



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

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*Advisory Board, WSCAC, and WAC Joint Virtual Meeting
Thursday, September 19th, 2024*

WSCAC Members in Attendance in Bold:

- **Christine Bennett**, MWRA Advisory Committee
- **William Copithorne**, Town of Arlington
- Steven Daunais, Tata & Howard
- Gerald Eves, Trout Unlimited
- **Bill Fadden**, OARS
- **Bill Kiley**, BWSC
- **Paul Lauenstein**, Neponset (Chair)
- **Paul Rybicki**, Partially Supplied Community
- **Martin Pillsbury**, MAPC
- **Janet Rothrock**, League of Women Voters
- Bill Merriam, Framingham resident, Foss reservoir abutter
- **Erin Bonney Casey**, Ipswich River Watershed Association
- **Ralph Abele**, Charles River Watershed Association
- **Matt Brown**, OARS
- **Warren Kimball**, Nashua River Watershed Association

Non-Members in Attendance:

- **Moussa Siri**, WSCAC Executive Director
- **Lydia Olson**, Mass Rivers Alliance

The meeting was a joint meeting for the MWRA Advisory Board, the Water Supply Citizens Advisory Committee (WSCAC), and the Wastewater Advisory Committee (WAC). The WSCAC Executive Director gave a briefing during the Advisory Board Meeting, and his briefing is as follows.

I. WSCAC Executive Director Briefing (Moussa Siri)

After acknowledging WSCAC members' engagements and efforts, the support of MWRA, DCR, and some State Organizations, the WSCAC executive director briefed participants on WSCAC's FY24 accomplishments and FY25 goals.

Acknowledgments:

- **To WSCAC:**
 - Executive Director Lexi Dewey's hard work, her guidance during my first steps at WSCAC, and continuous support over time.

- Challenging of WSCAC by the tragic passing of Whitney Beals and James Guiod, who dedicated their time to WSCAC (James Guiod pushed for more active work from WSCAC through the creation of subcommittees just a week before he passed away)
- Paul Lauenstein's availability and hard work to push the WSCAC agenda and all WSCAC members
- Michael Baram and Martha Morgan retired from WSCAC after many years of serving the purpose of the committee
- **To MWRA:** Thank you for the warm welcome and your valuable help in learning and understanding the MWRA water supply system.
- **MWRA Advisory Board** for their collaboration and assistance, especially when it comes to respecting the legal regulation on running the committee
- **DCR Staff** who welcomed me and provided me with some crucial information on forestry
- **EEA (WRC and DMTF)** for its assistance

Past accomplishments

Despite the fact that WSCAC faced multiple challenges during FY24, WSCAC has also had some glory days.

- **Submission of three comments:**
 - the first WSCAC comments concerned EOEEA's Forests as Climate Solutions on September 2023,
 - the second WSCAC comments during the public input session, and
 - The third WSCAC comment (high contribution of members during this session) was during the feedback on the final report of the Forest as Climate Solution Committee.
- **Rebuilding the committee:** recruitment of seven (07) members (Christine Bennett, Paul Rybicki, Bill Merriam, Erin Bonney Casey, Ralph Abele, Matt Brown, and Warren Kimball). Warren Kimball came as a replacement for Martha Morgan, who sent him our way before leaving (encourage all members to do so before retiring).
- **Meeting with DCR to engage in a dialogue** to consolidate DCR-WSCAC collaboration for a better
- **Subcommittees building starting with a survey**, and the first three priorities were picked:
 - Water Conservation subcommittee (includes system expansion, PFAS issues, and anything that falls in that category)
 - Carbon footprint subcommittee (MWRA has put significant efforts and will be here to report public interest)
 - Forestry subcommittee

Future Goals for FY25

- **Pursue building of subcommittees** to engage members in the three priorities above
- Engage in members' education (request for MWRA facilities, forestry tours, and increase in-person meetings to strengthen members' collaboration and involvement)
- **More in-person meetings**
 - October meeting: forestry and Quabbin tour (learn about water source)
 - November meeting: Workshop session and elaboration of subcommittee guidelines in Southborough

- January or February, Marlborough treatment plant tour for WSCAC members and friends (might include WAC members)
- Reservoir Operations meeting in April (SHAFT 12 tour if possible)
- June meeting: Forestry annual report (Wachusett Reservoir)
- **Monitoring of major projects:** System Expansion, Quabbin feasibility study, System Redundancy, MWRA tunnel project, a tour of the Quinapoxet dam removal project, etc.
- Pursue discussion with DCR to build a better relationship and address WSCAC concerns about forestry practice
 - **Pursue member recruitment** to fill the slots and diversify the background and expertise of WSCAC members.

After the MWRA Advisory Board meeting was adjourned, WSCAC was given a time slot to conduct its business. The committee proceeded with the votes to approve the previous meeting minutes.

II. Vote to approve June 11th and June 27th meeting minutes (Paul Lauenstein, WSCAC Chair)

After a brief introduction of the meeting minutes vote, Moussa Siri passed it to Paul Lauenstein to lead the votes. After checking the quorum with the roll call, Paul called for a motion to approve the June 11th and June 27th meeting minutes.

Bill Kiley moved to approve the meeting minutes, and Ralph Abele seconded the motion. All were in favor, and the minutes were approved unanimously with no further discussion.

III. Additional Comments (Paul Lauenstein)

Paul Lauenstein encouraged all WSCAC members to indicate which of the three subcommittees they want to be part of based on their interests and expertise. He indicated the necessity of members providing input that would help to pursue WSCAC goals of water conservation and system expansion due to housing (aborted 1 billion dollar bill), MWRA carbon footprint, and forestry. He also added that members should join at least one subcommittee but are welcome to join more than one subcommittee.

IV. Other Businesses and End of the WSCAC Meeting

No other business

Paul Laurenstein made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Janet Rothrock seconded the motion, and all in favor

The meeting adjourned, and the turn was passed to WAC to conduct their business.