

**North Shore Water Resilience Task Force Meeting  
October 29, 2024 – Virtual Meeting  
DRAFT MEETING SUMMARY**

Purpose

- Hear a presentation by Dewberry Engineers on the Task Force commissioned report: *Assessment of Water Security and Resilience Needs and Opportunities in the Ipswich River Watershed*
- Provide opportunity for meeting participants to ask questions and discuss the report findings

Attendees

*State and Congressional Legislators and staff:* Senator Bruce Tarr (Chair), Senator Joan Lovely, Representative Kristin Kassner, Katie Morfill (Office of Sen. Markey), Claudia Runk (Office of Congressman Seth Moulton), Bob McCarthy (Office of Sen. Lovely); Victoria Mori Daigle (Office of Sen. Tarr), Chloe Mitchell (Office of Rep. Kerans); Michael Searles (Office of Rep. Walsh)

*Task Force Members, Stakeholders, and Other Attendees (Task Force member official designees for the meeting are noted by showing the community or organization they represented) :* Rachel Belisle-Toler, Tony Bertone (Middleton); Erin Bonney Casey (IRWA); Anne Carroll; Peter Calderazzo; Zach Calderón, Eileen Coleman (Burlington); Mike Collins; Chuck Dam; Diane Dixon; Joseph Domelowicz (Hamilton); Deb Duhamel ; Jim Engel; Daniel Fox (North Andover); Vicki Halmen (Ipswich); Daniel Heiter; Michael Kessman (Reading); Duane LeVangie; Joe Lobao (Wilmington); Erik Mansfield (Wenham); Hillary Monahan; Lydia Olson; Mayor Dominick Pangallo (Salem); Joseph Parisi (North Reading); William Paulitz (Peabody); Jen Pederson; Brad Perron (SBWSB); Peter Phippen; Ross Povenmire (Boxford); Katie Pratka; Colleen Rizzi; Joscelyn Ruelle-Kersker (Beverly); Sarah Scott; Brittany Segill; Ken Whittaker

*Facilitators:* Sara Cohen, Leah Robins, and Martin Pillsbury

Introduction

The facilitators opened the meeting, welcoming everyone, and reminding attendees of the late change to the agenda: a postponement to the next meeting of a presentation by Horsely Witten / Weston and Sampson on a Task Force commissioned study evaluating the relative impacts on river flows of a range of water supply alternatives in the Ipswich watershed.

Proposal on adding a new member to the Conservation and Demand Management Committee

The facilitation team shared a recommendation by the Conservation and Demand Management Subcommittee to add to their group an additional member, Lydia Olson, a new staff member at Mass Rivers Alliance. There were questions on the call about who could/should be voting on the matter and questions in the chat that were not viewed by the facilitators before calling for a vote, resulting in an ambiguous outcome. The matter will be revisited at a later meeting.

## DRAFT FOR REVIEW

### Presentation by Peter Calderazzo of Dewberry - Assessment of Water Security and Resilience Needs and Opportunities in the Ipswich River Watershed

Peter Calderazzo gave an overview of the report that was commissioned by the Task Force to evaluate long-term solutions to improve water supply resilience and ecosystem health in the Ipswich River Watershed. A final written report and executive summary of the study are currently being prepared. The Powerpoint slides and a video recording of Peter's presentation are available on the Task Force Website at: <https://www.mapc.org/resource-library/north-shore-h20/>.

Highlights and Key Conclusions shared in the presentation:

- The report evaluated 4 potential components of regional water supply scenarios in the Ipswich River Basin:
  - Salem Beverly Water Supply Board operating as a regional supplier
  - The establishment of a new reservoir in Topsfield
  - Sharing surplus water supply on a mutual aid basis
  - MWRA Expansion into the basin
- The report also contemplates three hybrid supply scenarios involving both MWRA and the Salem Beverly Water Supply Board (SBWSB) as partial regional water suppliers, as shown in the chart below:

Hybrid supply scenario 5		Hybrid supply scenario 6		Hybrid supply scenario 7	
Communities served by SBWSB 18.13 MGD	Communities served by MWRA 14.7 MGD	Communities served by SBWSB 19.03 MGD	Communities served by MWRA 13.9 MGD	Communities served by SBWSB 12.25 MGD	Communities served by MWRA 15.4 MGD
Beverly Salem Hamilton Wenham (and Ipswich partially)	Wilmington Peabody the LCWD Topsfield Danvers- Middleton	Beverly Salem Hamilton Topsfield Wenham (and Ipswich partially)	Wilmington Peabody the LCWD and Danvers- Middleton	Beverly Hamilton Wenham Topsfield (and Ipswich and Danvers- Middleton partially)	Salem Wilmington Peabody the LCWD

- High level cost estimates were provided for the different scenarios, as well as important infrastructure, legislative, and regulatory considerations.
- The report encourages further assessment of two of the MWRA conceptual alternatives and the hybrid supply scenarios.
- The MWRA and hybrid scenarios would likely not be implemented in time for public water supply communities to achieve compliance with new PFAS rule (5 year timeline), so temporary PFAS solutions may be needed while regional infrastructure is sufficiently built out. *The PFAS Subcommittee will be investigating solutions to address this timing gap.*
- More detailed analyses will be required on water wheeling chemistry and mixing factors and infrastructure upgrade needs to address interconnections.

## DRAFT FOR REVIEW

### Discussion/Reflections by Meeting Participants:

Brad Perron clarified that the SBWSB has looked at upgrading its treatment plant capacity as part of the capital plan, but that this project is not currently underway. Peter will correct the presentation slide to reflect this comment.

There was discussion emphasizing the importance of the PFAS Subcommittee's work to address the potential timing gap between the PFAS regulatory compliance deadline and the availability of regional supply alternatives for many communities. It was also noted that MassDEP regulators' participation on that subcommittee is important.

The facilitators set the presentation in context, reminding participants that information from this study would be considered in combination with results of the hydrologic analysis that will be presented at the next meeting. The high-level cost estimates and broad considerations that Peter laid out for the various alternatives, taken together with their potential summer flow impacts, will help the Task Force and the Lower Basin Subcommittee establish focus on the most promising solutions and begin to explore sources of funding and fair allocations of cost.

### Legislative Conveners Comments

Senator Tarr offered appreciation for the discussion and emphasized the importance of considering the hybrid options, which would allow the region to use interconnections and wheeling to significantly increase feasibility and save on costs relative to the MWRA building out its own infrastructure to each community served by their system.

Senator Lovely offered appreciation for the in-depth presentation and discussion.

### Next Steps

- ➔ The next Full Task Force meeting will be virtual, Monday November 25th at 1pm, at which Horsely Witten / Weston & Sampson will present on their Task Force study: Evaluating the Relative Impacts on River Flow of Water Supply Alternatives in the Ipswich River Watershed.
- ➔ The Earmark Subcommittee will continue work to issue two solicitations:
  - A contract facilitator to lead the Lower Basin Subcommittee negotiations
  - Development of a web-based decision support tool to help Task Force members, stakeholders, and the public understand the most promising water supply alternatives emerging from the investigations
- ➔ The PFAS Subcommittee will finalize membership based on the Task Force parameters voted on at the 10/9/24 meeting and begin meeting.
- ➔ The Conservation and Demand Management Subcommittee will continue developing resources for the Task Force to incorporate water conservation and efficiency into its approach to regional sustainability.
- ➔ The facilitation team will continue work to identify individual representatives for the Lower Basin Subcommittee.
- ➔ All outstanding studies will be finalized for distribution.
- ➔ The facilitation team will send around a draft meeting summary from this meeting.