

BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS
MINUTES FOR THE MEETING OF
JANUARY 23, 2024

Chairperson Boyd called the open meeting to order at 5:07 p.m., and 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; and Robert E. Boyd, Jr., Commissioner and Chairperson - Present.

Board Members Not Present: None

Others Present: Vincent J. Roy, Executive Director; Thomas S. Travers, Treasurer; Michael Abbondanzio, Foreman; and Renee M. Adams, Customer Service Manager.

Virtually Present: Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner - Present.

1. REVIEW THE MINUTES FROM THE BOARD OF WATER COMMISSIONERS JANUARY 18, 2024, MEETING:

The Commissioners approved the Minutes for the Meeting of January 18, 2024, as presented. The motion for approval was made by Commissioner Fox, duly seconded by Commissioner Sheldon, and approved by unanimous roll call:

Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner - Aye
Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner - Aye
Robert E. Boyd, Commissioner and Chairperson - Aye

2. REVIEW THE DIRECTOR'S JANUARY 19th BI-WEEKLY REPORTS:

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

MWRA METROWEST EXPANSION STUDY

Director Roy informed the Commissioners that he attended the virtually held MWRA quarterly meeting on January 18, 2024. Mr. Roy stated that the only item discussed was the application process for applying for project funding through the State Revolving Fund (SRF) Program. Commissioner Sheldon stated that he has been discussing with Mr. Roy the potential for joining the MWRA and the December 31, 2027, deadline for the waived application fee. He has been in contact with two engineering firms (Stantec and Kleinfelder) to solicit cost proposals to prepare the necessary documents required for approval by the MWRA Advisory Board, principally an Environmental Impact Report and approval for interbasin transfer under the Massachusetts Interbasin Transfer Act.

There was no further discussion on the Director's Report.

3. REVIEW DRAFT FY 2024 BUDGET

Director Roy presented the revised draft FY 25 budget to the Commissioners. Mr. Roy also provided the Commissioners with a breakdown of proposed budget requirements for the FY25 budget for salaries, energy, insurance, drinking water chemicals costs, and capital projects. Several specific line items were discussed, and the final approval of the budget was deferred to a future Commissioners meeting, pending updates from Mr. Roy.

There was no further discussion on this topic.

4. REVIEW WATER RATES and VOTE PROPOSED RATE INCREASE

Director Roy presented three options for a proposed water rate increase effective for the 4th quarter billing cycle. The proposed rate increase options were the following: Option 1 – 3% increase, Option 2 - 5% increase, and Option 3 - 8% increase. Following a discussion, the Commissioners agreed that a 4.3% rate increase which coincides with the proposed FY25 Operating Budget, as well as an increase of the base charge from \$30 to \$31 per quarter would generate the needed revenue to fund the FY25 budget, even if water consumption is low. Commissioner Sheldon moved to increase the current water rates by 4.3% and increase the base charge to \$31 effective on the 4th quarter billing cycle. The motion was duly seconded by Commissioner Fox, and approved by unanimous roll call:

Robert E. Boyd, Jr. Commissioner and Chairperson - Aye

Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner - Aye

Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner - Aye

Conclusion of Open Meeting:

Commissioner Fox moved to adjourn the meeting. It was duly seconded by Chairperson Boyd, and approved by unanimous roll call:

Robert H. Sheldon, Commissioner - Aye

Joshua M. Fox, Commissioner - Aye

Robert E. Boyd, Jr., Chairperson and Commissioner - Aye

There being no further discussion, the meeting adjourned at 6:45 p.m.