. Patrick Walsh moved to Contract Awards. (ref. VI A.1)

Deer Island Treatment Plant HVAC Control System, Equipment and Fume Hood Replacement- Preliminary Design, Final Design, Bidding and Engineering Services During Construction: Mott MacDonald, LLC, Contract 7110

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the recommendation of the Consultant Selection Committee to award Contract 7110, Deer Island Treatment Plant HVAC Control System, Equipment and Fume Hood Replacement – Preliminary Design, Final Design, Bidding and Engineering Services During Construction, to Mott MacDonald, LLC and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute said contract in an amount not to exceed \$8,274,489.37 for a contract term of 78 months from the Notice to Proceed.

Mr. Duest discussed a proposed contract for preliminary design, final design, bidding and engineering services during construction for a Deer Island Treatment Plant HVAC control system, equipment and fume hood replacement project (“Contract 7110”) with Mott MacDonald, LLC (“Mott MacDonald”). He presented a summary of the contract’s scope, and noted that the equipment to be replaced is at the end of its useful life or obsolete. He advised that this work is needed to ensure that the DITP’s HVAC and fume hood systems meets state code for building occupancy and laboratory operations.

Next, Mr. Duest presented a history of related DITP HVAC replacement efforts; first contract advertised in 2018, and received one bid approximately 80% over the Engineer’s Estimate; decision to divide the project into three separate construction packages to increase competition; and delays in bidding those packages due to time-sensitive, competing projects.

Mr. Duest discussed the bid results for proposed Contract 7110; one bidder, Mott MacDonald, submitted a proposal nearly twice the Engineer’s Estimate’s level of effort for the design phase due to: equipment and code changes; field investigations; site conditions evaluations; surveying; updating designs; and, preparing bid packages for construction. He advised that Mott MacDonald’s bid prices for ESDC were within 10% of the Engineer’s Estimate, and staff are confident in the firm’s qualifications and capacity based on past performance and references.

Next, Mr. Duest discussed how staff evaluated Mott MacDonald’s proposal and factors influencing staff’s recommendation for contract award, including a lack of competition in the HVAC field, and concern that re-advertising the contract could result in the loss of all qualified bidders; and the urgent need to replace DITP’s aging and obsolete HVAC equipment that

continues to degrade and requires costly temporary measures (e.g. leasing mobile chiller units to maintain operations).

Mr. Duest presented photos of the existing HVAC systems and fume hoods at DITP, including outdated controls and corroded equipment that has caused multiple systems failures; reviewed the qualifications of Mott MacDonald and noted Mott MacDonald's commitment to meeting all M/WBE goals for this contract.

(Mr. Peña returned to the meeting during the presentation.)

Discussion followed concerning: the original Design Engineer, Arcadis, for this project; the price for proposed Contract 7110 being higher than that of the original contract advertised in 2018; opportunities for improved energy efficiency; and the current contract's requirements for the consultant to explore and identify available grant funding opportunities.

Mr. Foti expressed concern about the proposed contract's bid price and single bidder. Mr. Duest acknowledged Mr. Foti's concerns and further explained the existing equipment's advanced age and obsolescence contributing to the need to proceed with contract award. Mr. Coppes also acknowledged Mr. Foti's position and concern and advised that in staff's view, further delaying a decision to award this contract could result in worse outcomes with respect to HVAC operations and cost. There was general discussion about the events that led to this contract's current circumstances and the expected life of the equipment to be installed under this contract.

Mr. Jack Walsh asked if the proposed bid price for this contract is within the typical range for this type of project and Mr. Adams confirmed it is slightly below the estimated cost for a new design project with a similar scope as elements of the original design will be applied to this contract. Chair Tepper noted she shared the concerns, and acknowledged that alternatives are limited. Brief discussion followed about the age of the existing HVAC equipment (i.e. over 30 years old) and reasons for not delaying the project further.

