

MASSACHUSETTS WATER RESOURCES AUTHORITY

Meeting of the Board of Directors

April 15, 2026

A meeting of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) Board of Directors was held on April 15, 2026 at MWRA Headquarters at Deer Island, Boston, and via remote participation.

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

MWRA Executive Director Frederick Laskey; General Counsel Carolyn Francisco Murphy; Chief Operating Officer Kathleen Murtagh, Deputy Chief Operating Officers Stephen Cullen and Rebecca Weidman; Finance Director Thomas Durkin; Administration Director Michele Gillen; President of United Steel Workers of America Local 9360 Unit 6 and MWRA Capital Finance Manager Sean Cordy; Budget Director Michael Cole; Energy Manager Kristen Patneau; Senior Program Manager Kristen Hall; Program Manager David Granados; Planning and Sustainability Director Stephen Estes-Smargiassi; Acting Tunnel Program Director Paul Savard; Associate General Counsel Angela Atchue; Chief of Staff Katie Ronan; Technical Support Manager Michael Curtis; and Assistant Secretary Kristin MacDougall were among the staff in attendance at MWRA Headquarters.

Vandana Rao, EEA and Matt Romero and Richard Raiche, MWRA Advisory Board, attended at MWRA Headquarters. Donna Laskey, Jack Laskey and Helen Pappastergion also attended at MWRA Headquarters.

Chair Tepper called the meeting to order at 1:05pm.

ROLL CALL

MWRA General Counsel Francisco Murphy took roll call of Board members in attendance. 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 MARCH 18, 2026 MINUTES

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the minutes of the Board of Directors' March 18, 2026 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		

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

(ref. I)

REPORT OF THE CHAIR

Chair's Report

Secretary Tepper reported that the Massachusetts Senate was currently considering the Mass Ready Bill, which is the environmental bond bill for the state. (ref. II.A)

Recognition of Frederick A. Laskey's Service as MWRA Executive Director

Chair Tepper offered remarks in honor of MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey's last Board of Directors' meeting before his retirement on May 8, 2026:

For the last 25 years, Fred Laskey has successfully led the MWRA as a well-respected public authority providing drinking water and wastewater treatment for 3.1 million people in eastern and central Massachusetts. With an operating budget of over \$900 million, and a \$200 million annual capital improvement plan, and an organization of 1,200 employees, Fred has overseen capital construction projects related to the clean-up of Boston Harbor and CSO programs along with the Charles, Mystic and Neponset Rivers.

Under Fred's leadership, MWRA has been recognized nationally for its sustainability and renewable energy initiatives, including wind, solar, hydro and methane. MWRA has also become nationally known for its tracking of COVID-19 in wastewater at Deer Island. And remaining true to his roots, Fred takes great pride in having maintained MWRA's strong financial position and credit rating.

In his over three decades in public service to the Commonwealth, Fred has served in multiple leadership roles in both the Weld and Cellucci Administrations, including as Revenue Commissioner and Secretary of Administration and Finance. Before joining MWRA, Fred served as the Commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue and served as Secretary of Administration and Finance from 1998-1999. Fred is the Chair of the Water Supply Protection Trust and the Boston Harbor Islands Partnership.

Fred has devoted most of his life to public service, and we are deeply grateful for his leadership. His legacy of environmental stewardship will benefit communities in the Commonwealth for generations to come. The people of Massachusetts are so fortunate to have had you at the helm of MWRA over the last 25 years. You are a dream public servant: creative, practical, committed to the mission and to your team. I know everybody here will miss you. I know this Board will miss you, and we want to thank you for your service and for being such a darn nice guy.

Special Citation from Governor Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll

Chair Tepper then presented Mr. Laskey with a commemorative award and announced that Governor

Healey and Lieutenant Governor Driscoll have issued a special citation:

On behalf of the residents of Massachusetts, I am pleased to confer upon you this Governor's Citation in recognition of your over three decades of public service to the Commonwealth. From your early start as Senior Deputy Commissioner of the Department of Revenue, to joining Governor Cellucci's Cabinet in 1998 as Secretary of Administration and Finance, to becoming Commissioner of the Department of Revenue, to your service as MWRA Executive Director, we are grateful for your incredible and lasting contributions to our state. In particular, over the last 25 years your leadership of MWRA has meaningfully impacted the water resources of Massachusetts, with your advocacy, passion, and guidance transforming the harbor, along with delivering high-quality drinking water and ensuring protection of the Authority's vital water and wastewater infrastructure. We thank you and wish you all the best in the years to come.

