

On Tap Newsletter

November 2017
www.pcwwa.org

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President's Message

Dear Members,

As I sit and reflect on my time as the President of Plymouth County Water Works Association, I've recently asked myself the question, where has the time gone?

Next month will end my two year term as President and it feels like it was only yesterday that I was nominated. I will be leaving my post and passing off the duties of the President to a very capable and resourceful young lady whom I expect to be a stand-out amongst Presidents. Not knowing what to write in my final message, I decided to talk about Plymouth County Water Works Association and why it is an amazing organization. I have been a member for many years, but only four years ago was I able to participate on a higher level. It's quite amazing to see all the work that is done behind the scenes. There is so much passion that is put into every event and into all of the programs that that are organized by the committee chairs. The piece that I find most remarkable is that it's all voluntary. The association, both past and present members, have been and are an amazing group of people. To say I'm proud to be a part of such a great association is an understatement. It has truly been a pleasure being able to contribute alongside such a wonderful group of people, those that make up this great organization that we call the Plymouth County Water Works Association.

Sincerely ,

Richard D Muncey, President , Plymouth County Water Works



President
Richard D. Muncey
Hanson Water Department





November Monthly Meeting

Wednesday November 15, 2017

Chateau Norton Restaurant

10:30 AM – Monthly Meeting Registration / Coffee

11:00 AM – Meeting / Presentation

[**Click Here to Register Now!**](#)

**Speaker: Jennifer A. Pederson, Executive Director
Massachusetts Water Works Association**



Tapping into a new Drinking Water Operator Pool

It is expected that one-half of our drinking water operators will be retiring in the next 5-10 years. The profession is not widely recognized and there is an under-appreciation of what drinking water operators do and there are more complex drinking water requirements. In order to keep the industry healthy and allow people to advance in their careers we need to have a pipeline of new recruits. Jen will share with us the programs they have developed for reaching out both to veteran groups and vocational students. She will discuss strategy, programs and lessons learned.



Support the Scholarship Fund by Participating in the November Meeting Raffle!

Calling all members to support the scholarship fund by donating a raffle prize, purchasing tickets at the November Monthly Meeting, or making a monetary contribution to add to the funds raised!

Awards

Also at the November Meeting, join your fellow peers in honoring several members of the organization. The Michael T. Coyne Meritorious Service Award and David L. Regan Associate Members Award will both be presented.



Trade Show & Clambake Recap

JULY 26, 2017

Another beautiful, sunny, warm day was enjoyed by over 400 PCWWA members at the Country Club of Halifax. Golf started the morning off with about 90 players and everyone enjoyed a breakfast compliments of Environmental Partners Group and Ti-SALES Inc. The Golf Committee did a great job and many thanks to Steve Bishop. As golf was starting up so was the 2nd Annual Motorcycle Run hosted by the Abington/Rockland Joint Water Works, North Attleboro DPW, Dartmouth Water Dept and Wareham Fire District. Over 30 Bikers all from the Water Works Industry enjoyed a great run organized by Dan Callahan and Bob Ferguson.

At the same time this was rolling along over 20 vendors began to set up their displays throughout the Country Club many thanks to the committee with Joe Sullivan, Kevin King, Danny Smith, Dick Clark, Neal Merritt, and the Training class was just getting under way. Great job by Amanda and Erica for organizing the class. The days entertainment was brought to by Steve Bishop and the Raffle table did a fantastic job with Leanne and Cathy selling those tickets. Lunch tickets were handled by the incredible John Fresh. The many raffle prizes were donated by the vendors and Bartlett Consolidated donated a flat screen TV. Lunch was delicious and everyone enjoyed the Ice Cream served up by Wright Pierce. Many thanks for all the committees, the vendors, and everyone that attended.

Dan Smith of Maltz Sales will be taking over as Chair of the Trade Show and Training Committee. We all know that he will do a great job coordinating all activities for July 25, 2018. Mark your calendars now and stay tuned for more information as that date gets closer.

