

On Tap Newsletter

February 2017
www.pcwwa.org

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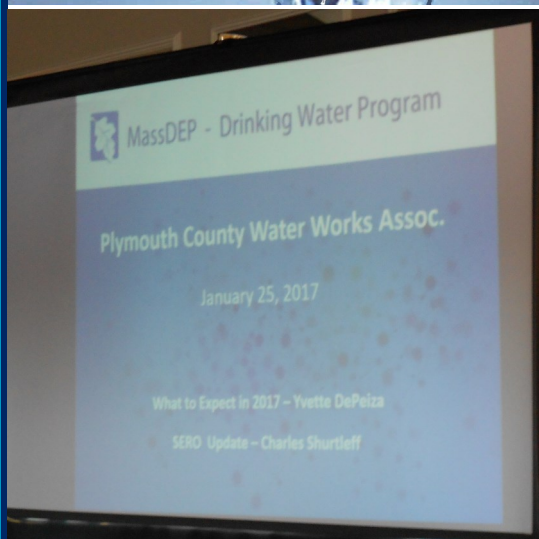
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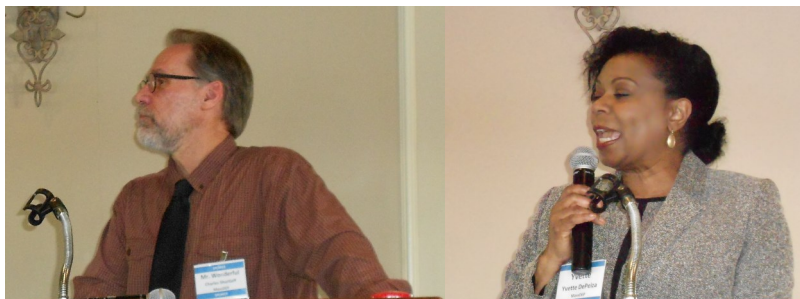


“Ensuring safe and healthy drinking water may be as simple as turning on the tap from an EPA-regulated public water system”

Centers for Disease Control



Thank you to Yvette DePeiza and Charlie Shurtleff for the always informative MassDEP Update Meeting in January.





March 16, 2017

MWWA, PCWWA and BCWUA Jointly Present: Seminar and Meeting

Lake Pearl, 299 Creek Street, Wrentham, MA

Meeting Sponsored By MWWA Vice Presidential Sponsors: Environmental Partners Group, Putnam Pipe and Woodard & Curran

[Register Now!](#)

8:30 AM – 9:30 AM Registration - Coffee & Muffins

Program Moderator: Patrick O’Neale, Tata & Howard, Inc.

9:30 -10:00 AM **“Update on Revisions to the MA Drought Management Plan”** Anne Carroll, Director, Office of Water Resources, MA DCR

10:00-10:45 AM **“Putting the Plan Into Action: Worcester’s Response to the 2016 Drought”** Philip Guerin, Director of Water & Sewer Operations, Worcester DPWP; Jonathan Gervais, Environmental Manager, Worcester DPW&P; Kimberly Abraham, Water Resources Coordinator, Worcester DPW&P

10:45 -11:00 AM Break

11:00 – 11:45 AM **“Panel Discussion: Regional Perspectives and Actions-2016 Drought”** Amy Rusiecki, P.E., Asst. Superintendent of Operations, Amherst Public Works; David Larkowski, Superintendent, Dennis Water District; Greg Krom, Superintendent, Topsfield Water Department

11:45 -Noon **“Private Well Bylaw Adoption: Wrentham’s Recent Action”** Michael T. Lavin, Jr., Superintendent of Public Works, Wrentham, MA

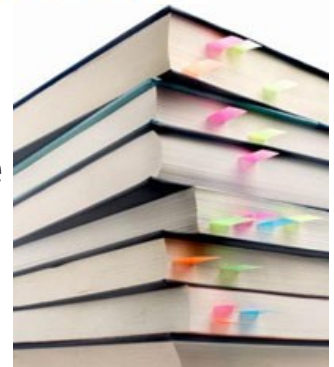
Noon – 12:15PM Questions and Evaluations

12:15 –1:30 PM Lunch – Corned Beef and Cabbage or Broiled Scrod



PCWWA SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS

Scholarship Applications will be due at the end of March. Be on the lookout for the application to be posted on the webpage.



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE AWARD RECIPIENTS!

Public Relations Committee Chair Ryan J. Trahan presented the Michael T. Coyne Meritorious Service Award to Michael Roderick, Town of Dartmouth (picture left) and the David L. Regan Associate Member Award to Bob Ferguson of Ferguson Waterworks (picture right), as well as honoring the career of David Masciarelli (bottom left) who recently retired as Water Operations Supervisor in the Town of Sharon.



