

MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

Meeting of the Board of Directors

January 14, 2026

A meeting of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Board of Directors was held on January 14, 2026 at MWRA Headquarters at Deer Island, Boston, and via remote participation.

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

MWRA Executive Director Frederick Laskey attended at MWRA Headquarters. General Counsel Carolyn Francisco Murphy; Chief Operating Officer Kathleen Murtagh; Deputy Chief Operating Officer Rebecca Weidman; Finance Director Thomas Durkin; Director of Administration Michele Gillen; Program Manager Denise Breiteneicher; Budget Director Michael Cole; Deputy Finance Director/Treasurer Matthew Horan; MWRA Assistant Capital Finance Manager and FRRM Assistant Operations Manager Sean Cordy; Human Resources Director Wendy Chu; Associate General Counsels Angela Atchue and Kristen Schuler; Chief of Staff Katherine Ronan; Technical Support Manager Michael Curtis; and Assistant Secretary Kristin MacDougall were among the staff in attendance at the MWRA Headquarters.

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

Chair Tepper called the meeting to order at 1:04pm.

ROLL CALL

MWRA General Counsel Francisco Murphy took roll call of Board members in attendance and announced that Messrs. Foti and Swett were participating remotely, with Ms. Wolowicz expected to join remotely later in the meeting. 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 was being recorded, and the agenda and meeting materials were available on MWRA's website.

APPROVAL OF DECEMBER 10, 2025 MINUTES

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' December 10, 2025 meeting.

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>
Tepper		
Flanagan		
Foti		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Swett		
Taverna		

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Vitale		
J. Walsh		
P. Walsh		

(ref. I)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Laskey reported that staff continued to work on the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan; a public meeting to present and update on the development of draft CSO alternatives and solicit stakeholder input would be held on January 15, 2026; a special Board meeting to discuss staff's recommended draft CSO alternatives was scheduled for February 4; and the February 11 Board Meeting was rescheduled for February 25. He suggested that an upcoming meeting with all members present in person would be a good opportunity for a group photo of Board members.

Next, Mr. Laskey discussed the MA Division of Marine Fisheries' recent reclassification of Boston Harbor to allow for shell fishing for direct human consumption for the first time in many years, which is an indication of the Harbor's cleanliness. He then noted that he had shared a letter from a public health professor at Boston College regarding DCR's proposal to use herbicides in watersheds to control invasive species with Board members. He also briefly updated the Board on the inadvertent release of non-toxic fluid along the Saugus River coastline during drilling for the Section 56 Water Pipeline during the morning of January 14 and presented a photo of the active site.

Finally, Mr. Laskey announced his upcoming retirement and offered his assistance during the Executive Director selection and transition period. He briefly reflected on his tenure at MWRA and the importance of fostering and maintaining a culture of staff integrity. He also referenced his 40 years of public service; some recent MWRA projects; and the professionalism of MWRA operations. He also thanked his wife for her ongoing support.

Chair Tepper congratulated Mr. Laskey on his distinguished career and devotion to public service and thanked him on behalf of herself and the Board. She noted that the process for selecting a new Executive Director, including a preliminary screening committee, would be discussed at the next Board meeting. She asked Board members to consider the potential makeup of such a committee and how it should proceed and operate, noting that the Board would vote on these decisions. Board members congratulated Mr. Laskey, and there was brief general discussion about his retirement. (ref. III)

(Mr. Foti briefly left and returned to the meeting during the report.)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Chair Tepper requested that the Board move into Executive Session to discuss litigation and real estate, since discussing such in Open Session could have a detrimental effect on the negotiating and litigating positions of the Authority. She announced that the planned topics for Executive Session were a watershed land acquisition; an Order of Taking of temporary easements related to MWRA Contract 6224/6225; discussion with respect to litigation for the federal court Boston Harbor case; and an annual litigation update. 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 at their remote location or able to hear the Executive Session discussion.

Upon the 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		

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

*** EXECUTIVE SESSION ***

The meeting entered Executive Session at 1:15pm and adjourned at 1:56pm.

(Ms. Wolowicz joined the meeting.)

