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DRAFT MWRC Minutes
Thursday, May 22, 2025
8:00-9:30 am
Wellesley Town Hall

Attendees

- Ashland: Yolanda Greaves
- Framingham: Rick McKenna
- Holliston:
- Marlborough:
- Natick: Morgan Griffiths, Amanda Loomis
- Sherborn: Robert Wolff
- Southborough: Sam Stivers
- Wayland: Mary Antes, Robert Hummel
- Wellesley: Colette Aufranc, Eric Arbeene, Meghan Jop
- Weston: Imai Aiu
- Associate Members: Jason Palitsch, 495/MW Partnership; Elissa Landry, MassAudubon
- MAPC Coordinators: Travis Pollack, Camille Jonlin
- MAPC Directors and Staff: Marc Draisen, Lizzi Weyant, Sasha Parodi, Emma Koontz
- Guests: none

Welcome & Call to Order - Yolanda Greaves

- Meeting was called to order by Yolanda at 8:20.
- Colette welcomed everyone to Wellesley and the newly renovated Town Hall. She invited participants to a tour of the building after the meeting.

MAPC Updates – Marc Draisen, MAPC Executive Director & Lizzi Weyant, MAPC Deputy Executive Director

- Marc - will soon retire as MAPC Executive Director. Lizzi will be acting ED, while there is a search for new ED.
- This has been tough time in Beacon Hill, tougher with relationship with Federal Government. MAPC has an operating budget of \$15M, 1/3 federal funded. Also there are funds from both federal and state to MAPC that are then passed-through to cities and towns. Cuts to those pass-through funds will impact cities and towns more directly.
- Budget reconciliation passed in in the House in Washington this morning. This bill could impact funds and how federal programs are administered. Most serious impact to-date has been in public health; food programs for healthy food for schools, etc. Funds for emergency preparedness, also help families from health-related issues, including isolation.
- MAPC and Massachusetts are pushing back against federal cuts and changes, with MA executive agencies and congressional delegation, communication to work seamlessly. Next, MAPC is coordinating with the MA AG and Govs offices on how to respond to cutbacks, and new terms and

- 44 conditions on funding. Some are legal actions via the AG office; some of these are lawsuits with
45 other states.
- 46 • Need to pick and choose which battles to fight, depending on where the impacts are greatest.
47 Marc was on a call with other planning agencies and the AG's office, trying to offer guidance for
48 municipalities, not just immigration but also other areas.
 - 49 • Immigration is an important issue. There may be different opinions on how to address immigration,
50 even in this room. But need to understand what federal officials can and cannot do; there are
51 many cases we've seen on news in Worcester, Chelsea, and elsewhere. What are the responses
52 and how can municipalities prepare responses for various scenarios.
 - 53 • Lizzi Weyant: reviewed the proposals for the state budget. We're staying the course but there will
54 be changes coming. At the local level, there are still options on how we support our residents – for
55 example, clean energy, and addressing heat. There's also local technical assistance. MAPC is still
56 doing food security and digital equity, open space, transportation planning; this work continues
57 even with federal cuts.
 - 58 • We are stronger regionally, this Collaborative and other regional organizations are important.
 - 59 • The proposed Senate budget has increases for DLTA funding, hope it will make it through the
60 conference committee. This is for all 13 Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs).
 - 61 • Since COVID, there's been Commonwealth support for RPAs to apply for state and federal grants.
62 Language in the proposed budget will allow RPAs to help cities and towns apply for grants.
 - 63 • Though this year will be an austerity budget, they are likely an increase overall, increase in
64 transportation, food security; less increase on housing assistance; but more capital for affordable
65 housing.

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67 **MWRC Priorities, Goals, and Projects Discussion – Marc Draisen & Lizzi Weyant**

- 68 • Marc asked Camille and Travis to lead the discussion.
- 69 • Camille – special assessment funds are unique with MWRC. There are funds from last year, and
70 this year's assessment. There are possible projects listed in the draft FY26 Work Plan that has
71 been shared. What is needed moving forward are representatives from Collaborative member
72 communities to champion the work and ensure follow-through on the ground. MAPC has heard from
73 a few Collaborative members and have developed additional ideas:
 - 74 ○ Municipal finance summit, on how to better balance priorities with uncertainty in federal
75 funding
 - 76 ○ Regional clean energy project, including solar
 - 77 ○ Transportation safety, whether implementing projects from the regional Vision Zero plan
78 for eliminating deaths and serious injuries; and/or combined with safe routes to school
79 (SRTS)
- 80 • Marc – MAPC can commit additional funds, DLTA, Barr, could even apply for state grants to
81 supplement the special assessment funds. More funding could ensure the project has more impact.
- 82 • Amanda Loomis – additional ideas:
 - 83 ○ MAPC (Eric Hove) is leading a study along I-90 in four MWRC communities plus Newton
84 on priority development areas and priority open space along I-90 corridor. What could
85 MWRC do to implement the recommendations so that this great planning effort doesn't sit
86 on the shelf.

- 87 ○ Two studies funded through Special assessment are underway - communications and digital
88 – how do we get information out to constituents, and from residents/workers. We struggle
89 with communications, even with communications staff. Could implement recommendations.
- 90 • Rick – Framingham is interested in geothermal. There is a lack of drillers to do this. Need COE –
91 centers of excellence, including one in New England. Had some calls and meetings with geothermal
92 industry; they liked MW, need training centers, etc. They’re coming in June to Framingham, Shawn
93 Luz of Framingham is assisting. This can be subregional. Mass Bay College and Framingham State
94 supporting, could work with education. This ties in with clean energy and data storage, which is
95 growing with AI. Yolanda – did geothermal with two sites in Ashland - can show them these
96 example sites.
- 97 • Marc – geothermal is an actionable project, can work with MAPC clean energy on this.
- 98 • Robert W – is this geothermal for HVAC, not power in general. Would this impact drinking water
99 wells; state and local regulations? Rick, Lizzi, others: geothermal is a closed system and not the
100 same as drinking water. Lizzi noted there is a lot of local regulatory and permitting work ongoing,
101 state is looking at how to make this more streamlined.
- 102 • Colette – suggested a survey where members can rank and vote which projects have priority.
- 103 • Amanda – is there a better way get work done in work plan. Marc - Need champions and
104 participation.
- 105 • Camille – will do survey and ask who can assist/be champion with each.
- 106 • Camille – once there are priorities votes, we can also separate project ideas and discussion topics
107 in work plan
- 108 • Yolanda – can we better share municipal efforts/best practices, perhaps via internal share site.

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110 **Other Business Not Known at Time of Posting**

- 111 • Jason/495 MW Partnership – annual community profiles coming out, first week of June.
- 112 • Yolanda – We need nominations for the MWRC Executive Committee. Happy to continue serving,
113 but also can step aside for someone else to lead the Collaborative. Please also note that there are
114 a few members who have left, and we need new appointments.
- 115 • Marc – MAPC annual meeting on June 4. Will discuss economic issues of New England and
116 Canada. MAPC will also have elections.

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118 Motion was made to adjourn the meeting by Colette (Wellesley), seconded by Robert (Wayland). Meeting
119 adjourned by voice vote at approximately 9:20 AM.

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121 Attachments: None

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123 *Minutes compiled by Travis Pollack, MAPC*

124 *Minutes approved June 26, 2025*

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