



DEDHAM-WESTWOOD WATER DISTRICT General Business Meeting

Hybrid Meeting

In person attendance: 50 Elm Street, Dedham, MA 02026

Tuesday, May 2, 2023 | 6:30 PM

Announcement of the Audio and/or Video Recording

The Chair, Robert Lexander, called the meeting to order at 6:30p.m. and announced the meeting would be audio- and video-recorded.

Attendance

Robert Lexander, Chair

Gary Yessaillian, Vice-Chair

Eric Merithew, Clerk

James Fox, Member (remote)

Mark Phillips, Member (remote)

Blake Lukis, Executive Director

Bob Marsh, Business Manager

Pauline Donoghue, Treasurer

Steve Locke, Operations Manager

Absence

John Healy, Member

Roll-Call Attendance

Messrs. Lexander, Yessaillian, Merithew, Fox, and Phillips Present.

Mr. Lexander confirmed a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of April 4, 2023

Mr. Lexander called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of April 4, 2023. A motion was made by Mr. Fox to approve the minutes as reviewed for April 4, 2023; the motion was seconded by Mr. Merithew. With no additional discussion necessary, a roll-call vote was taken. Roll-Call: Messrs. Lexander, Yessaillian, Merithew, and Fox voted Aye; Mr. Phillips abstained. Motion passes.

Financials and Warrant

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Donoghue's presented Warrants 25-30, for April 4th to 25th activity.

Ms. Donoghue highlighted:

- Unreconciled cash balance on March 31st, decreased from February
- Reconciled cash balance as of February 28th, noting Security Project payments were made in February and March
- Monthly summary of reconciled cash and disbursements year-end December 31, 2023
- Monthly summary of reconciled cash and disbursements for year-end December 31, 2022

Business Manager Report

Business Operating Report

Mr. Marsh shared the first-quarter operating results on-screen, pointing out the excess of revenue over expenses as a loss situation since revenue is primarily gained in summer months. Mr. Marsh explained the MWRA additional purchase was unplanned for within the first quarter, as purchases are planned for April through November; this contributed to loss being greater than plan.

Revenue higher than plan was attributed to investment income from the T-bills' returns. Reduced commercial-side usage resulted in billed water being under plan; usage is anticipated to increase in May. Mr. Marsh referred to personnel costs being favorable but electric costs being unfavorable because of increased plant billing, attributed to delivery charges rising. The Board discussed utilities supply & delivery. Mr. Marsh also noted the increase to lab and chemicals cost because of supply and demand; Mr. Merithew referred to extra testing for TTHM and asked if this was a contributing factor for lab supplies being over budget, to which Mr. Lukis confirmed was the case. Mr. Marsh confirmed the forecast is still showing a year end budget surplus.

Sharing the Capital schedule, Mr. Marsh pointed out the budget expected total. Mr. Locke stated projects will be reviewed during his update.

Mr. Marsh informed that the audit draft will soon be received, that discussion analysis is complete, and that a presentation is planned for the June Board meeting. Mr. Marsh stated the actuaries will provide 2022 OPEB valuation information in the fall.

Operations Manager Report

Pumping and Operational Report

Mr. Locke reported usage over the past five weeks of 3.7 to 3.9 million gallons per day, averaging at approximately 3.8, with .75 million gallons per day MWRA water, a level anticipated to reduce during the current week.

Water Main & Service Lines

The completed leak-detection study found six main breaks and seven service-line breaks, all repaired. Ten hydrant leaks resulted in 404 thousand gallons a day lost; the leaks were found quickly, and all have been repaired.

Mr. Merithew asked for confirmation of the total amount of water lost per day due to the breaks. Conversation was held regarding leak types, the pumpage report, Veterans Road's large leak, and other areas' leaks. Mr. Merithew asked about the change order for Veteran's Road bypass and if we can check shutoffs in future projects to avoid the extra cost; Mr. Lukis shared that this project was unique being all multi-family buildings and further shared that the next project has the safeguards in the contract to prevent the change order for this situation.

