



DEDHAM-WESTWOOD WATER DISTRICT General Business Meeting

Hybrid Meeting

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

Tuesday, May 16, 2023 | 6:30 PM

Announcement of the Audio and/or Video Recording

The Chair, Robert Lexander, called the meeting to order at 6:34p.m. and announced the meeting would be audio- and video-recorded.

Attendance

Robert Lexander, Chair

Eric Merithew, Clerk

James Fox, Member (remote)

Mark Phillips, Member

Blake Lukis, Executive Director

Bob Marsh, Business Manager

Pauline Donoghue, Treasurer

Steve Locke, Operations Manager

Absence

Gary Yessaillian, Vice-Chair; John Healy, Member

Roll-Call Attendance

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

Mr. Lexander confirmed a quorum present.

Approval of Minutes of May 2, 2023

Mr. Lexander called for a motion to approve the meeting minutes of May 2, 2023. A motion was made by Mr. Phillips to approve the minutes as reviewed for May 2, 2023; the motion was seconded by Mr. Merithew. With no additional discussion necessary, a roll-call vote was taken.

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

Motion passed unanimously.

Financials and Warrant

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Donoghue presented Warrants 31-34, for May 1st to 11th activity.

Ms. Donoghue informed that matured T-bill revenue was reinvested to one at 4.7% interest.

Business Manager Report

Business Operating Report

Mr. Marsh stated the '22 audit is being worked on, that the draft is completed. He plans to present the finished audit at the June 6th meeting.

Mr. Marsh confirmed candidates for the open customer service representative position are being sought and decision should be made within a week or so.

Mr. Marsh said that April results are being completed for presentation to the Board.

Operations Manager Report

Pumping and Operational Report

Mr. Locke reported usage has been at a high of 4.760 million gallons per day due to the 80-degree weather.

Flushing began Monday at Green Lodge. Mr. Locke informed that the areas will take 3-4 weeks to complete and that daily updates will be posted on the website.

Veterans Road Water Main

Installation of 800 feet of new water main was installed to the end of the circle in two days, with no contractor issues.

Water Main & Service Lines

No main or service breaks have been found since the last meeting.

Update on New & Existing Projects

Mr. Locke reported on new and existing projects:

- Leak Detection
All hydrants have been repaired.
- Brookdale Road & Beacon Street in Westwood Water Main Replacement
Bids open May 24.
- MWRA High Rock Booster Station Insulation Project
The design is complete and will go to bid June 28th.
- Mixers & Vents
LeFleur Electric has worked at both FoxHill tanks and Sandy Valley.
A trench has been started on Stoughton Road.
A pre-construction meeting will be held May 24th.
- Well Rehabilitation
Well F has finished, and Well D is beginning.
- White Lodge Air Tower Media Replacement Design
The design proposal has been received.

Discussion on 22 Everett Street Development

Mr. Locke reminded that the proposed 22 Everett Street Developments apartment complex information was forwarded. The project will be discussed at the June Westwood Town meeting. The developer is expected to submit a written application stating why an alternative water supply source should be used; the Board will have discretion to permit.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed apartment complex location in Westwood with the access road in Norwood, the railroad bridge concern, the alternative-supply rule history and current stipulations, anticipated usage and its revenue, infrastructure, and access fee.

Executive Director Report

Contracts Signed by Executive Director

Mr. Lukis informed that one contract has been signed, for engineering services for the White Lodge generation tower media replacement project design, part of the Capital budget.

Update & Action on PFAS Removal Design at White Lodge Treatment Plant

Mr. Lukis requested a Board discussion take place regarding delaying or acting on the PFAS removal design with an optional add-on for solar array on the new structure. Mr. Lukis and Mr. Locke advocate for moving forward on the design to reduce long-term costs.

Reviewing the submitted design, Members discussed the advantages and disadvantages of delay, referring to Mr. Lukis' on-screen current and delayed 2023-2027 schedules: ERA rule recap, funding impacts, DEP MA PFAS regulations vs EPA, DWWD monthly exceedance, loan funding proposals opened to August 11th, SRF 2%-interest program grants & principal forgiveness, design plan criteria, solar, government funding, and compliance.

Discussion continued regarding two plants' timing and construction, pricing, Ion Exchange v. GAC pricing, Weston & Sampson piloting chemical change presentation, District improvement vs MWRA purchase, Federal funding, EPA/National programs bear with State requirements, and Bridge Street involvement.

Reasons not to delay were added: No changes expected since MWRA in-tune with EPA, 149 systems impacted by EPA's regulations drive up prices & non-USA-made equipment demand.

Mr. Lukis informed that Weston & Sampson created White Lodge and Bridge Street cost estimates. Mr. Merithew asked Mr. Lukis for clarification of the task order presented this evening. Mr. Phillips asked if the material requires special treatment; Mr. Lukis responded regulatory disposal will be followed.

Also considered regarding whether or not to delay PFAS removal action: Wells investment vs MWRA permanently, in-flux regulations requiring a guarded approach until firmer picture, chemistry, pilot tests, and incremental steps.

Mr. Lukis confirmed Weston & Sampson is used as an analysis for upgrades, and another firm could be used for cost analysis.

Discussion points also included: White Lodge design start, Bridge Street design investment-worthy, interest costs, supply chain, and two plants' usage supporting an in-house project manager for expenditure-tracking.

Next Meeting

With the next meeting planned for June 6 and not all Board Members present tonight, reasons to hold a meeting before that date were considered: Urgency, in-house information to gather for impact analysis of Bridge Street elimination and all debt on White Lodge, Messrs. Lukis & Marsh to create an operations present & future cost model of MWRA water without Bridge Street, current rates rather than projects, and White Lodge chlorides solution blending.

Mr. Lukis informed that the available average daily withdrawal from White Lodge meets winter demand, and suggests the Board and DWWD Management make the PFAS decision without a third party.

It was decided that the next DWWD General Business Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 31st, at 6:30, via Zoom.

Old/New Business*

Messrs. Locke, Marsh, & Lukis will evaluate and interview potential firms from the four in-hand proposals and any others received by 10am Wednesday, May 17. Recommendation will be brought to the Board at the June 20th meeting.

Last week, Mr. Lukis met with the MWRA Advisory Board Executives, the first step in the three-step entrance fee waiver process for additional water purchase. He will go before the full Advisory Board May 25th, and attend the MWRA Board Meeting July 21st.

The initial phase of the Security Project is complete with the intrusion system online. White Lodge and Bridge Street plants are scheduled to go online; a gates & fences change order will be necessary.

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

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

Motion passes unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Kathy Travers Reynolds
Recording Secretary