Chair Tepper asked if there was any 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	
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Swett		

Taverna
Vitale
J. Walsh
P. Walsh
Wolowicz

(ref. VI B.1)

Digester Fixed Cover and Valve and Gate Replacement, Clinton Treatment Plant; Walsh Construction Company II, LLC, Contract No. 7648

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the award of Contract 7648, Digester Fixed Cover and Valve and Gate Replacement at the Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant, to the lowest responsible and eligible bidder, Walsh Construction Company II, LLC, and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute said contract in the amount of \$7,013,650 for a contract term of 540 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed.

Mr. Duest presented a summary of the bid results for the Digester Fixed Cover and Valve and Gate Replacement project at the Clinton Wastewater Treatment Plant. He reported: two bids were received, and that Walsh Construction Company II, LLC (“Walsh”) was the lowest bidder; challenges with respect to the Division 7 sub-bid category, which was advertised twice; instructing the General Contractors to include a \$500,000 placeholder for the Division 7 category in their bid prices; adjusting the final bid price to reflect the actual Division 7 sub-bid cost; and that final bid price being in line with the Engineer’s Estimate.

Chair Tepper recommended that staff present proposals for large contracts earlier in the agenda for future Board Meetings, and expressed appreciation for competitive bidding. Hearing no further discussion or questions, Chair Tepper 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		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Swett		
Taverna		
Vitale		
J. Walsh		
P. Walsh		

Wolowicz
(ref. VI B.2)

WATER POLICY AND OVERSIGHT

Contract Awards

Northern Extra High Pressure Zone Improvements - CP2: RJV Construction Corporation,
Contract 7725

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the award of Contract 7725, Northern Extra High Pressure Zone Improvements - CP2, to the lowest responsible and eligible bidder, RJV Construction Corporation, and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute said contract in the bid amount of \$26,846,000 for a contract term of 880 calendar days from the Notice to Proceed.

(Mr. Pappastergion temporarily left the meeting during the motion.)

Lisa Hamilton, MWRA Assistant Director of Engineering, presented a schematic of the Northern Extra High Pressure Zone (“NEH”) Improvements project and explained: its goal is to improve the reliability of the NEH system; the project is comprised of three construction packages, including the currently proposed CP-2; CP-1 is complete and in operation; CP-3 is planned for future award; comparison of the CP-2 bid results; lowest bid, from RJV Construction Corp., was 17% above the Engineer’s Estimate.

Mr. Laskey noted that the number and range of bids for this contract reflect a fair level of competition.

Hearing no further discussion or questions, Chair Tepper 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		
Taverna		
Vitale		
J. Walsh		
P. Walsh		
Wolowicz		

(ref. VII A.1)

PERSONNEL AND COMPENSATIONApprovalsFebruary 2025 PCR Amendments

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve amendments to the Position Control Register (PCR) as presented in the February 12, 2025 Staff Summary and filed with the records of this meeting.

Wendy Chu, MWRA Director of Human Resources, invited Board Members' questions on the proposed PCR Amendments for February 2025.

Hearing no discussion or questions from the Board, Chair Teppar 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		
Taverna		
Vitale		
J. Walsh		
P. Walsh		
Wolowicz		

(ref. VIII A.1)

(Mr. Taverna left the meeting after Roll Call.)

Appointment of Deputy Director of Procurement

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the appointment of Mr. Tsuyoshi Fukuda to the position of Deputy Director of Procurement (Non-Union, Grade 15) in the Administration Division, at the annual salary of \$166,000 commencing on a date to be determined by the Executive Director.

Ms. Chu invited Board Members' questions about the proposed appointment of the recommended candidate for the Deputy Director of Procurement position.

Chair Teppar asked if there was any 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>
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Tepper
Flanagan
Foti
Peña
Swett
Vitale
J. Walsh
P. Walsh
Wolowicz

(ref. VIII A.2)

(Mr. Taverna returned to the meeting after Roll Call.)