*** CONTINUATION OF OPEN SESSION ***

ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND AUDITInformationDelegated Authority Report – December 2025

Mr. Flanagan invited Board Members' questions about the December 2025 Delegated Authority Report.

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

FY21-FY25 Strategic Business Plan: Annual Update FY25 and FY26-FY30 Strategic Business Plan

Denise Breitenicher, MWRA Program Manager, discussed the purpose of the five-year Strategic Business Plan (Business Plan), annual Business Plan updates, and other MWRA metrics. She outlined the Business Plan's guiding principles and structure and presented an annual update on FY 21-25 key highlights, as detailed in the Staff Summary and PowerPoint presentation for this meeting.

Next, Ms. Breiteneicher outlined some new FY26-30 Business Plan goals and initiatives such as supporting businesses in and around MWRA communities; ensuring equitable access to contract opportunities, including for minority-owned and women-owned business enterprises; providing continued assistance to member communities for the replacement of all remaining lead service lines by 2032; all MWRA operations and facility construction projects incorporate carbon emission reductions as a goal of the work; the development of a single, Authority-wide data platform; completion of Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program final design and start of construction in 2028; and, the continued establishment and facilitation of Employee Resource Groups.

In response to questions from Mr. Vitale, Ms. Breiteneicher explained that she and Planning staff are the Business Plan's gatekeepers; the Plan is developed and managed in-house; and cost is a consideration for the goals and initiatives.

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

FY26 Financial Update and Summary through December

Michael Cole, MWRA Budget Director, updated the Board on FY26 financial trends through December, 2025, as presented in the Staff Summary for this meeting. He reported a favorable Current Expense Budget (CEB) variance of \$11.8 million (versus \$14.2 million for the first half of FY25), with 2.3% in underspending attributable to categories related to below-budget FTE counts. He noted improved FTE counts since last year; lower than anticipated watershed reimbursements; and favorable variances for revenues and variable interest rate expenses.

Next, Mr. Cole reported that the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) was approximately 25% under budget on a gross basis, and 22% under budget for project spending only, largely driven by underspending for some wastewater programs such as I/I Local Financial Assistance, which received fewer grant/loan applications than anticipated, and the Deer Island Treatment Plant (DITP) Clarifier Phase 2 project. Finally, Mr. Cole noted that staff plan to present a more detailed CIP project spending report at the February 25, 2026 Board meeting.

There was brief, general discussion with questions and answers about interest rates and their potential impacts on MWRA's budgets, income and debt service. In response to a question from Mr. Jack Walsh, Mr. Cole explained that the reported variance on MWRA's Energy Revenue was driven mostly by revenue from renewable portfolio credits and energy sales.

(Mr. Foti briefly left and returned to the meeting during the summary.)

Mr. Vitale asked how many bond transactions staff anticipated to conduct over the next three years. MWRA Deputy Finance Director/Treasurer Matthew Horan relayed that staff expect to conduct at least one per year, including a sizable refunding and new money transaction this summer, and briefly discussed staff's overall bond strategy. In response to Mr. Vitale's follow-up question, Mr. Horan explained that MWRA has two lines of commercial paper (\$150 million each), and a \$100 million revolving loan with Bank of America. (ref. V A.3)

ApprovalsTransmittal of the FY27 Proposed Capital Improvement Program to the MWRA Advisory Board

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the transmittal of the FY27 Proposed Capital Improvement Program to the MWRA Advisory Board for its 60-day review and comment period.

Staff presented an overview of the Proposed FY27 CIP (PFY27 CIP) for transmittal to the MWRA Advisory Board for review pending Board approval. Thomas Durkin, MWRA Finance Director explained that the CIP is an evolving plan that includes projects that span multiple fiscal years and discussed the document's development and various stakeholders.

Mr. Cole then presented highlights of the PFY27 CIP as detailed in the Staff Summary and presentation for this meeting. He discussed a reduced FY24-28 Baseline Cap; the top spending contracts for FY27 (excluding community loans), which are awarded and expected to drive approximately 39% of total project spending; and the top contracts for FY24-28 (approximately 33% of total spending), including six awarded contracts).

