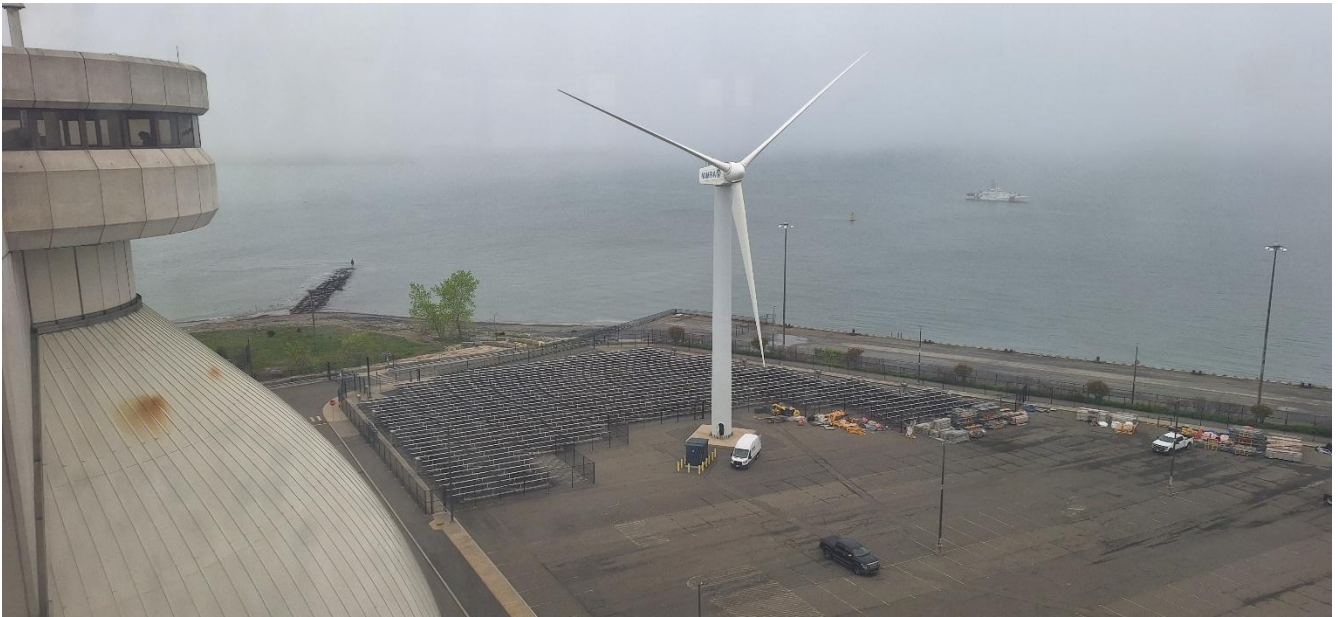


WASTEWATER
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TO THE MASSACHUSETTS WATER
RESOURCES AUTHORITY



Annual Report 2026-2027

What is the Wastewater Advisory Committee?

The MWRA Board of Directors created WAC in 1990 to offer independent recommendations on wastewater policies and programs. WAC's mission is to be an independent public forum for holistic discussion of wastewater issues. Membership is designed to reflect the knowledge and interest of major affected constituencies: engineering and construction, environmental advocacy, planning, academic research, and business.