This Fifteenth Day of April in the year 2026. (ref. II.B)

March 6, 2026, letter from Chris Redfern on behalf of Friends of the Fells regarding the approaching retirement of MWRA Executive Director Frederick A. Laskey

Next, Vice Chair Pappastergion noted a March 6, 2026 letter to the Board from Chris Redfern on behalf of the Friends of the Middlesex Fells Reservation providing examples of the collaboration between MWRA and the Friends of the Fells under Mr. Laskey's leadership, and quoted the letter in part:

As the retirement of Executive Director Frederick A. Laskey approaches, on behalf of the Friends of the Middlesex Fells Reservation I wish to express our immense admiration and gratitude to Director Laskey for his 25 years of stewardship of MWRA activities within the Fells.... In 2010 Director Laskey wrote that the MWRA mission was 'to provide a safe and uninterrupted water supply to the residents of our member communities and to facilitate a safe environment for those walking and hiking near or on waterworks land.' ... Along with this dual mission, Director Laskey has also recognized the need to take care of what makes the Fells so extraordinarily rugged, beloved, and important.

Mr. Pappastergion thanked the Friends of the Fells for their kind words and noted that MWRA looked forward to continued collaboration. (ref. II.C/VIII)

Renaming of the Spot Pond Covered Storage Tanks and Pump Station in Stoneham, Massachusetts the "Frederick A. Laskey Covered Storage and Pump Station" (VOTE)

Mr. Pappastergion presented photos of the Spot Pond Covered Storage Facility and Pump Station in Stoneham and described the facility's capacity, components, operations and history. He explained that the facilities are critical to MWRA's water system, providing additional covered water storage and pressure stabilization for the Northern Low Service area including Somerville, Malden, Medford, Everett, Chelsea, Charlestown, Brighton and East Boston as well as pumping redundancy for 21 communities in the Northern High and Northern Intermediate High service areas. Mr. Pappastergion discussed how the Spot Pond storage site was landscaped with specially selected local plant species to create an upland meadow for passive recreation. He also noted that the meadow also serves as a connection point to a large public access trail network and represents the first addition of open space to the Fells since its creation. He also presented an artist's rendering of the Frederick A. Laskey Covered Storage and Pump Station facility.

Mr. Pappastergion duly moved that the Board of Directors adopt the following resolution and action:

Whereas, after serving in leadership roles in the Weld and Cellucci Administrations, on June 1, 2001, Frederick A. Laskey joined the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority as Executive Director, beginning a 25-year tenure as the longest serving Executive Director in the Authority’s history; and

Whereas, Mr. Laskey has provided strong leadership in support of the Authority’s critical operations, invested in watershed protection, prioritized attention to security, empowered workforce development, promoted public access, and championed sustainability, resiliency and mitigating the impacts of climate change; and

Whereas, Mr. Laskey has overseen \$4.3 billion of capital spending to ensure reliability and redundancy of the water system, improve conveyance in the wastewater system, and continue critical maintenance at Deer Island and reduce CSOs; and

Whereas, Mr. Laskey maintained the Authority’s strong credit rating and financial position while issuing \$12.2 billion in Bonds; and

Whereas, Mr. Laskey has performed his public service to both the Commonwealth and the customer communities of the MWRA Service Area with the utmost professionalism and integrity; and

Whereas, the Spot Pond Covered Storage Tank and Pump Station consists of two 10-million-gallon tanks that both protect drinking water from potential contamination and provide supply in the event of emergency, as well as additional pumping capacity that provides redundancy to the 21 communities served by the Northern High and Northern Intermediate High pressure zones, which was part of a larger initiative championed by Mr. Laskey to provide complete covered storage throughout the MWRA water system. Now therefore, in recognition of Mr. Laskey’s leadership and service, that the Board of Directors of the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority approve the renaming of the Spot Pond Covered Storage Tank and Pump Station in Stoneham, Massachusetts the “Frederick A. Laskey Covered Storage and Pump Station.”

The motion was duly seconded.

