

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
OCTOBER 3, 2023

Commissioner Fox announced that he would be acting as pro tempore Acting Chairman in the absence of Chairman Boyd. Commissioner Fox called the meeting to order at 5:04 p.m., announced that the virtual version of the meeting was being recorded, and asked for each Commissioner to state their name for the record by roll call:

Board Members Present: Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner – Present; Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner and Acting Chairman – Present.

Board Members Not Present: Chairman Robert E. Boyd, Jr.

Others Present: Vincent J. Roy, Executive Director; and Michael Abbondanzio, Foreman

Virtually Present: None

1. REVIEW THE MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS SEPTEMBER 5, 2023, MEETING:

The Commissioners approved the Minutes for the Meeting of September 5, 2023, as amended. The motion for approval was made by Commissioner Sheldon, and duly seconded by Commissioner Fox and approved by unanimous roll call:

Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner - Aye
Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner and Acting Chairman - Aye

2. REVIEW THE DIRECTOR'S SEPTEMBER 15th AND 29th BI-WEEKLY REPORTS:

Executive Director Roy presented his bi-weekly reports to the Commissioners and addressed questions regarding the following topics:

Macone Property:

Commissioner Sheldon requested that Director Roy provide an update on this matter. Mr. Roy responded that Attorney Pickering-Cook of Anderson-Kreiger would have a better sense of the time frame to resolve the case after the pre-trial conference and that no pre-trial date had been scheduled as of this date. He also stated that Anderson-Kreiger was committed to putting more pressure on Deutsche Bank to resolve or release the District from the matter.

Raymond Road WTP/PFAS Project:

Commissioner Sheldon requested that Director Roy provide the foundation diagram to illustrate the problem with the foundation and to provide an update to the project. Mr. Roy stated that Barbato Construction completed the work to correct the foundation footing and that the foundation wall had been poured last week. Mr. Roy also stated that the backfilling around the foundation, installing the water main and electrical conduits was scheduled for the following week and that all corrective actions would be done at no additional cost to the District.

Zone II Delineation Assessment Report:

Commissioner Fox asked Director Roy if Tetra-Tech had been in contact with Environmental Partners regarding their cost proposal for conducting a peer review. Mr. Roy responded that Tetra-Tech was still waiting on MassDEP to complete its technical review of the Zone II Assessment Report and was waiting until then to speak with Environmental Partners.

MWRA MetroWest Expansion Study Report:

Commissioner Sheldon provided a brief overview of the September 21st MWRA virtual meeting. Commissioner Sheldon stated that Stantec Engineering presented their experience in forming two coalitions of communities to construct similar type water infrastructure projects. Stantec stated that the coalitions were from the Chicago and Oregon areas. Stantec stated that it took about one year to form the coalitions and the request for funding to be part of the coalitions was simultaneous. The Commissioners also discussed the estimated cost for the MWRA MetroWest project and the practicality of the project even happening.

There were no further questions about the Director's Reports.

3. REVIEW AND VOTE TO APPROVE GRANT AND GIFTS ACCEPTANCE POLICY:

Director Roy presented the final draft Grant and Gifts Acceptance Policy to the Commissioners for their review and vote to approve. Mr. Roy stated that District Counsel Williams has reviewed the draft policy and was satisfied that the policy does not conflict with Massachusetts General Laws (MGL) Ch.44, Section 53A as drafted. Commissioner Fox made minor edits to the draft policy. After further review and discussion, Commissioners Sheldon moved to approve the Grant and Gifts Policy as amended. That motion was seconded by Commissioner Fox and approved by unanimous roll call:

Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner - Aye
Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner and Acting Chairman - Aye

4. REVIEW DRAFT EMPLOYEE POLICY (HANDBOOK):

Director Roy presented the Commissioners with copies of the draft Employee Policy handbook and priority list of proposed changes. No decisions were made. Commissioner Fox requested that Director Roy place this item on the next meeting agenda for further discussion.

No further discussion on this matter.

Conclusion of Open Meeting:

Acting Chairman Fox moved to adjourn the meeting. That motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Sheldon and approved by unanimous roll call:

Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner - Aye
Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner and Acting Chairman - Aye

There being no further discussion the meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.