



Metropolitan Water Tunnel Program

Meeting Minutes

Contract Number: N/A

Contract Name: N/A

Meeting Title: Working Group Meeting No. 2

Date	June 2, 2021	Revision	RO
Time	2:00-3:00 PM	Revision Date	N/A
Location	WebEx	Recorded By	Meg Langley (CPP)

Attendees:

Name (organization)	Initial	Name (organization)	Initial	Name (organization)	Initial
Sean Navin (MWRA)	SN	Mark Mancuso (Belmont)	MM	Thomas Cullen (Weston)	TC
Kathy Murtagh (MWRA)	KMM	Peter Salvatore (Boston)	PSB	Martin Pillsbury (MAPC)	MP
Fred Brandon (MWRA)	FB	Fred Russell (Brookline)	FR	Joseph Doucette (MassDOT D6)	JD
Paul Savard (MWRA)	PS	John Sanchez (Burlington)	JS	Lexi Dewey (WSCAC)	LD
Colleen Rizzi (MWRA)	CR	Joseph Flanagan (Dedham)	JF	Meg Langley (CPP)	ML
Vivian Chan (MWRA)	VC	Bob Lewis (Needham)	BL	Tom Lindberg (CPP)	TL
Brad Miller (MWRA)	BM	Lou Taverna (Newton)	LT		
Kristen MacDougall (MWRA)	KM	Mike Chiasson (Waltham)	MC		
Mike Gove (MWRA)	MG	William Shaughnessy (Wellesley)	WS		

Purpose:

The purpose for the second meeting of the Metropolitan Tunnel Working Group was to present the status of the MEPA Process and ENF Certification as well as discuss the ongoing and upcoming geotechnical field program.



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Summary:

The following is a summary of items covered including next steps as applicable:

1. Sean Navin, MWRA Director of Intergovernmental Affairs, opened the meeting, went over the meeting agenda which included the MEPA Process and ENF Certificate, Geotechnical Field Investigation, Next Steps, and Group Discussion.
2. Colleen Rizzi, Manager of Design; Tunnel Redundancy, discussed the MEPA Process and ENF Certificate. The Environmental Notification Form (ENF) was filed and published in the Environmental Monitor April 7, 2021. The Secretary's Certificate for the ENF was issued on May 7, 2021, comments were received from the Charles River Watershed Association, DCR, DEP, WSCAC, and the City of Newton. Next steps were discussed including follow up meetings with communities, advocacy groups, and state agencies. One of the Program's key focuses will be engaging with environmental justice communities.

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) will detail with the same level of tunnel design, one preferred alternative and up to two back up alternatives.

- 2a. Lou Taverna asked to be notified when MWRA would be meeting the Charles River Watershed Association (CRWA).
3. Vivian Chan, Manager of Geotech and Tunnelling for the Program, discussed the Geotechnical Field Investigation. Describing the geotechnical field investigation, VC detailed how the investigation will be conducted in the study area underground, through multiple phases over the next five years. Most of the project is underground and the investigation will cover both the northern (Weston-Belmont) and southern tunnel (Weston-Boston) alignments in the Metro-Boston area. Currently, the program is in the first phase of preliminary design.
4. Brad Miller, Senior Program Manager of Geology, explained how the different type of rocks in the study area impacts what type of tunneling is used and where. BM explained how the purpose of the geotechnical field investigation is to collect information about ground conditions to support alternative evaluation of tunnel routes and to provide information for the design and construction of the program. BM pointed out the presence of bedrock faults in the design study area and explained how bedrock faults can impact tunneling and used the example of how the Northern Boundary Fault was crossed when the MWRA MetroWest Water Tunnel was constructed. Local geologic maps depict wide variety of rock types (Roxbury Conglomerate/Puddingstone, Argillite, Igneous) in complex relationships. The local fault was created when rock from NW Africa joined the North American plate. The program's geotechnical field investigations will build upon regional geologic knowledge and should provide more detailed information to resolve uncertainties and support tunnel design and construction.