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		
Vitale		
J. Walsh		
P. Walsh		
Wolowicz		

(ref. II.D)

MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey described how the Laskey (formerly Spot Pond) Facility was developed and designed to strengthen water system security, and how MWRA worked with local advocates to identify appropriate sites, noting that the Facility replaces a parking garage. Mr. Laskey acknowledged the impacts that infrastructure projects can have on local residents and ratepayers and described his experience with the challenging public outreach process for the Spot Pond project, noting the support of then-State Senator Katherine Clark at a public meeting. Finally, he expressed his gratitude to Board members for their participation in the Authority's decision-making processes, and thanked MWRA staff. (ref. III)

MWRA Staff Remarks

Michele Gillen, MWRA Director of Administration, spoke on behalf of MWRA's non-union managers. She welcomed Mrs. Laskey to the meeting and noted that Mr. Laskey had attended approximately 300 Board of Directors' meetings during his time at the Authority. Ms. Gillen reflected on some of MWRA's key accomplishments under Mr. Laskey's leadership, including long-term financial stability; predictable and sustainable rates; significant reductions in Combined Sewer Overflows ("CSOs") including through the Dorchester Tunnel project; and the implementation of water system redundancy. She also noted Mr. Laskey's dedication to MWRA's core mission, the environment, and public health. Ms. Gillen then discussed staff's appreciation for his unwavering commitment to the Authority's values, including a diverse workforce, meaningful dialogues, and inclusive work environments, noting the significance of Mr. Laskey's incorporation of such values into MWRA's Five-Year Business Plan. She affirmed that staff would carry on MWRA's mission and the values that he exemplified. Finally, she described Mr. Laskey's genuine concern for staff and their families and presented him with a photograph of the Quinapoxet River. There was brief discussion about the Quinapoxet Dam removal project.

Next, Sean Cordy, President of United Steel Workers of America Local 9360 Unit 6 and MWRA Capital Finance Manager, discussed how Mr. Laskey consistently made it clear that good labor relations were key to MWRA's success; was always open to talk; and willing to thoroughly address issues. He explained that while he and Mr. Laskey didn't always agree, Mr. Laskey listened with an open mind and did what he could. Mr. Cordy expressed regret for not taking more advantage of Mr. Laskey's open-door policy, and hope that the next Executive Director will follow his example of prioritizing Union relations. He described how many employees begin working out of financial necessity and ultimately develop long-term, fulfilling careers, which is a testament to how staff are treated at MWRA. Mr. Cordy thanked Mr. Laskey for his many contributions, which make staff proud to work at the Authority, and noted that his tremendous legacy will continue for decades or even centuries through the many projects and programs that he has approved. Finally, on behalf of Unit 6, Mr. Cordy thanked Mr. Laskey for everything he has done for Union members and the community and wished him a long and happy retirement. (ref. II.B)

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Mr. Laskey noted that the Board had awarded 300 contracts during his tenure, including 127 for water projects, 87 for wastewater, 61 for the Deer Island Treatment Plant ("DITP") and 25 for CSOs. He discussed how MWRA's complex and difficult projects are able to move forward because of MWRA's good financial standing. Mr. Laskey also explained that he was recruited in part to improve the Authority's finances, and asked Board members and staff to keep the importance of MWRA's financial health in mind for the future, noting some upcoming heavy cost burdens.

Next, Mr. Laskey highlighted some favorite recent projects including the McLaughlin Fish Hatchery Pipeline, renewable energy initiatives, and Quinapoxet Dam Removal. He discussed how the events of September 11, 2001 prompted significant changes to MWRA's operations and security procedures; and other challenging times such as the 2016 Nut Island fire and 2015 "Snowmageddon." Mr. Laskey briefly noted CSO control and advised that the needs of all MWRA's customer communities must be kept in mind because their assessments fund most of the Authority's projects and operations. He also discussed some collaborative projects with other state agencies such as the Watershed Protection program and storm drain diversions.

Mr. Laskey then noted the high level of professionalism consistently demonstrated by MWRA staff, many of whom had worked under past Executive Directors Paul Levy and Douglas MacDonald. He remarked on how staff rise to the occasion and run toward, rather than away from the fire despite various pressures, and thanked them for all they have done.

Mr. Laskey also reflected on the late past Board Chair John Carroll and advised that he believes it would be a mistake to change the Board's current makeup of 11 members, which has proven to work well since MWRA was established. He thanked Board members for their many contributions to the Authority, their friendship, and for holding him to a high standard.

Finally, he thanked his wife, Mrs. Donna Laskey, for her support throughout his career, including the many late nights he spent addressing water main breaks earlier in his career, noting that such events now take place much less frequently due to MWRA's infrastructure and maintenance improvements.

MWRA Advisory Board Chair's Remarks

On behalf of the MWRA Advisory Board, its Chair Richard Raiche congratulated Mr. Laskey and thanked him for keeping customer communities and ratepayers at the forefront. He discussed the Advisory Board's advocacy for MWRA's member communities and its role of providing input on budgets and policy. Finally, Mr. Raiche noted that Mr. Laskey's legacy will live on through MWRA's brick and mortar facilities and the Authority's transparent, professional staff, and thanked him for his leadership.