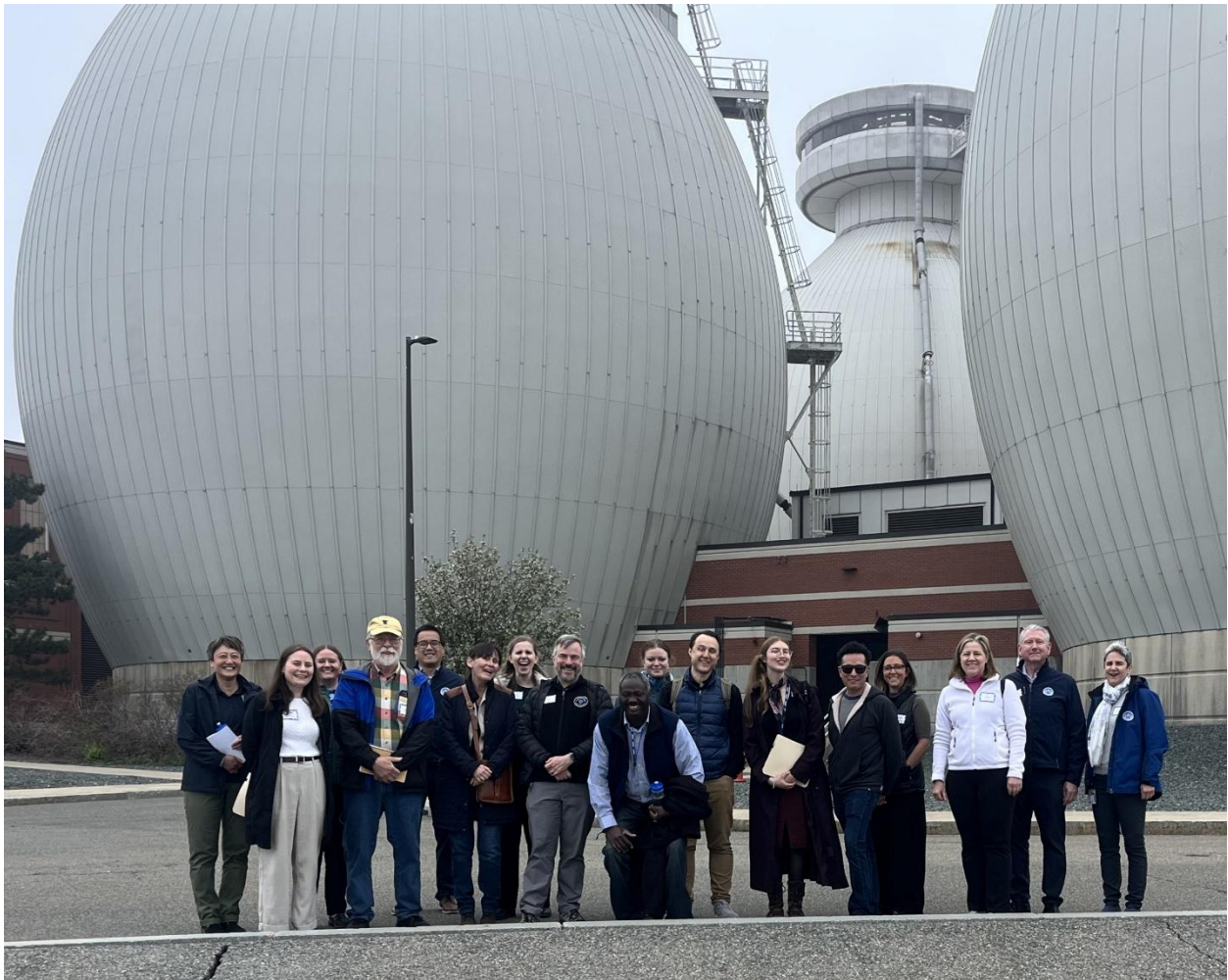


Photo credit: Abigail Bulman

2026-7 Membership

Craig Allen, Craig A. Allen, FCAS
George Atallah, GA Engineering & Consulting
Wayne Chouinard, Town of Belmont DPW
Adriana Cillo, Boston Water & Sewer
Christine Bennett, MWRA Advisory Board
Taber Keally, Neponset River Watershed Association
Karen Lachmayr, Harvard University