Next, Kathy Murtagh, MWRA Chief Operating Officer, reviewed some ongoing PFY27 projects, including the DITP Clarifier Rehab Phase 2; Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program (MWTP); Ward Street Headworks Upgrade; Northern High Pressure Zone – Revere and Malden Pipelines; Shaft 7 to WASM 3 Intermediate High Pipeline Improvements; and DITP Eastern Seawall Rehabilitation. She also highlighted several new projects such as DITP Aeration and Clarifier Rehabilitation; DITP Roof Replacement; Walnut Street Pipe Bridge Replacement; and Norumbega solar array.

Mr. Laskey noted that while MWRA has budgeted for these large capital projects, the Authority does not have endless sources of funding, counter to some recent public assertions that there is no pressure on MWRA spending.

Mr. Jack Walsh requested more information about the proposed MWTP budget increase. Mr. Cole explained that the increase was due to revised cost estimates and reprojected inflation. Ms. Murtagh added that the upcoming 60% design estimate would help to provide a more accurate MTWP cost estimate and described how the PFY27 CIP estimate was developed. There was brief, general discussion about the importance of controlling MWTP costs and staff's ongoing efforts to do so, including by keeping the project on schedule. Mr. Laskey noted the budgeting value of the 60% design estimate. Mr. Walsh expressed concern about the impacts of rising project costs, including for the Updated CSO Control Program, on ratepayers.

Mr. Durkin concluded the presentation with an outline of the next steps for the PFY27 CIP process.

In response to a question from Mr. Pappastergion, Mr. Horan affirmed that staff would discuss rate implications of the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan at the February 4, 2026 Board of Directors' meeting.

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		

<u>Yes</u>	<u>No</u>	<u>Abstain</u>
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Swett		
Taverna		
Vitale		
J. Walsh		
P. Walsh		
Wolowicz		

(ref. V B.1)

Appointment of Proxy for Fore River Railroad Corporation

A motion was duly made and seconded that the MWRA Board of Directors, as holder of all voting rights of all the issued and outstanding shares of stock of the Fore River Railroad Corporation, vote to appoint Matthew R. Horan, with the power of substitution, to vote as proxy at the next annual meeting and any special meeting of the stockholders for the Fore River Railroad Corporation in accordance with the form of proxy attached to the January 14, 2026 Staff Summary and filed with the records of this meeting. In addition, the MWRA Board of Directors directs the proxy to elect the following board members: Thomas J. Durkin, Michele S. Gillen, Frederick A. Laskey, Kathleen M. Murtagh, Carolyn M. Francisco Murphy, Brian Peña, Katherine Ronan, John J. Walsh, Rebecca Weidman.

Mr. Pappastergion asked why Mr. Laskey was recommended as a Fore River Railroad Corporation (FRRC) Board member given his planned retirement. MWRA Assistant Capital Finance Manager and FRRC Assistant Operations Manager Sean Cordy explained that the FRRC Board expects to meet before Mr. Laskey retires and described the process for appointing new Board members to any vacant seats.

Mr. Cordy then provided some background on the FRRC and the process for appointing a shareholder proxy. He requested the MWRA Board of Directors vote to appoint Matthew Horan as shareholder proxy, and to direct the proxy to elect Kathy Murtagh to the FRRC Board. Finally, Mr. Cordy noted that Ms. Murtagh would replace MWRA retiree David Coppes on the FRRC Board.

Hearing no further questions or discussion 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		

a new position in the Finance Division due to a reorganization.

In response to questions from Mr. Peña, Mr. Horan explained that the Investment Manager position proposed for a title and grade change to Senior Treasury Analyst had been vacant since September 2025 and its duties are now assigned to the new Capital Finance Manager position. He also briefly discussed the rationale for the reorganization and the new position's job responsibilities.

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		

(ref. VI A.1)

Appointment of Deputy Director, Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the appointment of Ms. Lisa L. Wong to the position of Deputy Director, Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (Non-Union Grade 15) at an annual salary of \$180,250 to be effective on a date to be determined by the Executive Director.