Mr. Laskey described ongoing challenges surrounding the Draft Updated CSO Control Plan and noted that in his view much of MWRA's success is because everything that was built was worth its design and worth what was expected to pay. He expressed concern about potential outcomes of making financial and technical decisions in reaction to pressures, calling for calm and the implementation of the best plan possible going forward.

Finally, Mr. Laskey thanked Chair Tepper and noted that he has enjoyed working with her, and Board members echoed Mr. Laskey's remark. (ref. III)

ADMINISTRATION, FINANCE AND AUDIT

Information

Delegated Authority Report – February and March 2026

Mr. Flanagan invited Board Members' questions about the 2026 Delegated Authority Report for February and March. 2026.

There was brief discussion about the order of this meeting's agenda. (ref. I)

Hearing no further questions of discussion from the Board, Mr. Flanagan moved to the next Information

Item. (ref. IV A.1)

FY2026 Financial Update and Summary as of March 2026

Michael Cole, MWRA Budget Director, reported that the FY26 budget was approximately \$18 million underspent, which is in line with this period in FY25; expenses were 2% favorable to budget; revenues were at 0.5% favorable; and many trends discussed throughout the fiscal year have continued. Next, he updated the Board on diesel fuel costs, which had risen to \$5.08 per gallon in Massachusetts. Mr. Cole also followed up on a question that Mr. Peña asked at the March Board meeting regarding the impact of taxes on fuel costs. He explained that the net cost without tax was \$4.60 per gallon, versus the \$2.72 per gallon MWRA paid for Deer Island fuel in April. Finally, Mr. Cole reported that the CIP was in line with historical trends with respect to variances.

(Ms. Wolowicz temporarily left the meeting during the summary.)

In response to a question from Mr. Taverna, Mr. Cole affirmed that MWRA was exempt from taxes on fuel. In response to questions from Mr. Jack Walsh, Mr. Cole explained that MWRA paid an average of approximately \$0.17 per kilowatt hour of electricity, including for Deer Island.

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

MWRA Electricity Procurement Strategies

Kristen Patneau, MWRA Energy Manager noted that her presentation would include answers to Board members' recent questions about electricity costs and how they relate to MWRA contract structures and acknowledged Mr. Laskey's commitment to the development of renewable energy, decarbonization and other savings measures.

She then reviewed MWRA's Electricity Procurement strategies as detailed in the presentation slides ("slides") and Staff Summary for this meeting. She provided background on MWRA's Energy Program and noted that electricity is the Authority's primary purchased energy source; discussed MWRA's electricity cost components including supply and delivery charges, supply costs, available provider entities, and role of the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) for setting rates that support statewide policy objectives.

Ms. Patneau explained that delivery charges and non-energy supply costs are largely out of MWRA's direct control and can lead to budget overspending due to unforeseen rate changes or new policies. She outlined some of MWRA's energy cost management strategies including memberships in associations such as the PowerOptions, Inc. and the procurement of supply contracts in the competitive market. She presented a summary of MWRA's electricity contracts portfolio, including a Deer Island account, interval accounts and profile accounts.

Chair Tepper requested more information about the contracts' durations. Ms. Patneau explained that staff typically seek bids for one, two, and three-year contracts (with a two-year average), and the current contracts are for three years. In response to the Chair's follow-up question, Ms. Patneau relayed that the number of bids received has decreased from approximately four to two since the Program began in 2001.

Next, Ms. Patneau reviewed the types of electricity contract structures MWRA has historically used

and contracts currently in place, noting that staff seek bids with a variety of structures and terms for maximum flexibility, and outlined MWRA's process for evaluating, reviewing and procuring electricity contracts. She explained that historical electricity pricing does not necessarily reflect future pricing conditions and presented cost comparisons for DITP electricity supply under three contract structure scenarios. There was brief discussion about the graph and photo on Slide 13.

She discussed staff's electricity market timing strategy for flexibility, including monitoring and the use of third-party contracts when feasible. She noted that the DPU requires utilities to procure basic service supplies every six months to avoid rate shocks.

(Ms. Wolowicz returned to the meeting during the presentation.)

Chair Tepper advised that the DPU's six-month requirement is by statute and is proposed to be changed as part of this year's Affordability Bill.

Ms. Patneade then reviewed some collaborative electricity purchasing options including Community Choice Aggregators ("CCAs"). She explained that approximately 50% of MWRA accounts on basic services are enrolled in CCAs offering the option and described some benefits such as increased competitor supplier interest and favorable pricing. Finally, she noted that MWRA can access similar advantages due to the significant size of its accounts and desirable low profiles.