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5. VC continued the presentation explaining the two-phase program during preliminary design through 2023. The initial phase of Geotechnical Investigation Program is made up of Bedrock Outcrop mapping, Surface Geophysical Survey, Borings and Field Testing, Monitoring Wells/ Piezometers, and Laboratory Testing. Bedrock Outcrop mapping will take place throughout the Program Study Area and locations accessible from a public right of way will be mapped at this time. Depending on the size of the area the mapping could take a few days at each site and no equipment beyond hand tools such as cameras and tape measurers will be needed. The program will be using a Seismic Refraction Survey as its Surface Geophysical Survey. There are 14 locations in Waltham, Newton, Needham, and Boston- all on public land. Each survey line varies from about 250 ft to 1500 ft long. 12 out of the 14 locations have already been conducted and usually take about half day to two days for each line. For this phase of the Program there will be 10 Test Borings, about 4 inches in diameter, each about 400 to 550 feet in depth. These are very important to the program. Each boring will typically take about 6 to 8 weeks to complete, with up to 4 drill rigs at a time to accelerate the program. The public will typically see a fenced in work area, erosion, and sedimentation control in coordination with local Conservation Commissions, drill rig, support truck, water truck/tanks, testing equipment, area for rock core logging with about 3-to-6-person crew. Spoils that are generated from the borings will be drummed and removed offsite, and the work site will be restored upon completion. Program staff will be coming back approximately monthly will handheld equipment to check the water levels. The current anticipated schedule is as follows; bedrock outcrop mapping and surface geophysical survey is ongoing, test borings June through fall 2021. VC used this opportunity to thank all the communities, including Working Group members for their support with this phase of the project and invite anyone to come visit the boring sites who may be interested in learning more about the Program.
6. LT asked for the location of the boring in Wellesley. VC replied that it is at the Hagerty Pump Station on Barton Road. LT also asked where the rock was being stored and VC explained that the MWRA Deer Island Plant was being used for Rock Core storage. LT asked if drilling had begun in Wellesley. William Shaughnessy explained that he had been on the site today and drilling would be started on Monday, June 14.
7. SN discussed the upcoming Working Group meetings schedule. The next meeting will be in August for "Introduction to Tunneling". September will be focusing on preliminary alternatives and evaluation criteria. October's meeting will be on conceptual tunnel design. Future topics include shaft sites, community engagement, costs and financing, environmental mitigation, and site visits. SN stressed, that the Program staff are willing to come speak to interested community groups and gave his contact information as well as the direct email for the Project Team for follow-up.

Questions/Comments:

8. Martin Pillsbury asked if the Waterworks Museum would be used for some public outreach; SN noted the Program had not discussed specific meeting locations for public events but thought it was a great idea and will keep it in mind for future in person meetings.
9. LT asked when boring would begin in Newton, VC said that the boring in Newton was scheduled to start late June.



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10. Kathy Murtagh, Director; Tunnel Redundancy, elaborated on the Program's next steps, stating that the September and October Working Group meetings would be the time for direct input from Working Group members. In September, the Program will have Alternatives to share with Working Group members and look forward to a discussion of local conditions and water system needs that will help greatly to getting to the preferred tunnel alignment and two back up routes. For October, the Working Group will be presented conceptual designs so that the members are as informed as possible moving forward with design. KM stressed the importance of the expertise of individuals serving on the Working Group to the Tunnel Program.
11. MP asked if there is a rough timeframe for the MEPA filing. KM explained that the DEIR is scheduled for submission to MEPA in October 2022, therefore, the Program hopes that late this year/early 2022 the preferred and two backups will be selected.
12. SN thanked everyone for their time and the meeting was adjourned 2:48 pm.

Action Items:

MWRA will send out presentation and meeting minutes.

MWRA will post agenda, presentation, handouts, and minutes to the Tunnel Program website:

<https://www.mwra.com/mwtp/resources.html#workinggroups>

Attachments:

None.