Regan Supply and Testing was drawn as the winner of the FREE BOOTH for 2018. Congratulations to Jeanne and Joe Sullivan. On a side note please join us in wishing both Cathleen Miller (Halifax Water/ Raffle table) and John Fresh (Easton Water/clambake tickets) all the best as they enter a new chapter in both their lives....RETIREMENT!!

Special thanks to Richard "Chip" Muncey President of PCWWA for overseeing the entire day Great job Mr. President.

See you all on July 25, 2018

Your Trade Show and Training Committee

NEW OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRS

PCWWA would like to announce, recognize, and welcome new Officers and Committee Chairs.

Peter Maher of Maher Services is now Chair of the Nominating Committee.

As mentioned in the Trade Show recap , Joe Coulter has passed the reins of the Training & Trade Show to Dan Smith of Maltz Sales.

Please join PCWWA in sharing your thanks to Joe Coulter for his dedication to delivering such a quality event for so many years.



Lastly, Tim Daniels of the Foxboro Water Department is on the ballot for Vice President. Please give a warm PCWWA welcome to Tim.

CONGRATULATIONS TO JOHN FRESH ON RETIREMENT!

After 38 years with the Town of Easton, John Fresh retired on October 20.





THANK YOU TO THE 2ND ANNUAL “WATER RIDE”

At the October Monthly Meeting, President Chip Muncey presented plaques to the Towns of Dartmouth (above left) and North Attleboro (above right) as a show of appreciation for their involvement in the 2nd Annual “Water Ride”.



JOB OPENINGS

Go to <http://www.pcwwa.org/> to find the listing for the following open positions:

- ♦ Town of Avon - Assistant DPW Director
- ♦ Town of Somerset – Water/Sewer Superintendent
- ♦ Town of Foxborough – Water Systems Technician
- ♦ Town of Hanson Water Technician/Equipment Operator

FACEBOOK CONTEST - LAST CHANCE!



PCWWA will be updating it's new Facebook page. Like our page and be entered into a drawing to win a \$100 Visa Gift Card!! The winner will be drawn at the November Membership meeting.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY - GET INVOLVED WITH PCWWA!

As PCWWA wishes John Fresh a Happy Retirement, they are seeking Co-Treasurer to train with and assist John, the current Treasurer, as he transitions and begins his retirement. An interested volunteer should be available to attend monthly meetings and board of director meetings. The treasurer has general charge of all financial records and accounts of the Association including checking, savings, certificates of deposit, and tracking disbursements for the annual trade show and scholarship awards. The Treasurer pays all bills that are approved by vote of the members and pays all ordinary bills at his/her discretion in accordance with good book keeping practices. Responsibilities also include coordinating with the Association's accountants for the purposes of filling taxes.

If you or a member of your staff has bookkeeping background and would like more information about the position please contact Leanne Monaghan at 781-447-1200 or leanne.hwd@comcast.net.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

State Hearing In Lenox the Week of October 30, Addresses Water Quality Issues. Read the article [here](#). MWWA testified before the Joint Committee on Environment in Lenox. There were a number of bills that MWWA is supporting and also some to which opposition was expressed.

From MWWA Executive Director, Jennifer Pederson: On the following pages, you will find a template letter that you can use to comment on the many water-related bills before the Joint Committee on Environment. I would urge you to customize the letter and give examples on how you believe the proposed legislation will impact your utility. Please try to send a letter by November 17th to ensure that the Committee has time to read your comments before acting on the legislation. MWWA has provided full written testimony on each of these bills. Our full comments can be viewed on the Advocacy page of our website: www.masswaterworks.org. Look under the Written Testimony heading for our comments.

Recent Press on PFOA/PFOS: Please be aware of this recent press on PFOA/PFOS, it may prompt more press and customer inquiries. DrinkTap.org has some information that you might find helpful if you need to respond to inquiries.

[A new analysis of 4-year-old data shows the EPA is ignoring a lot of toxins in US drinking water](#)

[Westfield wells still offline as residents want blood tested](#)

Section 70 Assessments: The Section 70 made a recommendation in August that DEP increase the minimum bill from \$20 to \$30 (this applies to the smallest public water systems) and to keep the rate charged to the larger public water systems (\$8.50/million gallons) the same. The Commissioner of DEP just set the rates for FY19 and he is keeping all rates the same as they are in FY18. DEP will not be increasing the minimum bill per the recommendation by the Section 70 Committee.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES, CONT.