Update on New & Existing Projects

Mr. Locke reported on new and existing projects:

- Customer Service
Through April, 401 meter replacements
During April, 189 backflow devices – YTD total 326
- Mixers/Vents
LeFleur Electric placed the DEP-approved conduit for the two FoxHill tanks
LaFleur provided contract pricing for conduit and wiring for two other tanks
- Brookdale & Beacon water main replacement
Bids set for May 24 - Similar to for the Veterans Road project – Piping purchased in advance; pricing has increased
- Beverly Lane & Hillcrest Place Projects
Completed last year, paid this year - In reported warrants
- Well Rehabilitation
Bridge Street side completed, and contractor will move across the street to rehab those wells.

Action on East Street Water Main Design

Mr. Yessaillian read the motion: The Dedham-Westwood Water Commissioners vote to approve Task Order #137 from Weston & Sampson Engineers, Inc. that provides Design and Engineering services for the **East Street and Martin Bates Street Water Main Replacement Projects in Dedham** for the contract price of \$247,400. Further, that the Executive Director be authorized to sign the agreement. The motion was seconded by Mr. Merithew. With no additional discussion necessary, a roll-call vote was taken.

Roll-Call: Messrs. Lexander, Yessaillian, Merithew, and Fox voted Aye; Mr. Phillips voted No. Motion passes.

Mr. Lukis commented on the main replacements being ahead of Dedham paving, presenting a cost savings.

Executive Director Report

Contracts Signed by Executive Director

Mr. Lukis informed that the change order approved for the Veterans Road water main project which affected multi-family units totaled 3.5% of the total contract value.

Action on Authority to file Lead Service Line Grant Application

Mr. Lukis reminded of the Weston & Sampson task order approved in December regarding lead service line inventory, which is due to MassDEP by October 2024. Inventory will be built on the District side and utilize crowd sourcing techniques to attempt to collect information from the customers on the material on the private side of the service. Mr. Lukis informed that the DEP

program changed from a reimbursable grant to an up front grant and, therefore, requested Weston & Sampson to increase the grant request in order to hire a third-party company to attempt to complete the 7,000 or so private side services we anticipate we will be missing through the work in the first task order.

Mr. Lukis displayed the task order with funding breakdown. Discussion ensued regarding the grant details, including Weston & Sampson's completion of two tasks, database input, and the grant requirement of a Minority/Women Owned Business, which the third party will fulfill in completing the in person inspection and documenting of private side service records.

Mr. Yessaillian read the motion:

Whereas, the Dedham Westwood Water District, after thorough investigation, has determined that the work activity consisting of developing a water service line inventory for the District's water system, is both a regulatory requirement of the Environmental Protection Agency and necessary to protect the public health, and that to undertake this activity, it is necessary to apply for assistance; and,

Whereas, the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) and the Massachusetts Clean Water Trust (the Trust) of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, pursuant to Chapter 21 and Chapter 29C of the General Laws of the Commonwealth (Chapter 21 and Chapter 29C) are authorized to make loans and or grants to municipalities for the purpose of funding planning and construction activities relative to Water Pollution Abatement Projects; and,

Whereas, the Applicant has examined the provisions of the Act, Chapter 21 and Chapter 29C, and believes it to be in the public interest to file a loan application.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Water Commissioners that:

1. That the Executive Director is hereby authorized on behalf of the Applicant to file applications and execute agreements for grant and/or loan assistance as well as furnishing such information, data and documents pertaining to the applicant for a grant(s) and/or loan(s) as may be required; and otherwise to act as the authorized representative of the Applicant in connection with this application;
2. That the purpose of said grant(s), if awarded, shall be to fund construction or planning activities.
3. That if said award is made the Applicant agrees to pay those costs which constitute the required Applicant's share of the project cost.

Mr. Phillips seconded the motion. A roll-call vote was taken.

Roll-Call: Messrs. Lexander, Yessaillian, Merithew, Fox, and Phillips voted Aye.

Motion passes unanimously.

Update and Action on Water Restrictions

Regarding revised Rule 28 rules and regulations, Mr. Lukis reminded of the email sent informing of the updated registration statements. Restrictions will be required to be implemented in two years for water withdrawal from watersheds unless permitted. Implementation impact will be May-to-September as use will be restricted based on state drought declarations. Discussion was held regarding the registration statement, regional drought declarations, local resources preservation, and permit update.

