



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

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WSCAC In-person Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, October 08th, 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:

- **John Scannell**, DCR
- **Dan Clark**, DCR
- **Ken Mackenzie**, DCR
- **Ken Canfield**, DCR
- **Richard MacLean**, DCR
- **Doug Hutcheson**, DCR
- **Andrea Downs**, WAC
- **Lydia Olson**, Mass Rivers Alliance
- **Moussa Siri**, WSCAC Executive Director

I. Introduction of the agenda (Moussa Siri, Executive Director)

Moussa Siri introduced the meeting by greeting and welcoming participants. He thanked DCR for their availability and willingness to build a relationship with WSCAC to manage the common resources better. He then presented the agenda and passed it to Paul Lauenstein, WSCAC Chair, to lead the votes on the September 19th meeting minutes.

II. Vote to approve September 19th meeting minutes (Paul Lauenstein, WSCAC Chair) (3 minutes)

After greeting participants, Paul Lauenstein conducted a roll call to verify whether the quorum was met to vote on the meeting. Without further comments, all eight members present and voting adopted the minutes unanimously after Bill Fadden made a motion to adopt the minutes and seconded Janet Rothrock.

Paul commented on the subcommittees to be created, encouraging members to join subcommittees and emphasizing the role WSCAC played in water conservation, which helped avoid water withdrawal from the Connecticut River.

III. DCR Updates and field tour preparation (25 minutes)

a. FY25 Forestry Project Plan (DCR: Ken Canfield)

Ken Canfield, Chief Forester at the Quabbin Reservoir, walked participants through the DCR Forestry Proposals for the 2025 Fiscal Year, normally held in the spring, but this year in October due to the Massachusetts Governor's past forestry hold. He explained to participants how to understand the interactive map offered by DCR (see image and link below), which interactive map allows to see the locations and sizes of lots to be put on sale. He indicated that public comments were open for 45 days (comments input closure at the end of October), and a link was provided on the interactive map to submit comments. Ken Canfield indicated that timber harvesting is one part of what DCR is doing. He added that the goals behind the lots sale and harvesting are multiple and include increasing species diversity, looking for the overall forest health (control of insects and diseases or pathogens), creating an uneven age structure, controlling invasive species, etc. The control of herbivores is part of the mission to ensure forest regrow. He added that moose cannot be hunted in Massachusetts. There is one (01) moose per square mile, but one moose can eat 10 times what a deer can eat. He also added that any moose captured elsewhere in the state of Massachusetts ends up in the Quabbin, which increases wildlife pressure on forest regrowth.

The interactive map, as shown below, can be found at the following link:

<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/84f744ec96e54b93bab86a11ebd4b511/>

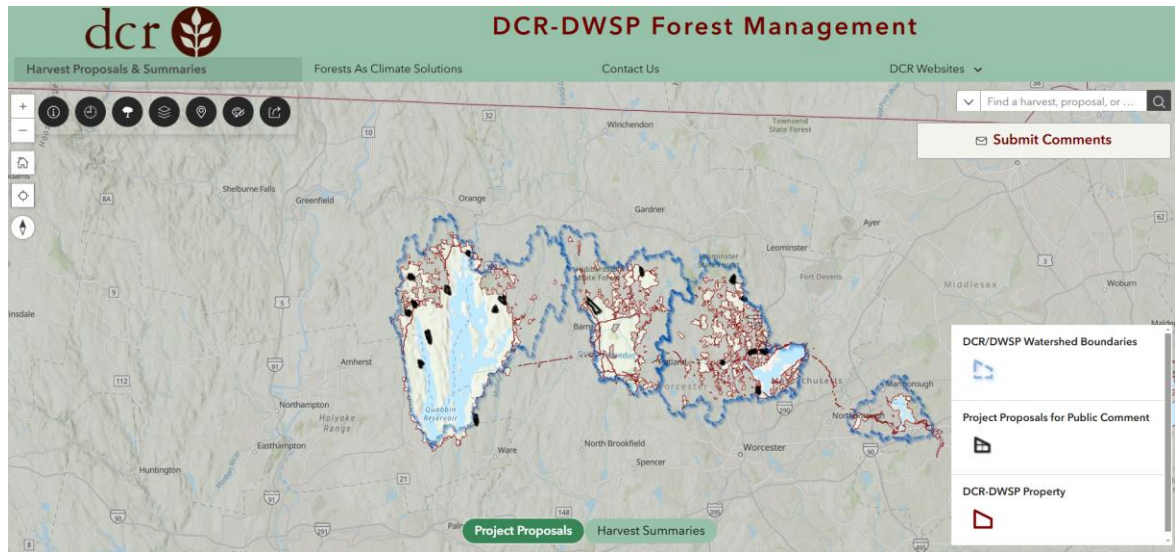


Figure: Home screen of DCR Interactive Map

b. Selection of sites to be visited (DCR and WSCAC)

Due to the distance separating sites, only two lots were picked for the field tour: Gate 50A and Gate 49.

c. On-field precautions and guidance (DCR)

Ken Canfield advised participants to keep their eyes on ticks while on the field.

IV. Field tour

a. Forestry tour

- Gate 50A (Goodnough Dike): The lot is already marked and ready for logging. The bids on the lot were already complete. The winning bidder is Anderson Timber Harvesting from Westminister, MA. The goals for the site are to restore the oak woodlands community. Lack of disturbance on the site, mostly due to wildfire suppression, has allowed this rare community to be invaded by generalist species, which degrades potential habitat for many state-listed species. A population of purple milkweed was one of the main drivers of this project. The trees to be cut are marked with blue paint. Trees to be retained/protected are marked with orange paint or are unpainted. The harvest is the first phase of the restoration. Intermittent applications of prescribed fire will be used to maintain the community at some point post-harvest.
- Gate 49: The lot has already been harvested using hand felling on the right side and mechanical harvesting (cut-to-length) on the left side. The site was a red pine/white pine plantation that was established in the 1930s. It had been previously thinned, resulting in abundant advanced regeneration. The regeneration was released by removing the rest of the red pine, leaving scattered residual overstory white pines and hardwoods.

The field tour ended around 1 p.m.

b. Boat ride

Lisa Gustavsen then offered interested persons a boat ride around 1:40 p.m. to end the meeting with fun.