

STAFF SUMMARY

TO: Board of Directors
FROM: Frederick A. Laskey, Executive Director 
DATE: April 13, 2022
SUBJECT: Quinapoxet Dam Removal Design, Permitting and Engineering Services
During Construction
SLR International Corporation
Contract 7347, Amendment 1

COMMITTEE: Water Policy & Oversight

 INFORMATION
 X VOTE

Valerie Moran, P.E., Director, Waterworks
Rebecca Weidman, Director, Environmental & Regulatory Affairs
John J. Gregoire, Program Manager, Reservoir Operations
Preparer/Title


David W. Coppes, P.E.
Chief Operating Officer

RECOMMENDATION:

To authorize the Executive Director, on behalf of the Authority, to approve Amendment 1 to Contract 7347, Quinapoxet Dam Removal Design and Engineering Services During Construction, with SLR International Corporation to increase the contract term by 24 months from April 1, 2022 to April 1, 2024, with no increase in contract price.

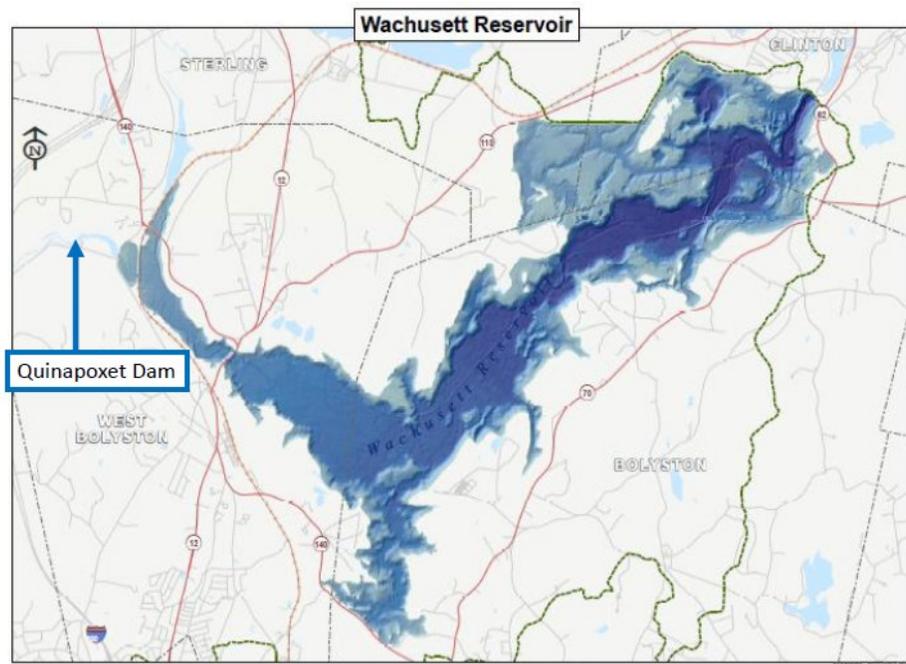
DISCUSSION:

The Quinapoxet Dam is located on the Quinapoxet River, immediately upstream of the Wachusett Reservoir and directly adjacent to Quabbin Aqueduct's Shaft 1/Oakdale Power Station. The dam, completed circa 1905 to straighten and widen the riverbed to drop sediment before entering the reservoir, is an earthen embankment and stone masonry horseshoe dam that spans the Quinapoxet River from bank to bank.



The Quinapoxet Dam is in need of repair and will require continued maintenance and regulatory inspection into the future for a dam of questionable service to the present-day reservoir. The Department of Fish and Game, Division of Ecological Restoration has documented naturally reproducing coldwater fish in the Quinapoxet River and Wachusett Reservoir, and has done analysis on what the potential would be if habitat above the dam were accessible. Dam removal could increase the salmon population and establish a highly valued fishery.

MWRA is leading a multi-agency project team, including the Massachusetts Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Division of Ecological Resources (DER) to remove the Quinapoxet Dam.



The original feasibility study for this project was paid for by DER with oversight by DER, MWRA and DCR. At MWRA's request, an additional structural assessment relative to the Oakdale facility was conducted to further inform engineering design. A more detailed construction cost assessment was also completed. Both tasks were funded by DER. For the current design contract, MWRA received a \$40,000 grant from DER.

The scope of the project consists of design, permitting and engineering services during construction (ESDC) for the removal of the dam and restoration of riverine conditions at this location. There is an important discrete construction window for the project, which can only occur between October and April when the seasonal Quabbin transfer is normally off.

The initial design contract anticipated the construction and ESDC under this contract to occur October 2021 through April 2022. However, in the spring of 2020, during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, it became clear that the original schedule was not achievable and needed to shift by a year.

Project design has advanced. A Sediment Management Plan has been completed, and permitting has successfully passed through the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the MEPA processes, the latter achieving a waiver from filing an Environmental Impact Report. The project team had been targeting the October 2022 through April 2023 construction period. However, while moving through the next level of permitting under the West Boylston Conservation Commission and Massachusetts DEP 401 Water Quality, some unforeseen permit developments have caused additional delay.

Final design cannot be completed until all permit conditions are known; consequently, meeting the October 2022 construction start requirement is not achievable. Because the work is seasonally constrained, these setbacks resulted in a one year project delay.

Concurrently, staff are actively pursuing Federal and State grants for construction. MWRA grant applications have been submitted to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and to the Eastern Brook Trout Joint Venture organization. Presently, the likelihood of success is unclear. Staff anticipate hearing back on these applications in late spring. Additionally, staff continue to pursue other avenues for funding, including the possibility of additional Commonwealth of Massachusetts funding. The goal is to have a “shovel ready” construction bid set available when funding is identified. Ideally, grant funding should be secured early in calendar 2023 prior to contract procurement process.

This Amendment

If approved, Amendment 1 will extend the contract term by 24 months to complete permitting and final design, and continue ESDC from the October 2023 through April 2024 construction window and project closeout. This added time will also allow additional opportunity for further grant applications for construction if the two current ones are not successful.

CONTRACT SUMMARY:

	<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>TIME</u>	<u>DATED</u>
Original Contract:	\$425,442.07	24 Months	2/20/2020
Proposed Amendment 1:	\$0	24 Months	Pending
Adjusted Contract:	\$425,442.07	48 Months	

BUDGET/FISCAL IMPACTS:

Amendment 1 is for a time extension only and has no financial impact.

MBE/WBE PARTICIPATION:

There are no MBE and WBE participation requirements established for this contract due to the limited opportunities for subcontracting.