



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

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**WSCAC, Thursday, March 19, 2026, Joint Virtual Meeting with Advisory Board and WAC**  
**Meeting Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**  
**WSCAC Business section**

**WSCAC Members in Attendance in Bold:**

- **Christine Bennett**, MWRA Advisory Board
- **William Copithorne**, Town of Arlington
- Steven Daunais, Tata & Howard
- **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
- **Warren Kimball**, Nashua River Watershed Association
- **Lydia Olson**, Mass Rivers Alliance
- **Evan Pesut**, Trout Unlimited
- Nina Gordon-Kirsch, CT River Conservancy
- Christopher Dreher, Educational Institute

**Non-Members in Attendance:**

- Andreae Downs, WAC
- Moussa Siri, WSCAC
- Check the Advisory Board attending list of the March 19, 2026, meeting minutes for the full list.

## **I. Roll Call and Votes on February 26th Meeting Minutes**

### **a. Roll Call and Attendance Check (Moussa Siri)**

The WSCAC portion of the meeting convened following the conclusion of the Advisory Board (AB) and Water Advisory Committee (WAC) sessions. At approximately 11:45 AM, Moussa Siri (WSCAC Executive Director) called the meeting to order and conducted a roll call. A quorum was confirmed, and Moussa passed facilitation to Paul Lauenstein to lead the votes on the February 26, 2026, meeting minutes.

### **b. Votes to Approve the February 26th Meeting Minutes (Paul Lauenstein)**

Paul Lauenstein, Chair of WSCAC, requested a motion to approve the February 26, 2026, meeting minutes.

- ✚ Janet Rothrock moved to approve the minutes.
- ✚ Paul Rybicki seconded the motion.
- ✚ Moussa Siri indicated that he had made a minor correction to a misspelling of West Boylston, suggested by Paul Rybicki via email.
- ✚ With no further discussion, the motion passed unanimously by voice vote.

## **II. WSCAC Updates and Announcements**

### **a. WAC Deer Island Field Tour Updates**

- ✚ After the meeting minutes were approved, Moussa Siri updated members on upcoming events. Andreae Downs (WAC Executive Director) highlighted the upcoming Deer Island Energy Program Tour scheduled for May 15, 2026. She explained that the tour would focus on renewable energy, battery storage, and combined heat and power systems. Moussa Siri agreed that attending the tour would provide valuable insights into MWRA's operations.
- ✚ Christine Bennett (Advisory Board) noted that recent briefings highlighted advancements in battery energy storage and integration with combined heat and power systems. Moussa emphasized the importance of energy efficiency in reducing operational costs and carbon emissions and reiterated that the upcoming tour would help members learn more about the MWRA system.
- ✚ Paul Lauenstein noted the importance of integrating energy considerations into WSCAC's work. He noted that Massachusetts' goal of achieving net-zero emissions by 2050 requires reductions across all sectors, including water systems. Paul highlighted that reducing water consumption can lower energy demand and emissions, while forestry plays a critical role in carbon sequestration. He referenced the MWRA watershed's approximately 100,000 acres of forest as a significant climate asset.

- Janet Rothrock provided additional context on Dr. William Moomaw's recent presentations, explaining his role as a Nobel Prize–winning scientist and his work on the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). She summarized his key message: forests are essential for carbon capture and for maintaining water quality. Janet also announced an upcoming public presentation by Dr. Moomaw on May 3, 2026, in Concord, Massachusetts.

#### **b. WSCAC Executive Director Updates (Moussa Siri)**

- Moussa Siri indicated that the next joint meeting is scheduled for April 16, 2026, which will be followed by WSCAC in-person meetings in West Boylston on May 12<sup>th</sup> and June 9<sup>th</sup>, focusing on reservoir operations and forestry, respectively.
- Moussa provided an update on drought conditions. He reported that conditions across Massachusetts have worsened despite recent precipitation. Reservoir levels have improved modestly, with Wachusett increasing by 4.7% and Quabbin by 1.3%. However, groundwater levels remain below normal, indicating continued stress on the water system.
- He discussed ongoing exchanges about glyphosate use between DCR staff and the new Commissioner. He indicated that, contrary to his previous indications, the topic remains active and may resurface. He noted that no final decisions have been made and that discussions will continue at the Water Supply Protection Trust level as well as in the upcoming meetings.

### **III. Adjournment**

Paul Lauenstein requested a motion to adjourn.

- Martin Pillsbury moved to adjourn.
- Janet Rothrock seconded the motion.
- The motion passed unanimously, and the meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:50 PM.

*Next meeting: In-person meeting at DCR Office, West Boylston, and then Quinapoxet Dam restoration tour, a year after the restoration.*

*Date: Thursday, May 12*

*Time: 10:00 am to 12:30 pm*