The Michael T. Coyne Meritorious Service Award is presented to an Active Member in the water works field. They are recognized for their long-standing service to the water works profession.



The David L. Regan Associate Member Award which is presented to an Associate Member in appreciation of outstanding service to the water works profession.



Joe Coulter, Training & Trade Show Chair, gives participating communities a plaque in appreciation of their involvement with the first annual Motorcycle Ride in conjunction with the Training & Trade Show.





Operator Roundtables

The MWWA PR/Membership Committee has scheduled two operator roundtables for **March**. The Roundtables will give an opportunity for operators to get together in an informal way to exchange information and share ideas for how utilities are handling particular issues. In the past we have hosted Roundtables on topics such as Proper Sampling Protocols and Revised Total Coliform Rule, as well as Preparing for a Sanitary Survey. The committee has selected topics to kick off the meeting but in previous Roundtables we have found that the best discussion evolves from issues that the participants are facing. If you are interested in attending one of the Roundtables or if you wish to send employees, please RSVP to Jennifer Pederson at jpederson@masswaterworks.org. We urge Utility Managers to send their operators to one of these Roundtables. There is no cost to attend and there will be NO TCHs issued.

March 1, 2017-Amherst, MA: This Roundtable will begin at 10 AM and is expected to wrap up by noon. It will be held at the Amherst Wastewater Treatment Plant 100 Mullins Way, Hadley, MA. This Roundtable will be more treatment focused with a discussion on Chlorate issues.

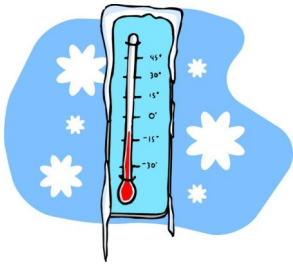
March 14, 2017-Brewster, MA: This Roundtable will begin at 10 AM and is expected to wrap up by noon. It will be held at the Brewster Water Department (165 Commerce Park Road, Brewster, MA. This Roundtable will be more distribution focused with discussion of AC pipe handling and trench safety.



Updated Website is Live!

The new and improved PCWWA webpage is live! Meeting and event registration now includes the ability to **PAY ONLINE**, along with other streamlined features. Go and check it out! <http://www.pcwwa.org/>





Winter Water Tips

From: Steve Bishop, Mansfield's Water Wizard



- Find where your water is located and make sure it is in a heated area.
- Check water meter area for broken windows or doors that may let in cold air.
- Make sure your shutoff valves work properly before and after meter.
- If you think it's too cold in the meter area and are unable to heat it, try water pipe heat tape or a heat cable. If none of these solutions work for you, then run your water at a slow draw to move water to prevent freezing.
- If frozen, never re-heat fast. Instead, use a portable heater device or a hair dryer.
- Have your plumbers contact easily accessible.
- Contact your local Water Department with any questions.



Job Openings

Click on each of the jobs below to read the job posting on the PCWWA website.

- [Town of Medfield, MA Wastewater Treatment Plant Operator](#)
- [Town of Avon, DPW Water Division Laborer](#)
- [Aquarion Water Company - Water Treatment Plant Operator, Hingham Facility](#)

Vendor Presentations

The Vendor Relations Committee is looking to fill some slots for vendor presentations at upcoming meetings. Please contact [Patrick O'Neale](#) if you are a vendor with any products or services you'd like to showcase.



Legislative Update

Areas of Commonwealth Experience Improved Drought Conditions, Below-Normal Precipitation Amounts Continue Across State Monitoring of Water Resources to Continue, Indoor Water Conservation by Public Necessary

BOSTON - February 10, 2017 - While many areas of the state experienced moderate levels of precipitation in January, large portions of the state continue to experience a water deficit. As a result, Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) Secretary Matthew Beaton today declared the following drought levels throughout the Commonwealth: a Drought Warning for the Connecticut River Valley and Southeast Region, unchanged from the month of January; a Drought Watch for the Western Region and Central Region, down from a Drought Warning in the month of January; and a Drought Advisory for the Northeast Region and Cape and Islands, down from a Drought Watch for the Northeast Region in the month of January, and unchanged for the Cape and Islands. The declaration was the result of a recommendation issued from a recent meeting of the Drought Management Task Force, comprised of state, federal and local officials, and will remain in effect until water levels return to normal in the affected regions.

"Even though many water systems across the Commonwealth are recovering due to an increase in precipitation, it remains essential that we all continue to practice indoor water conservation methods to allow our state's reservoirs, groundwater, and streamflow networks to fully rebound," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Matthew Beaton. "With the uncertainty of the amount of precipitation over the course of this winter, and its impacts across the state on spring flows and water levels, it is important that we avoid stressing the Commonwealth's water systems."