From MassDEP: Statewide GIS Mapping Technical Assistance Available:


The Department is soliciting interest from Public Water Suppliers (PWSs) and Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTWs) to receive free technical assistance in developing Geographic Information System (GIS) maps of their drinking water distribution or sewer collection systems from a private consulting firm (the consulting firm has yet to be determined). Based on the response to this Request for Interest (RFI), a list of PWSs and POTWs approved for the GIS mapping will be included in a consulting services Request for Quotes (RFQ) to be released by MassDEP later this year. Please see the Request for Interest document linked below for details on how to respond to this RFI.

Additional Resources: [Open PDF file, 355.11 KB, for Request for Interest - Enhancing Resilience and Emergency Preparedness of Water Utilities through Improved Mapping](#)

From MassDEP: Looking Ahead to the 2018 Awards Program

MassDEP introduced a new award last year to honor *certified operators* that go above and beyond compliance in their daily duties. We would like to hear from you about your special operator that went further than just what duty calls for. Send us a narration about your special operator and what they did in 2017. The recommendation should explain why the specific action(s) was beneficial to the system and customers. Send to Program.Director-DWP@state.ma.us Subject 2018 Certified Operator Award. You will have until February 28, 2018 to send it in.

Another "new" award for the 2018 Awards Program will be the reinstated and refocused *STAR-L Awards* (Systems taking action to reduce lead in schools). If you will remember, the Start L award is given to a system in partnership with a school, school district, or early education and care facility (EECF) who are working in tandem to prevent or reduce lead in school drinking water. Your partnering, school, school district or EECF should have a program in place that meets the MassDEP Lead Contamination Control Act (LCCA) program recommendations. We will publish the informational letter and the application for this award in the next Program Director email in two weeks.



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

By Thomas C. Sexton, P.E.

This state legislative season continues to be busy and challenging for water suppliers, with more than a dozen bills related to water resources, municipal infrastructure and operations. Here is a quick update on some of them:

An Act Relative Water Treatment and Wastewater Treatment Facilities (H.144) was scheduled for hearing in October by the Joint Committee on Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure. (would mandate that piping work carried out in connection with systems of water treatment plants and systems be deemed the work of licensed plumbers)

An Act to Further Define Standards of Employee Safety (S.2167, H.3952), (Municipal Worker Safety to OSHA Standards) has passed the Senate and the House.

An Act to Amend the Lead Law to Include Water Piping Lead Services (H.3243) was heard October 23 by the Committee on Public Health. (requires disclosure of lead service line on house sale)

An Act Establishing the Cape Cod Water Protection Trust (S.2163, H.3902) is still in the Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture and has not been heard. (tourist tax to fund s.208 (area-wide water quality management) implementation)

The following bills were referred jointly by the House and Senate to an October 30 hearing of the Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture. *An Act Relative to . . .*

Drought Management (S.425, H.2115) (to establish a drought management task force).

Ensuring Safe Drinking Water at Schools and Early Childhood Programs (S.456, H.2915) (Sets new lead limit for schools (1 ppb) and would require PWS to bear cost of entire lead service line replacement)

Protecting Drinking Water (H.2112) (to further regulate the building or expansion of solid waste disposal facilities)

Public Water Supply Records (H.2130)

Assist Municipal and District Ratepayers (S.462, H.463) (relative to the costs imposed upon the municipal and district ratepayers due to public drinking water, wastewater and stormwater systems capital upgrades.)

Improve Municipal Water Infrastructure (S.423) (establishing a water production tax to establish a Municipal Water Infrastructure Trust Fund)

Municipal Assistance for Clean Water and Economic Development Infrastructure (H.2117) (establishment of a water infrastructure improvement fund to provide assistance to cities and towns for clean water and economic development)

Rights of Municipalities and Districts (H.2137, H.778) (to preserve WMA registration volumes without conditions)



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE, CONT.

