

North Shore Water Resilience Task Force

Charter

Mission

The North Shore Water Resilience Task Force aims to identify and advance long-term solutions to improve water supply resilience and ecosystem health in the Ipswich River Watershed. We will do this by:

- Working to understand one another's important challenges and goals;
- Engaging meaningfully and in good faith in discussions determined by the group as key to regional success;
- Working to reach a common understanding of the best potential solutions to achieve water supply resilience and ecosystem health; and
- Seeking full consensus on actions to support the most promising solutions.

Members

The task force defines membership as communities and organizations whose missions will be directly impacted by the outcome of the discussions to be taken up by the task force and whose agreement defines consensus. These members are identified as follows:

City of Beverly	Town of Hamilton
City of Lynn / Lynn Water and Sewer	Town of Ipswich
City of Peabody	Town of Lynnfield / Lynnfield Center Water District
City of Salem	Town of Middleton
Ipswich River Watershed Association	Town of North Andover
Salem and Beverly Water Supply Board	Town of North Reading
Town of Andover	Town of Reading
Town of Boxford	Town of Topsfield
Town of Burlington	Town of Wenham
Town of Danvers	Town of Wilmington

Additional State and Regional Stakeholders

Other entities who are not task force members may still have important stakes in the deliberations and outcomes of the task force, and their input, perspective, and knowledge could add value to the work of the task force.

Additionally, certain task force actions may require one or more of these entities to participate as partners and to be included actively in the consensus-building process. These entities include, but are not necessarily limited to:

MA Exec. Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs	Trustees of Reservation
MA Department of Environmental Protection	Parker River Association
MA Department of Conservation and Recreation	Town of Essex
MA Department of Fish and Game	Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea
Massachusetts Water Resources Authority	Town of Rockport
MassBays	City of Gloucester
Massachusetts Rivers Alliance	North Shore Chamber of Commerce
Massachusetts Water Works Association	Merrimack Valley Chamber of Commerce
Mass Audubon Society	Merrimack Valley Planning Commission
Essex County Green Belt	Salem Sound Coastwatch
Trout Unlimited	Salem Alliance for the Environment
	Middleton Stream Team
	Northeast Seafood Coalition

As its understanding of the issues laid out in this document evolve, the task force will endeavor to ensure that the appropriate municipalities, agencies, organizations, and members of the public are involved at the appropriate level. This may involve amending the list of members and/or additional stakeholders.

Conveners

The following legislators are convenors of the task force, supporting the actions and initiatives of the taskforce and providing direct logistic support.

Senator Bruce Tarr, Co-founder and Chair
Senator Brendan Crighton
Senator Diana DiZoglio
Senator Barry Finegold
Senator Cindy Friedman
Senator Jason Lewis
Senator Joan Lovely
Representative Jamie Zahlaway Belsito
Representative Dan Cahill
Representative Peter Capano
Representative Ann-Margaret Ferrante
Representative Ken Gordon

Representative Richard Haggerty
Representative Brad Jones
Representative Sally Kerans
Representative Christina Minicucci
Representative Lenny Mirra
Representative Frank Moran
Representative Tram Nguyen
Representative Jerry Parisella
Representative Dave Robertson
Representative Paul Tucker
Representative Tom Walsh
Representative Donald Wong

Facilitators

The conveners are invoking the services of the following facilitation team to assist the task force in accomplishing its goals:

Martin Pillsbury, Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Leah Robins, Metropolitan Area Planning Council
Sara Cohen, MA Department of Conservation and Recreation

Initial Topics of Focus for Consensus Building

- Can the region improve water resource resilience and long-term supply security/sufficiency through a more robust interconnection network? Can an Integrated Water Resources Planning approach be a part of the solution?
- What is the feasibility and desirability of bringing additional water to Ipswich-reliant communities from adjacent watersheds?
- What is the feasibility and desirability of developing a reservoir in Topsfield?
- What is the feasibility and desirability of bringing in more MWRA water as part of the solution?
- What is the feasibility and desirability of desalination in the region?
- Is there a role for a new or resurrected regional water authority or sub-authority for the region?
- Is there interest in, and potential benefit from, more consistent messaging and water conservation throughout the region? Is there interest in, and potential benefit from, more consistent targets for residential per capita use and unaccounted-for water in the region? Can information-sharing among stakeholders help promote the most effective rate structures and water conservation programming?
- How can the region most productively spend earmarked money available for task force efforts in fiscal year 2022?
- Can the region pursue other short-term and longer-term financial resources for the region, such as funds through Chapter 259 of the Acts of 2014, bonding, or other state or federal funds?
- How should the task force draw from experience to make a regional collaboration as likely as possible to succeed?
- Can/should the task force develop a joint narrative of the region's status and desired future?
- What are the appropriate metrics of sustainability for the Ipswich River Watershed?