Ms. Chu described the work experience and qualifications of the recommended candidate, provided background on the DITP Deputy Director position's vacancy, and briefly reviewed the selection process.

Hearing no 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		

(ref. VI A.2)

Appointment of Director, SCADA, Metering & Monitoring

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the appointment of Mr. Mark Soutter to the position of Director, SCADA, Metering & Monitoring (Non-Union, Grade 15) in the Operations Division, at the recommended annual salary of \$180,250 commencing on a date to be determined by the Executive Director.

Ms. Chu discussed the vacancy history and selection process for the Director, SCADA, Metering and Monitoring position, and described the recommended candidate's work history and qualifications.

Hearing no 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		

(ref. VI A.3)

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD

Chair Tepper announced that she and the Board of Directors had received correspondence regarding the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan, which was included in the materials for this meeting and posted on MWRA's website; and, in addition to formal Correspondence to the Board, other emails related to the Draft CSO Plan were received. She noted that all the correspondence would not be listed individually in the interest of time, but their receipt has been noted, and the continued interest in and outreach on this matter is appreciated.

Citing State Representative David M. Rogers' December 18, 2025 letter, Mr. Jack Walsh asked if CSO discharges had entered homes. MWRA Chief Engineer Brian Kubaska relayed that while staff have not documented these particular events themselves, residents of homes adjacent to the Alewife Brook, which is a CSO receiving water that can overtop its banks during storms, have reported flood waters entering their homes. In response to Mr. Walsh's follow-up question, Mr. Kubaska explained that flood waters of CSO receiving waterbodies can enter homes and include CSO discharges during very large storm events.

Secretary Tepper noted that she had recently heard questions and concerns from colleagues, constituents and legislators regarding the Draft Plan. (ref. VII A)

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no Other Business. (ref. IX)

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		
Pappastergion		
Peña		
Swett		
Taverna		
Vitale		
J. Walsh		
P. Walsh		
Wolowicz		

The meeting adjourned at 2:50pm.

Approved: February 25, 2026

Attest:

 for

Brian Peña, Secretary

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS USED

- Draft Minutes of the December 10, 2025 MWRA Board of Directors Meeting (ref. I)
- January 10, 2026 letter from Philip J. Landrigan, MD regarding large-scale use of the glyphosate (Roundup) to suppress the growth of invasive and native plant species in the Quabbin Reservoir watershed (ref. III)
- Photo of Section 56 Water Pipeline worksite (ref. III)
- January 14, 2026 Staff Summary: Delegated Authority Report – December 2025 (ref. V A.1)
- January 14, 2026 Staff Summary and Presentation: FY21-FY25 Strategic Business Plan: Annual Update for FY25 and FY26-FY30 Strategic Business Plan (ref. V A.2)
- January 14, 2026 Staff Summary: FY26 Financial Update and Summary through December (V A.3)
- January 14, 2026 Staff Summary and Presentation: Transmittal of the FY27 Proposed Capital Improvement Program to the MWRA Advisory Board (ref. V B.1)
- January 14, 2026 Staff Summary: Appointment of Proxy for Fore River Railroad Corporation (ref. V B.2)
- January 14, 2026 Staff Summary: Legal Services Furnished by Special Assistant Attorney General Jonathan Ettinger/Foley Hoag LLP in the Boston Harbor Case, *U.S. v. MDC, et al.*, USDC No. 85-0489-RGS; *CLF v. MDC, et al.*, USDC No. 83-1614-RGS (ref. V B.3)
- January 14, 2026 Staff Summary: Financial and Swap Advisory Services: PFM Financial Advisory LLC,

Contract F285 (ref. V C.1)

- January 14, 2026 Staff Summary: January 2026 PCR Amendments (ref. VI A.1)
- January 14, 2026 Staff Summary: Appointment of Deputy Director, Deer Island Wastewater Treatment Plant (ref. VI A.2)
- January 14, 2026 Staff Summary: Appointment of Director, SCADA, Metering & Monitoring (ref. VI A.3)
- Correspondence to the Board regarding the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan (ref. VII A)