Streamflow Standards (S.420, H.806) (in addition to what is already regulated under the Water Management Act)

Mitigating Water Resource Impacts (S.2116); *Providing for the Establishment of Sustainable Water Resource Funds* (H.2116) (a.k.a. Water Banking, allows suppliers to collect a reasonable fee to be used for measures to remedy/offset the impacts of new and/or increased water demands)

Municipal Water Resources (S.481) (Requires MassDEP assess its authority to address impacts of a municipal groundwater withdrawal on a surface water source under the WMA)

Written testimony is recommended to be submitted by water works professionals with 7 days subsequent.

A MassDEP hearing was held on September 12 in response to a petition of the Mass Rivers Alliance to seek conditioning of registration volumes and amendments under the Water Management Act. With the strong presence and testimony of water works professionals, MassDEP is taking no action at this time. However, the matter is being considered for further study prior to registration renewals in 2021 . . . if H.2137 or H.778 passes this legislative year, we may finally (hopefully) have closure on this issue.

Check in with <http://www.pcwwa.org/committees/legislative-committee/> for further updates!



The Honorable Anne Gobi
The Honorable Smitty Pignatelli
Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture
State House, Room 473F
Boston, MA 02133

RE: Comments on SB 420; HB 2115/SB 425; SB 423; HB 2915/SB 456; HB 463/SB 462; HB 2137; HB 2116

Dear Chairs Gobi and Pignatelli and Members of the Committee:

I am a member of Massachusetts Water Works Association (MWWA) and I was unable to attend the public hearing regarding various water-related bills that was held in Lenox on October 30th. I wish to submit the following written testimony for the Committee's consideration as you deliberate on the bills that could impact the Commonwealth's public water systems.

Senate Bill 420: Our profession is opposed to An Act relative to streamflow standards, filed by Senator Eldridge. SB 420 changes the intent of the Water Management Act (WMA) by tipping the required statutory balance between competing uses and placing aquatic habitat benefit over all else. The Commonwealth convened a stakeholder group in 2010 as part of the "Sustainable Water Management Initiative," to look at issues related to water management and safe yield. This process concluded in 2014 with the promulgation of revised regulations which incorporate what the advocates are looking for in this bill, including streamflow criteria, minimization of existing withdrawals and mitigation of increased water withdrawals. While we have many issues and concerns with these new regulations there is certainly no need to move this additional legislation forward and we respectfully ask the Committee to give SB420 an adverse report.

House Bill 2115/Senate Bill 425: Our profession has concerns about HB 2115/SB 425, An Act relative to drought management, filed by Representative Dykema and Senator Eldridge. This legislation would codify the Drought Task Force in statute, would mandate updates to the Massachusetts Drought Plan within six months and would require uniform restrictions upon all users in a drought region. The Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs (EEA) is already in the process of revising the plan. The proponents of the bill are looking for private wells to be regulated with the same non-essential outdoor water use restrictions as public water supply customers. Private well control is presently managed through local Boards of Health. Development, implementation and enforcement related to private well use will provide an undue hardship on any local public agency tasked with this unfunded mandate. Further, restrictions on non-essential use have revenue implications that will impact customers' rates and future investment in updating aging infrastructure. MWWA believes that water systems should have their own drought plan and that drought restrictions are best left up to the water system based on local water resource conditions. We respectfully request that the Committee send HB 2115/SB 425 to study until EEA completes the updates to the state plan.

House Bill 2915/Senate Bill 456: Our profession has concerns regarding HB 2915/SB 456, An Act ensuring safe drinking water at schools and early childhood programs, filed by Representative Erlich and Senator Lovely. While we understand the importance of protecting children from exposure to lead and appreciate the intent behind the legislation, the bill as currently written is problematic. MWWA is submitting detailed comments on the bill, but in short, the industry is concerned with redefining what constitutes an elevated level of lead at 1 part per billion. Further, we are concerned with the language which would have the Public Water System replace the private portion of the service line at schools at the Public Water System's cost. There are public/private property issues that could come into play and also there are issues of ratepayer funds potentially being used to replace lines at a private schools or daycare facilities which would not be appropriate. We respectfully request that the Committee send HB 2915/SB 456 to study until the US Environmental Protection Agency concludes their review and revisions to the federal Lead & Copper Rule. We believe an actual study of the matter undertaken by a cross-section of stakeholders and experts would be highly beneficial and would allow creation of a plan to address this matter that is realistic and effective.

