

In FY05 we contracted with National Water Main Company of Hyde Park, MA to conduct a ten-mile television inspection survey and about five miles of sewer system rehabilitation, which includes joint testing and sealing and manhole sealing. The cost of this contract is \$275,000. The Sewer Division's long-term plan is to inspect and rehabilitate five miles of sewer main per year for the next several years.

Sewer Lift Station Master Plan:

During FY03 our consultant, Weston & Sampson Engineers, conducted a study of our nineteen neighborhood sewage lift stations. The purpose of this study was to formulate a plan for maintenance and replacement of these stations. The plan has recommended the replacement of eighteen stations over a span of twenty years, at a present day estimated cost of \$2,718,000. During FY04 we contracted with North Atlantic Construction of Gloucester, MA for the construction of a replacement pump station at Greylock Road. This work was completed in FY05 for \$148,341.

Water & Sewer Funds Audit Reports

The certified public accounting firm of Powers and Sullivan, L.L.P has prepared the FY2005 Financial Reports of the Water and Sewer Funds. The audited financial statements for the Water and Sewer Funds are included at the back of this Annual Town Report.

Division Statistics

	<u>FY04</u>	<u>FY05</u>
Number of Water Accounts	11,204	11,368
Water Pumped from Local Wells, million gallons	864.64	870.38
Water Pumped from MWRA, million gallons	121.54	182.04
Total Water Pumped, million gallons	986.18	1,052.42
Peak-to-Average Day Water Demand	1.84	1.76
Total Water Billed, million gallons	830.95	896.23
Unaccounted For Water	15.7%	14.8%
New Meters Installed	317	388
Hydrants Replaced	N/A	21
Number of Sewer Accounts	8,003	8,053
Number of House Services Rodded	369	340
Feet of Sewer Main Rodded/Flushed	234,670	295,470

**MetroWest Growth Management Committee
Wellesley Town Report**

MetroWest Growth Management Committee (MWGMC), which celebrated its 20th anniversary in January, includes leaders from Ashland, Framingham, Holliston, Marlborough, Natick, Southborough, Sudbury, Wayland, Weston and Wellesley. MWGMC helps local leaders meet significant growth management challenges by facilitating inter-local collaborative planning and problem solving to enhance the quality of life and economic competitiveness of the MetroWest region.

Growth management requires elected officials to balance new development, protect the environment, and provide funding for municipal services – all while maintaining a community’s unique quality of life. The Committee serves as a think tank and advocate for locally initiated regional solutions to policy and planning challenges shared by MetroWest communities. We regularly bring together elected officials and planning staff from neighboring communities to address regional growth management issues. Some of the topics addressed at our monthly meeting this past year included:

- FY05 Strategic Plan for MWGMC;
- Formation of a MWGMC Legislative Advocacy Policy;
- Joint meeting with SWAP and MAGIC on the Community Preservation Act (CPA);
- Review and comment on the TIP priorities and UPWP projects.
- Regional Transit Authority legislation;
- Presentation on the Mass Land Use Reform Act
- Draft State 20-Year Transportation Plan and MPO Election Process
- Low Impact Development and All-Hazards Plans

One selectman/mayor or city council member and one planning board member represent each member community. MWGMC is funded by member assessments, grants and contracts. MWGMC maintains an office in Natick and employs a staff of two to deliver core services to member communities.

Our ties with the MetroWest legislative delegation are strong. Our **Legislative Activities** in FY05 included our Annual Spring Legislative Caucus, and a Fall Legislative Breakfast. These events provide MetroWest local officials with a forum to exchange ideas directly with state legislators, and have proven to be a valuable event for both state and local officials.

Through the Committee’s **Regional Impact Review** program, we review proposed developments to assess regional impacts and to influence local and state permitting of development. We also organize a very popular monthly **Planners’ Roundtable** for local planners and planning board members. The Roundtable provides staff and officials with technical information and training on planning and growth issues. It also provides planners with the opportunity to share expertise, experience, and questions with their colleagues.

MWGMC held its first **Housing Task Force** meeting in mid-summer. As a result of the initial meeting, MWGMC has arranged for a series of discussions as to how to derive the most benefit from the scarce dollars available for affordable housing.

MWGMC also provides **Technical Assistance** to our members. The Committee applied for and received a Smart Growth Technical Assistance Grant on behalf of Framingham and Southborough to develop Low Impact Development Bylaws which can be used by other member communities. In addition, our services include maintaining the only regional database that tracks current development. We also maintain extensive files documenting the history of significant development in the MetroWest area. MWGMC assisted the Planners in the communities of Wayland, Sudbury, Weston and Holliston with development of zoning bylaws for affordable housing, erosion control, earth removal, stormwater, and low impact development.

The **MetroWest Transportation Taskforce** focuses on analyzing and advocating for MWGMC communities on transportation matters. Chaired by former state legislator John Stasik, the Transportation Task Force advocates for improved transportation services to the region, and strategizes to influence transportation planning and decision-making by the Boston MPO. The task force obtained a grant for a new LIFT 9 bus service under the **Suburban Mobility Program** on behalf of the Town of Framingham. MWGMC organized a collaborative effort for a Transportation Summit in late spring. The goal of this effort, **“You Can’t Grow if You Can’t Go”**, is to elevate the transportation discussion (adequacy of transportation infrastructure and adequate funding of transportation) to a higher level and connect it to the Smart Growth/Sustainable Development movement. A series of meetings have been established to continue this important dialogue.

FEMA has approved MAPC's application for a project that will result in a **Regional All-Hazard Mitigation Plan** for the municipalities in the MetroWest and MAGIC subregions. Under the grant, MAPC and MetroWest staff will work with communities to identify areas at risk of damage from natural hazards, evaluate existing protection measures, and develop a multiple-hazard mitigations strategy to reduce future damages.

REPORT OF THE MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD

The primary objective of the Municipal Light Plant (“MLP”) is to provide reliable electric service at competitive rates to Wellesley’s 9,907 residential and commercial customers. A secondary, but equally important objective, is to provide benefits to the Town. Under the leadership of the Municipal Light Board (“Board”) the MLP has operated with the mindset of a private business. To this end, the Board has placed the highest priority on providing the best customer service possible. The progress that has been made in this area is recognized by the 97% customer satisfaction rating in a Town-wide survey initiated by the Town’s Planning Department earlier this year. The Municipal Light Board consists of two members appointed by the Board of Selectmen, Gordon F. Kingsley and Thomas E. Peisch, as well as the three members of the Board of Public Works, William E. Charlton, David A. T. Donohue and Michael D. Humphrys.

During Fiscal Year 2005 (“FY05”) the Board continued with the funding of a very aggressive capital work plan. Two major projects were started this year and will be completed within the next fiscal year. The first of these projects was the \$2.9 million replacement of the 40-year-old Weston Road Substation. This project not only improves the reliability of electric service, but will also allow the MLP to meet the Town’s future demand for electricity. Since 1995 the MLP has experienced a 54% increase in its electrical demand. The second major project is the installation of a second underground supply line from NStar’s Needham Substation to the rebuilt Weston Road Substation. Once this line is completed each of Wellesley’s eight primary supply lines will be fed underground.

Wellesley’s electric rates are currently among the lowest in New England. FY05 represented the midpoint of the MLP’s favorable power supply contract with Constellation Energy Commodities Group (“Constellation”). Since power supply costs represent approximately 70% of the MLP’s total operating budget, the Constellation power supply contract is the single most important factor influencing Wellesley’s electric rates. The Constellation contract expires on September 30, 2007 and the staff is currently exploring alternative power supply options. Given today’s energy costs it is likely that Wellesley