In response to a question from Mr. Jack Walsh, Ms. Patneade explained that electricity rates are lower for commercial and industrial users because of lower delivery rates; larger purchases; third-party competitive bids; longer and fixed-price block contracts; and market timing. There was brief discussion with questions and answers about the cost benefits of reducing use of the power grid at some MWRA facilities such as DITP and the Carroll Water Treatment during peak periods for electricity demand.

Chair Tepper requested more information about avoided costs through use of MWRA's renewable energy assets. Ms. Patneade relayed that the use of DITP digester gas for heating saves \$3-\$5 million per year. MWRA Director of Planning and Sustainability Stephen Estes-Smargiassi noted that additional data is available in MWRA's Orange Notebook, and staff would discuss highlights at a future Board meeting.

Hearing no further questions or discussion from the Board, Chair Tepper moved to Wastewater Policy and Oversight. (ref. V A.3)

WASTEWATER POLICY AND OVERSIGHT

Information

Infiltration/Inflow Local Financial Assistance Program Annual Update

Kristen Hall, MWRA Senior Program Manager, updated the Board on MWRA's Infiltration/Inflow ("I/I") Local Financial Assistance Program as presented in the Staff Summary and meeting slides. She discussed the Program's goal to reduce flows to DITP and the risk of Sanitary Sewer Overflows ("SSOs") and its importance for CSO control by reducing flows from separate communities during large rain events and offsetting flows from new development. Next, Ms. Hall reviewed the 16 phases of I/I Program community grant and loan funding to date (\$1 billion total); relayed that phases 1-8 are complete and summarized the terms of ongoing phases. She discussed the Program's distributions, noting that MWRA has additional applications on hand; reviewed the I/I Program's accomplishments to date; presented

long-term regional flow data showing a gradual decrease; highlighted notable trends; and described the complex flow data calculation methodology. Finally, Ms. Hall discussed Mr. Laskey's significant contributions to the I/I Program.

(Chair Tepper briefly left and returned to the meeting.)

There was discussion with questions and answers about the challenge of quantifying the long-term regional flow data as presented due to the variability of flow sources from communities over time, including population changes and rainfall. Mr. Estes-Smargiassi described the detailed data review performed by staff and referred to MWRA's Annual Infiltration/Inflow Report posted on MWRA's website for more information. He also noted that the peaks shown on Slide 19 can include the capture of flows from combined sewers for treatment.

Hearing no further questions or discussion from the Board, Chair Tepper moved to Water Policy and Oversight. (ref. V A.1)

WATER POLICY AND OVERSIGHT

Information

Local Water System Assistance Program Annual Update

Ms. Hall presented an update on MWRA's Local Water System Assistance Program (LWSAP) as detailed in the Staff Summary and meeting slides. She provided background on the LWSAP and reported that according to community data, approximately 71% of local water mains are currently lined; and MWRA has funded approximately 648 miles (9%) of community water main replacement, cleaning and relining projects as of December 2025. She also noted that approximately 1,900 miles of unlined pipe remain in the MWRA system (with some community systems now fully lined) and presented a summary of LWSAP funding to date (\$1.025 billion in four phases). Ms. Hall then discussed CY26 distributions; anticipated fundings; how funds are allocated and distributed; LWSAP loan terms; Program phases and projects since its 1998 pilot; the timing between phases; and expected evaluations for future phases. Finally, she presented photos of projects performed under the LWSAP and highlighted the Program's accomplishments under Mr. Laskey's leadership, noting that he was an early proponent of lead service line replacement.

Mr. Foti remarked on the importance of the I/I and LWSAP programs; noted their origins as Advisory Board's recommendations; and discussed how the programs facilitate important local water projects.

Hearing no further questions or discussion from the Board, Committee Chair Taverna moved to the next Information item. (ref. VI A.1)

Lead Service Line Replacement Program Update

David Granados, MWRA Program Manager updated the Board on MWRA's Lead Service Line Replacement Program ("LSLRP") as further discussed in the Staff Summary and meeting slides. He provided background on the Program, noting that in 2024 MWRA expanded the Program by \$100 million to include 25% community grants with the requirement of fully replacing lead service lines at no cost to the homeowner. He also explained that municipalities that do not fully fund private-side lead service lines are still eligible for LSLRP loans. Next, Mr. Granados discussed the federally required October 2024 Lead Service Line Inventory. He presented MWRA communities' inventory results for lead service lines, galvanized pipes requiring replacement, and pipes of unknown materials in October 2024 and October

2026, noting reductions in all categories. He also reviewed MWRA's outreach efforts for the Program, community participation rates; grant/loan distributions in 2026 (to Reading and Winthrop); and expected LSLRP applications. Finally, Mr. Granados discussed LSLRP accomplishments realized under Mr. Laskey's leadership, noting that he has attended public meetings to reinforce the benefits of replacing lead service lines and goosenecks.