<http://www.mwra.state.ma.us/monthly/wac/wac.htm>

Martin Pillsbury, Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Felina Silver, LWV
Jonathan Smith, City of Somerville
Zhenyu Tian, Northeastern University
Alfredo Vargas, (Vice-Chair) City of Newton, DPW
Kannan Vembu, AquaEnviroBio Solutions LLC
Dan Winograd, (Chair) Woodard & Curran. ----->



Executive Director:

Andreae Downs: Andreae.wac@gmail.com
617-378-8972



WAC's Contractual Duties:

1. Provide independent advice to the MWRA Board and staff on wastewater programs and policies directly related to the MWRA
2. Review & comment to the Authority on wastewater reports and proposed documents; offer independent advice on current and proposed wastewater program and policy directions to further MWRA objectives
3. Reflect the knowledge and interest of major affected constituencies, including
 - a. Engineering
 - b. Construction
 - c. Business/industry
 - d. Planning
 - e. Academic research
 - f. Environmental advocacy
4. Advise MWRA on wastewater planning
5. Increase citizen participation and education by providing MWRA with assistance in outreach. Review programs and explain plans & policies to citizens
6. Attend Authority working groups related to wastewater programs and policy, including the MWRA Advisory Board and Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee
7. Propose to the Authority ways to continue effective and efficient long-term public involvement in wastewater programs



Photo credit: Jonathan Smith

FY 2026 Highlights

WAC's focus this year was primarily taken up with the development of the draft Long Term Control Plan for combined sewers on the Alewife, Mystic and Charles. Not only were many meetings devoted to gathering information, but WAC spent several months reviewing the proposals and listening to comments. WAC also spent some time discussing possible principles for comment development.

WAC's language for a state wipes labeling bill was incorporated into the Environmental Bond Bill, and WAC's director is working with bill sponsors to ensure it stays in the bill. The federal WIPPE Act is still alive on Capitol Hill, and WAC is watching that closely.

WAC also submitted [comments](#) on language in the PFAS omnibus bill that would ban land application of sludges and biosolids, noting several questions that the state would need to answer before proceeding. WAC also sent a [letter](#) to the Boston Globe correcting the assertion that CSO closed Boston beaches (it didn't), when in fact Boston has the cleanest urban beaches in the country.

WAC's director has attended webinars on flooding, resilience, PFAS, and other topics, and shared her notes with WAC members.

WAC membership changed slightly—Jonathan Smith, P.E., joined WAC in June 2025 only to take a job at MWRA in May 2026, necessitating his resignation. WAC is actively looking for new members in engineering and industry.



Meetings: WAC held five meetings jointly with the Advisory Board, mostly focused on the CSO LCTP drafts and proposals. WAC also met on MWRA budgets, on Deer Island operations, needed maintenance and possible future changes, and toured Deer Island in May with a focus on energy efficiency and renewable sources & plans.

Leadership

WAC was led this Fiscal Year by Kannan Vembu of AquaEnviroBio Solutions, a WAC member since 2013. Dan Winograd of Woodard Curran served as Vice Chair.

The committee rotates leadership regularly.

Dan Winograd will serve as WAC chair in the upcoming fiscal year, and Alfredo Vargas of the City of Newton Engineering Division will serve as Vice Chair.

Focus for 2026-27

WAC will comment on the CSO Long Term Control Plan before the October 30 deadline, and will continue public education and outreach. If there is a second draft Deer Island permit, WAC comment on that.

WAC will continue to focus on the future of biosolids recycling and how to do so most beneficially, particularly with the challenges of emerging contaminants like PFAS.

WAC members are concerned about how climate change may impact the wastewater system, and ensuring continued maintenance of the system.

Other areas of interest

- Succession planning and human resources
- How other utilities/industries handle emerging contaminants
- Inflow and Infiltration
- Putting wastewater's most important environmental impacts in perspective.
- TRAC
- Residual Designation (EPA focus on stormwater pollution) and its impacts on MWRA
- Artificial Intelligence & its possible utility in MWRA operations



Photo credit: Paul Rybicki