Mr. Lukis stated current rules will be streamlined for internal administrative purposes and that customers would see no restriction change from previous years:

- Stage 1 – Voluntary May to September two days a week
- Stage 2 – Mandatory two days a week
- Stage 3 – Mandatory one day a week
- Stage 4 – Mandatory no outside water use

Mr. Yessaillian asked about the rules affecting the ball fields and golf course, stating the stages should be followed. Mr. Lukis stated the communities would be spoken with at Stages 3 & 4 so the change is not confusing. Mr. Lukis referred to the summer conservation usage reducing revenue. Discussion was held regarding usage history, MWRA usage, drought restrictions, and private wells.

Mr. Merithew moved to approved the revised water conservation plan with the inclusion of a review with both the Town of Dedham and the Town of Westwood to enact recommended water use reductions when Stage 3 or higher restrictions are in place.

Mr. Yessaillian seconded the motion, and a roll-call vote was taken.

Roll-Call: Messrs. Lexander, Yessaillian, Merithew, and Fox voted Aye; Mr. Phillips voted No. Motion passes.

Update on TTHM Compliance Samples

Mr. Lukis reported:

- April 4 regulatory samples – Positive results and the District remained in compliance
- July – Next regulatory sampling date
- Monitoring – We will continue some interim monitoring to ensure compliant results will be attained. All special samples will be reported to the Board.
- FoxHill Tanks – Spring installation of mixers, should assist in maintain compliance and potentially reduce MWRA water usage.

Mr. Locke commented on the issue found with the current to the existing mixer, stating that it is timely that we had an electrician on site and will have new mixers installed. Discussion regarding the FoxHill tanks' maintenance schedule and the Stoughton Road tank took place.

Update on PFAS Sampling Results and Treatment Upgrades

Mr. Lukis reported the treatment plants are being monitored and will not be in compliance if the regulations change. The Board discussed Federal regulations being preliminary and whether or not the District should move forward with such significant funding until the regulations are finalized. Mr. Lukis shared that the regulations are not expected to change and confirmed the District is being proactive. The White Lodge schedule-revised design task order will be presented at the next Board meeting. Mr. Lexander affirmed that only reverse osmosis would rectify all. Mr. Lukis confirmed the approved design is being generated and additional treatment may be required to pretreat wastewater if future regulation limit PFAS discharge to the MWRA. Mr. Locke stated solar power to recoup costs will be assessed and potentially included in the design of the new building. Mr. Lukis confirmed the task order will be presented for discussion.

Mr. Lukis reminded that the S&L Environmental update is available on Basecamp, informing that the PFAS litigation bellwether case in Florida will last five to six weeks.

Old/New Business*

Mr. Lukis shared that he has had conversations with the MWRA in regards to increasing the District's withdrawal amount under their new waiver for the entrance fee and plan on submitting the request shortly. The MWRA did share that they had concerns with communities "reserving" water and communicates should only request an amount of water which will be used within the next five years. Mr. Lukis intends to request 1.35 million gallons a day, arrived at with blending based on the current blending for TTHM, the 24% blending at White Lodge for Chlorides, as evaluated in the treatment study, and for potential reduction in the use of well #5 since the Neponset River watershed is a stressed basin.

Regarding chloride levels, Mr. Lukis stated that he has reached out to MassDOT to have a meeting to discuss their funding the capital expense of extending the pipeline and begin blending.

Mr. Lukis informed that more than 40 resumes for the Customer Service Representative position have been received; this number will be worked down to 12 and then 7 to interview 4-5 beginning next week.

As part of the District membership, Commissioners may request through Mr. Lukis to attend the New England Water Works or other events.

Next Meetings

The next hybrid meeting will be held May 16th.

Mr. Lexander requested a motion to adjourn the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Yessaillian to adjourn and seconded by Mr. Merithew. A roll-call vote was taken.

Roll-Call: Messrs. Lexander, Yessaillian, Merithew, Fox, and Phillips voted Aye.

Motion passes unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:55p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Travers Reynolds
Recording Secretary