Mr. Taverna asked if the MWRA system is on pace overall with respect to meeting the 2032 federal lead service line replacement deadline. Mr. Granados noted individual municipalities' responsibilities for meeting this deadline and reported that progress is being made; however, work remains. He explained that November 2027, when communities will be required to submit an inventory update, is expected to be a significant milestone.

Noting that 12,000 miles of community lead service lines remain to be replaced within the MWRA system, and that lead replacement is not just the Authority's problem to solve, Mr. Swett discussed the potential need for more localized regulatory requirements to eliminate lead service lines. Mr. Estes-Smargiassi noted that one MWRA community had enacted a "replace-on-sale" home lead service line ordinance, and staff have recommended this approach to other municipalities and state legislators; however, it has not been widely adopted. He also described MWRA's past efforts for state legislation regarding lead service line disclosures and indicated that staff would welcome more aggressive local or state-level action on the matter. Mr. Estes-Smargiassi then discussed concerns about some communities' progress and noted staff's work to help municipalities complete local lead service line replacements. Mr. Swett advised that he is concerned about system-wide repercussions due to a lack of local progress and recommended that MWRA pursue the matter more aggressively. Mr. Estes-Smargiassi acknowledged Mr. Swett's remarks and invited Board members' suggestions and future discussion. There was brief discussion about a photo in the presentation.

In response to questions from Mr. Jack Walsh about how municipalities inspect and identify water service lines, including those of unknown materials, Mr. Granados described some approaches, including excavation, statistical analysis and modeling. Mr. Laskey noted Medford's challenges with service line identifications related to a past records facility fire, and there was brief discussion about the city's progress on replacements.

Hearing no further questions or discussion from the Board, Mr. Taverna moved to Contract Awards. (ref. VI A.2)

Contract Awards

Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program – Construction Management Services: Hatch Associates Consultants, Inc, Contract 7356

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the recommendation of the Consultant Selection Committee to award Contract 7356, Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program Construction Management Services, to Hatch Associates Consultants, Inc. and to authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to execute said contract in an amount not to exceed \$153,826,032 for a contract term of 132 months from the Notice to Proceed.

Kathleen Murtagh, MWRA Chief Operating Officer, discussed Mr. Laskey's role in standing up the Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program ("MWTP"), noting that the nearly 100-year-old concept of

redundancy for MWRA's metro water system is finally being realized under his leadership. Staff then presented an update on the MWTP and recommended award of a Construction Management Services contract for the Program, all as detailed in the Staff Summary and meeting slides.

Metropolitan Tunnel Program Update

Paul Savard, MWRA Acting Tunnel Program Director, discussed the locations of the MWTP's expected work areas and tunnel; the planned construction timeframe (2028-2040); the Tunnel Program's current organization; and the statuses of MWTP's preliminary design and geotechnical support services contracts. He noted that staff would recommend awards for construction management services ("CM") and owner's representative services contracts at this meeting and discussed upcoming construction.

Next, Mr. Savard presented a Program schedule overview and update. He also outlined some responsibilities of the CM and Owner's Representative and outlined land acquisition activities and needs; community and emergency response coordination; ongoing tunnel boring machine ("TBM") power work by Eversource; and upcoming legislative filings and procurements, including a South Tunnel Construction contract planned for late 2027 with an anticipated notice to proceed 2028.

In response to a question from Mr. Jack Walsh, Mr. Savard explained that staff expect the use of two TBMs and described the mining paths and sequencing. There was brief discussion with questions and answers about resident engineering and resident inspection consultant staffing and TBM power work. In response to a question from Mr. Foti, Mr. Savard explained that the Program's TBMs would be extracted after mining is complete and described the process. There was brief, general discussion about various ways that TBMs can be extracted or otherwise disposed of after a tunnel construction project ends.

Proposed Award of MWTP Construction Management Services Contract 7356

Ms. Murtagh noted that the recommended CM firm, Hatch Associates Consultants, Inc. ("Hatch"), was not the lowest bidder and explained that the Selection Committee's evaluation determined Hatch would provide the best overall value for MWRA. She described the vital role of the Tunnel Program's CM, including oversight of North and South Tunnel construction, serving as MWRA's "eyes and ears," and providing specialized personnel. She also summarized the proposed contract's scope, phases and deliverables.