"The recent rain and snow is helping water systems recover from the prolonged drought, but a complete recovery is still a long way off," said Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) Director Kurt Schwartz. "The public is encouraged to continue indoor water conservation measures and to begin thinking about ways to reduce outdoor water use this coming spring and summer."

A Drought Warning, as outlined in the Massachusetts Drought Management Plan, indicates over six consecutive months of groundwater and stream flow levels being below normal, and larger reservoirs at below normal levels. This initiates a much more concerted set of government responses including instating water restrictions, and more intensified monitoring and coordination between the agencies. Areas within the Drought Warning regions are currently experiencing precipitation levels below normal for six out of seven consecutive months. A Drought Watch represents extremely low groundwater and streamflow levels resulting from prolonged periods of precipitation deficit, including a lack of snowfall in the winter months. The declaration of a Drought Watch warrants detailed monitoring of drought conditions, close coordination among state and federal agencies, and technical outreach and assistance for the affected municipalities. The declaration of a Drought Advisory indicates a level of dry conditions that warrants closer tracking by government agencies.

The state continues to intensely monitor and assess the drought situation, and any associated environmental and agricultural impacts. Furthermore, the state asks the public to be mindful of the amount of water they are using, and to reduce indoor water use, address leaks as soon as possible, and for larger buildings and businesses to conduct water audits to ensure they identify areas of leaks and potential water conservation. All these steps will greatly help reduce water use to ensure essential needs such as drinking water and fire protection are being met, habitats have enough water to recover, and to stretch our water supplies into the spring.

Continued Next Page.

Legislative Update

The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP) continues to provide technical assistance to communities on managing systems, including assistance on use of emergency connections and water supplies, as well as assisting towns on how to request a declaration of drought emergency.

"While it feels like the Commonwealth has had a lot of precipitation recently, the ongoing drought represents many months of deficit that is still being replenished," said Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Commissioner Martin Suuberg. "Groundwater elevations and ponds in several parts of the state are still at low levels and need time to rise. So, we urge consumers to continue to conserve water at home and work to ensure that this important resource recovers in the weeks and months ahead."

Task Force officials noted that although reservoir levels are recovering during this natural recharge period, some are still below normal. The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) water supply system is not currently experiencing drought conditions, as defined within its individual plan.

"Quabbin Reservoir levels have been holding steady, but a good snowpack in the watersheds would help bring us up to normal levels by spring," said MWRA Executive Director Fred Laskey. "It is still important for residents and businesses to be mindful of indoor water use and take measures to conserve."

The declaration of a Drought Warning, Drought Watch, and a Drought Advisory requires the Drought Management Task Force to meet on a regular basis to more closely assess conditions across the state, coordinate dissemination of information to the public, and help state, federal and local agencies prepare any responses that may be needed in the future. The Task Force will next meet in March. For further information on water conservation and what you can do, visit the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs' drought page, the Department of Conservation and Recreation's drought management page, and the MassDEP Water Conservation page.

EPA Updates Human Health Benchmarks for Pesticides in Drinking Water

FROM THE EPA, JANUARY, 2017: EPA has updated its Human Health Benchmarks for Pesticides in drinking water to reflect the latest scientific information. The benchmarks are levels of certain pesticides in drinking water or source waters for drinking water at or below which adverse health effects are not anticipated from one-day or lifetime exposures. First developed by EPA in 2012, the benchmarks are intended to be used for informational purposes by states, tribes, water systems and the public to help interpret monitoring data for pesticides for which there are no drinking water standards or health advisories. These revised benchmarks incorporate updated toxicity assessments from the pesticide registration process and exposure assumptions derived from the EPA's Exposure Factors Handbook.

<https://www.epa.gov/dwstandardsregulations/drinking-water-contaminant-human-health-effects-information#benchmarks>

Coldwater Fisheries Resources Mapping Revised; Implications for WMA Permitting

The Massachusetts Division of Fisheries and Wildlife has updated the Coldwater Fisheries Resources data to reflect 2016 fisheries sampling efforts. For metadata and a link to free data download, please see <http://www.mass.gov/massit/dfwcf>.

EPA Releases Guidance for Sampling and Field Testing During Water Contamination Incidents

FROM USEPA, JANUARY, 2017: To aid drinking water utilities in preparing for sampling and field testing that could occur during water contamination incidents, EPA released, "Guidance for Building Field Capabilities to Respond to Drinking Water Contamination." The guidance outlines basic and advanced field response activities and also provides information pertaining to staffing, quality assurance, and other procedures. Additionally, the document contains useful resources; downloadable and customizable report forms and templates; supplemental information on the application; and relative costs of field testing instrumentation and test kits.

<https://www.epa.gov/waterqualitysurveillance/sampling-and-analysis-resources>