Senate Bill 423: We also wish to comment on SB 423, An Act improving municipal water infrastructure, filed by Senator Eldridge. While we appreciate the intent to increase needed funding for infrastructure improvements, we have concerns about the imposition of fees on local ratepayers that would then be sent to a state fund where only a portion of the money collected would be returned to the Public Water System that collected it. If the Committee finds that this bill has merit to move forward, we would request that 100% of the revenue collected remain with the utility that collected it.

House Bill 463/Senate Bill 462: Our profession supports HB 463/SB 462, An Act to assist municipal and district ratepayers, filed by Representative Roy and Senator Moore. This legislation establishes a mechanism through which the costs, benefits and financial impacts of proposed environmental rules must be identified and described before the rules can take effect. The act fills a missing gap in the rule-making process by requiring environmental agencies to consider the costs and benefits of their proposals. By doing so, public funds at the local and state level can be used more efficiently and effectively to derive maximum benefits for each dollar expended. We respectfully ask the Committee to give this bill a favorable report.

House Bill 2116: Our profession supports HB 2116, An Act providing for the establishment of sustainable water resource funds filed by Representative Dykema which would create a statewide legal framework that will support communities that have already established local “water banks” and will encourage other cities and towns to do so, in a fair and economically responsible manner. It will allow cities and towns to collect a reasonable fee to be used for measures to remedy and offset environmental impacts and to deposit the funds into a separate municipal account for drinking water, wastewater or stormwater. We respectfully ask the Committee to give this bill a favorable report.

House Bill 2137: Our profession supports HB 2137, An Act to protect the rights of municipalities and districts, filed by Representative Peisch. This bill relates to the Water Management Act (WMA) Registrations issued by the Commonwealth in 1986 to water systems who registered their water use upon passage of the Water Management Act. The agreement at the time of passage of the Act was that Registrations would be grandfathered water rights, not subject to the same conditions that new users needing permits would have. This bill amends Section 2 of MGL 21G, further clarifying the definitions for the permit program and the registration statement to be consistent with the regulations. HB 2137 also amends Section 5 of MGL 21G, making it clear that all properly filed WMA Registration statements shall entitle the registrants to their registered water use volumes without conditions and stipulates that no regulations may be promulgated that would allow the imposition of conditions. Water systems that only have Registered volumes have not seen their water use increase in over 30 years and many have seen substantial decreases; it is not necessary to condition these users. Those holding both Registrations and Permits are governed by the Permit conditions and do not need to be further controlled by Registration conditions. We respectfully request the Committee give HB 2137 a favorable report.

Our profession supports HB 2117, An act relative to municipal assistance for clean water and economic development infrastructure, filed by Representative Dykema. Over the next several decades, much of our water infrastructure network is going to need upgrading or replacement. In Massachusetts alone, the Water Infrastructure Finance Commission (WIFC) found there is a substantial gap in funds available versus need. The estimated gap in investments is \$10.2 billion for drinking water. The WIFC recommended that the state create a new trust fund and that at least \$200 million per year be deposited into this new Trust Fund. HB 2117 would authorize the Commonwealth to secure a 30-year \$1 Billion bond to fund a new Water Infrastructure Improvement Trust Fund. HB 2117 creates the new trust fund under the existing structure of the Clean Water Trust. The mechanism for distributing the money in the Water Infrastructure Improvement Fund would be based on a “Chapter 90-like” model. We respectfully request the Committee give HB 2117 a favorable report.

Should you have any questions on any of the above bills, I would urge you to reach out to MWWA’s executive director, Jennifer Pederson at 978-263-1388. Thank you for your consideration on these important issues.

Sincerely,

[INSERT NAME]
[INSERT TITLE]

cc: [YOUR LOCAL STATE REPRESENTATIVE]
[YOUR LOCAL STATE SENATOR]