Next, Ms. Murtagh outlined the two-step, best value procurement process for this proposed award. She noted the evaluation criteria's relatively even distribution of points to reflect the wide range of critical success factors for a contract of this type and magnitude, and relayed that per MWRA policy, no criteria were assigned more points than the cost criterion. She also discussed proposers' required submittals and the Selection Committee's process and priorities.

She then reviewed the results of the Selection Committee's evaluation of the three shortlisted firms' bids, including final scores, overall rankings, criteria rankings, and cost as detailed in the Staff Summary and meeting slides. Finally, Ms. Murtagh discussed the Selection Committee's evaluation and analysis and outlined the qualifications of Hatch, the recommended firm.

Mr. Taverna asked if the proposed CM contract includes oversight of the three initial ancillary contracts. Ms. Murtagh explained that staff are expected to manage those contracts, potentially with some support from the MWTP's FDE consultant. In response to Mr. Taverna's follow-up question, Ms. Murtagh relayed that CM staff would mostly work from on-site construction trailers and MWRA's

CMR 4.00 and the negotiated terms and cost, noting that the Owner's Representative will only be compensated for work performed. Finally, Mr. Savard reviewed Arup's key qualifications and requested Board approval for award.

There was discussion with questions and answers about how the contract's cost was estimated and its structure, terms, limits and regulatory requirements. Mr. Jack Walsh requested an update on the MWTP's total cost estimate. Mr. Savard relayed that the 60% cost estimate was submitted; the Program's estimate and schedule are in the process of being updated; and staff continue to monitor costs, which are currently expected to remain within range.

Chair Tepper recommended strong oversight of this contract. There was brief, general discussion about the Owner's Representative Statute. Mr. Swett noted that an Owner's Representative for the MBTA's Green Line Extension project resulted in significant cost savings and successfully served the owner's interests. Mr. Swett also noted his recent employment with the recommended firm and noted that while there is no direct conflict of interest or financial connection, he will be abstaining from the vote for this item.

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 B.1)

PERSONNEL AND COMPENSATION

Approvals

Non-Union Manager Compensation Subcommittee

A motion was duly made and seconded to accept the March 2026 Total Compensation and Benefits Study report prepared for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority by the UMass Collins Center as presented and filed with the records of this meeting.

There was brief discussion to clarify that the motion made and seconded was to accept the report prepared for MWRA by the UMass Collins Center ("Collins Center"). Personnel Committee and Non-Union Manager ("NU Manager") Compensation Subcommittee Chair Wolowicz advised that the Board's questions about the report were forwarded to Collins Center staff for response, and the responses had been distributed to members. Chair Tepper noted that this additional information was helpful.

Mr. Pappastergion asked when the Board would consider the Executive Director's compensation for the purposes of advertising the position. Ms. Wolowicz explained that the Preliminary Screening Committee for the Executive Director Position ("Screening Committee") plans to discuss recommended compensation for the Executive Director position in its next meeting, then present it for full Board approval at an upcoming Board of Directors' meeting.

Noting that it is important to review all NU managers' salaries, Mr. Pappastergion recommended prioritizing approval of the Executive Director's compensation to facilitate the search process. Chair Tepper agreed. Mr. Peña requested more information about next steps regarding NU manager compensation review. Ms. Gillen explained that approving the report and the next steps are at the Board's discretion, and staff would provide any support needed.

Mr. Pappastergion asked when any of the Board's additional recommendations for NU manager compensation could be implemented, and if changes could be made during the next fiscal year. There was discussion about the supplemental pay range information provided by the Collins Center, and the timelines for the NU Manager Compensation Subcommittee and Screening Committee. Board members reached consensus that the Board would first determine and approve the Executive Director position's salary, which would then inform discussion about NU managers' compensation.

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		
Vitale		
J. Walsh		
P. Walsh		
Wolowicz		

(ref. VII A.1)

April 2026 PCR Amendment

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve an amendment to the Position Control Register (PCR) as presented in the April 15, 2026 Staff Summary and filed with the records of this meeting.

Ms. Gillen invited Board members' questions about a proposed amendment to the Position Control Register ("PCR").

Mr. Vitale noted the responsiveness of Wendy Chu, the proposed candidate for Special Assistant, Affirmative Action and Compliance Unit position. (ref. VII A.3)

Then, on behalf of City of Boston Mayor Wu, the city's Board representatives, BWSC and its ratepayers,

Mr. Vitale expressed appreciation for Mr. Laskey's leadership and consistent willingness to assist with any issue or concern. He also remarked on Mr. Laskey's exemplary character, which reflects well on MWRA, other water and sewer service providers, and the utilities industry as a whole.