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD

Chair Tepper announced that the Board of Directors had received correspondence related to the Quabbin Feasibility Study from Susan Doherty, Select Board Chair, Town of Petersham, Massachusetts; The Town of Pelham Select Board; and, Steven J. Williams, Town Manager, Belchertown Massachusetts. She noted that this correspondence was included and publicly posted in the materials for this meeting, and invited Board Members' discussion and/or questions.

Chair Tepper requested that staff update Board Members on the Quabbin Feasibility Study and related discussion at a future Board Meeting. Mr. Jack Walsh acknowledged the value of the correspondence received, and briefly discussed his concerns about some of the correspondents' requests.

(Mr. Pappastergion returned to the meeting during the discussion.)

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Chair Tepper moved to Adjourn.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Hearing no further discussion or questions from the Board, Chair Tepper 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		
Pappastergion		

Peña
Swett
Taverna
Vitale
J. Walsh
P. Walsh
Wolowicz

The meeting adjourned at 3:32pm.

Approved: March 19, 2025

Attest:

 for

Brian Peña, Secretary

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS USED

- Draft Minutes of the January 15, 2025 MWRA Board of Directors' Meeting (ref. I)
- February 12, 2025 Presentation – Quinapoxet Dam Removal Progress Update (ref. III)
- February 12, 2025 Staff Summary and Presentation – FY2025 Second Quarter Orange Notebook (ref. V A.1)
- February 12, 2025 Staff Summary – Delegated Authority Report – January 2025 (ref. V A.2)
- February 12, 2025 Staff Summary – FY25 Financial Update and Summary through January 2025 (ref. V A.3)
- February 12, 2025 Staff Summary – Fiscal Year 2025 Mid-Year Capital Improvement Program Spending Report (ref. V A.4)
- February 12, 2025 Staff Summary – Preliminary FY26 Water and Sewer Assessments (ref. V A.5)
- February 12, 2025 Staff Summary and Presentation – Transmittal of the FY26 Proposed Current Expense Budget (ref. V B.1)
- February 12, 2025 Staff Summary – Enterprise Content Management System Purchase and Implementation: Cadence Solutions Inc., Contract 7438, Amendment 4 (ref. V C.1)
- February 12, 2025 Staff Summary and Presentation – Combined Sewer Overflow Program Update (ref. VI A.1)
- February 12, 2025 Staff Summary and Presentation – Deer Island Treatment Plant HVAC

Control System, Equipment and Fume Hood Replacement-Preliminary Design, Final Design, Bidding and Engineering Services During Construction: Mott MacDonald, LLC, Contract 7110 (ref. VI B.1)

- February 12, 2025 Staff Summary and Presentation – Digester Fixed Cover and Valve and Gate Replacement, Clinton Treatment Plant: Walsh Construction Company II, LLC, Contract No. 7648 (ref. VI B.2)
- February 12, 2025 Staff Summary and Presentation – Northern Extra High Pressure Zone Improvements - CP2: RJV Construction Corporation, Contract 7725 (ref. VII A.1)
- February 12, 2025 Staff Summary – February 2025 PCR Amendments (ref. VIII A.1)
- February 12, 2025 Staff Summary – Appointment of Deputy Director of Procurement (ref. VIII A.2)
- January 20, 2025 correspondence from Susan Doherty, Select Board Chair, Town of Petersham, Massachusetts: Comments on the Quabbin Feasibility Study
- January 22, 2025 correspondence from Town of Pelham Select Board — Robert Agolia, Tara Loomis and, David Shanabrook: Comments on the November 19, 2024, MWRA presentation of the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed Communities: Alternative Evaluation Summary
- January 30, 2025 correspondence from Steven J. Williams, Town Manager, Belchertown Massachusetts: Comments on the November 19, 2024, MWRA presentation of the Quabbin Reservoir Watershed Communities: Alternative Evaluation Summary