Roles and Responsibilities

- **Members** will engage in discussion, information sharing, problem solving and consensus building to advance the mission of the task force. They will participate in good faith with the operations of the task force as described in the Member Agreements.
- **Additional State and Regional Stakeholders**, though not signatories to this charter, are anticipated to serve as advisors and supporters of the task force efforts at critical junctures, to potentially serve on subgroups of the task force, and to provide valuable perspective on various topics, as appropriate.
- **Conveners** will coordinate meeting space, scheduling, and logistics for task force operations and support the goals and initiatives of the task force through legislative action and other external support. They will also direct communication with the task force and outside stakeholders, including drafting press releases.
- **Facilitators** will help prepare for and moderate meetings, advise on structure and process to advance task force goals, assist in tracking and documenting decisions, and work to help parties resolve conflict. They will be available as a resource for all participants to share thoughts and concerns and are contacts for feedback on process, agenda items, and meeting summaries. To the greatest extent possible, they will work with conveners to provide agendas at least 7 days in advance of meetings and circulate meeting summaries and key decision outcomes to members within 7 days after meetings.

Measures of Success

- *Short-term (first 3 years):*
 - Funding allocated in the FY22 (continued into FY23) budget is used to advance consensus decision making by providing additional data and information.
 - Full consensus is reached on one or more actions to address regional water supply resilience and ecosystem health in the Ipswich River Watershed.
 - The consensus decisions are used to develop an implementation plan for action.
 - Sufficient funding is obtained for critical support of consensus action(s).
- *Medium-term (5-10 years)*
 - Consensus action(s) are implemented.
- *Long-term (10 years and beyond):*
 - Task force communities can reliably deliver water to meet the needs of their service communities day-to-day and in times of drought.
 - Task force communities are a state model for region-wide coordination on water use efficiency.
 - The Ipswich River and its tributaries and wetlands sustain sufficient water levels and stream flows to support healthy wetland ecosystems.

Member Agreements

- Decisions will be made by full consensus, defined as unanimous support, of task force members or designated subgroup members. Items that achieve consensus will be prioritized for action. On items for which consensus cannot be reached, no action will be taken, however, such items can continue to be discussed and may be revisited with new efforts to reach consensus at any time.
- The task force may agree by consensus of all members to delegate some decisions to a subgroup of members and can include additional stakeholders in such subgroups as appropriate.
- Member communities/organizations will designate a representative and/or designee for decision-making purposes.
- Member participants will keep decision makers in their respective communities/organizations apprised of potential agreements of the task force, advocate for any options agreed to in principle by the task force, and transparently and in a timely manner bring back to the taskforce any concerns or roadblocks posed by such decision makers.
- Members will engage the public and additional stakeholders within their communities, as appropriate, to increase the likelihood of broad support for task force decisions.

- As a matter of spirit and to the extent possible, task force members agree to disagree about previous disputes, instead holding one another accountable for their current and future actions.
- The task force will issue press releases related to its efforts, which will be reviewed by and approved by members.
- Individuals speaking about task force matters to the press, social media, or other public outlets will clearly state their affiliation(s) and will not speak on behalf of, quote, or characterize the positions of any other task force members. Additionally, as a matter of spirit and to the extent possible, task force members will refrain from making statements that harm or disparage other members or the task force itself.
- To facilitate timely record keeping, if members have feedback on meeting summaries, they will make every effort to provide it within 5 days of receiving the document.
- Additional topics of focus for consensus building, not outlined in this charter, may be added by consensus.
- Provisions of the charter are intended to last for three years unless extended, modified or amended by consensus, provided more particular agreements may be developed as necessary for particular initiatives.

This charter is effective as of September 28, 2022.

North Shore Water Resilience Task Force Charter Endorsements
This charter is effective as of September 28, 2022.

Town of Andover

Town of Middleton

City of Beverly

Town of North Andover

Town of Boxford

Town of North Reading

Town of Burlington

City of Peabody

Town of Danvers

Town of Reading

Town of Hamilton

City of Salem

Town of Ipswich

Salem and Beverly Water Board

Ipswich River Watershed Association

Town of Topsfield

City of Lynn / The Lynn Water and Sewer Commission

Town of Wenham

Town of Lynnfield / Lynnfield Center Water District

Town of Wilmington