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. VII A.2)

Appointment of Special Assistant, Affirmative Action and Compliance Unit

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the appointment of Wen-Hwei (Wendy) Chu to the position of Special Assistant, Affirmative Action and Compliance (Non-Union, Grade 16) at annual salary of \$187,847 commencing on a date to be determined by the Executive Director.

Ms. Wolowicz invited Board members' questions about the proposed appointment of the Special Assistant, Affirmative Action and Compliance Unit, and noted Ms. Chu's professionalism and leadership.

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. VII A.3)

Appointment of Assistant Director, Engineering, Operations Division

A motion was duly made and seconded to approve the appointment of Ms. Patricia Mallett, P.E. to the position of Assistant Director, Engineering, Operations Division (Non-Union, Grade 14) at an annual salary of \$176,088, commencing on a date to be determined by the Executive Director.

Ms. Wolowicz invited Board members' questions about the proposed Assistant Director of Engineering appointment.

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		
Vitale		
J. Walsh		
P. Walsh		
Wolowicz		

(ref. VII A.4)

Ms. Wolowicz described Mr. Laskey's warm welcome when she first joined the MWRA Board of Directors, and his ongoing support, adding that his leadership has exemplified the importance of serving on a state board. She thanked her fellow Board members for their support and collaboration and discussed their value to their professions and communities. She also noted Mr. Laskey's concern for the well-being of MWRA staff and kindness to her family, adding that the late John Carroll often called him "a good hire." Finally, Ms. Wolowicz thanked Secretary Tepper, and asked Mr. Laskey to keep in touch.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE BOARD

March 6, 2026, letter from Chris Redfern on behalf of Friends of the Fells regarding the approaching retirement of MWRA Executive Director Frederick A. Laskey (See Item II.C.)

Chair Tepper noted that members had discussed a March 6, 2026 letter to the Board from Chris Redfern on behalf of the Friends of the Fells during her report (ref. II.C).

Hearing no further comments or questions from the Board, Chair Tepper moved to Other Business. (ref. IX)

OTHER BUSINESS

Preliminary Screening Committee (Executive Director Position) - Update

Chair Tepper reported that the Screening Committee had recently met with the executive search firm consultant team (Isaacson, Miller), who presented the recommended schedule, plan, and roles of the Screening Committee and full Board. She noted that the Screening Committee had reviewed the work plan and advised that Isaacson, Miller's staff would soon contact Board members to discuss the

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

(ref. X.B)

The meeting adjourned at 3:30pm.

Approved: May 20, 2026

Attest:

 for
 Brian Peña, Secretary

LIST OF DOCUMENTS AND EXHIBITS USED

- Draft Minutes of the March 18, 2026 MWRA Board of Directors' Meeting (ref. I)
- PowerPoint Slides: Photos of the Spot Pond Covered Storage Facility and Pump Station, Artist's Rendering of the Frederick A. Laskey Pump Station; and MWRA Non-Union Managers (ref. II)
- 3/6/26 letter from Chris Redfern on behalf of Friends of the Fells regarding the approaching retirement of MWRA Executive Director Frederick A. Laskey (ref. II.C/VIII)
- 4/15/26 Staff Summary: Delegated Authority Report – February and March 2026 (ref. IV A.1)
- 4/15/26 Staff Summary: FY26 Financial Update and Summary through March (ref. IV A.2)
- 4/15/26 Staff Summary and Presentation: MWRA Electricity Procurement Strategies (ref. IV A.3)
- 4/15/26 Staff Summary and Presentation: Infiltration/Inflow Local Financial Assistance Program Annual Update (ref. V A.1)
- 4/15/26 Staff Summary and Presentation: Local Water System Assistance Program Annual Update (ref. VI A.1)
- 4/15/26 Staff Summary and Presentation: Lead Service Line Replacement Program Update ref. VI A.2)
- 4/15/26 Staff Summary and Presentation: Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program - Construction Management Services: Hatch Associates Consultants, Inc., Contract 7356 (ref. VI B.1)
- 4/15/26 Staff Summary and Presentation: Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program - Owner's Representative Services Arup US, Inc., Contract 8153 (ref. VI B.2)
- March 2026 *Total Compensation and Benefits Study* for the Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, UMass Boston Collins Center (ref. VII A.1)
- 4/15/26 Staff Summary: April 2026 PCR Amendments (ref. VII A.2)

- 4/15/26 Staff Summary: Appointment of Special Assistant, Affirmative Action and Compliance Unit (ref. VII A.3)
- 4/15/26 Staff Summary: Appointment of Assistant Director, Engineering, Operations Division(ref. VII A.4)
- Resume of Stephen A. Estes-Smargiassi (ref. IX)