



Contact: David Tuohey, Director of Communications & External Affairs

(413) 308-1392; dtuohey@mmwec.org

MMWEC Annual Conference

Municipal Utilities using Joint Action to Adapt to, Welcome a Cleaner Future

LUDLOW, Mass. – May 10, 2018— Adapting to emerging technologies and evolving public policy goals while addressing impacts on the power portfolio was the theme of the 2018 Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) Annual Conference. The conference, entitled “Joint Action—Adaption,” was held May 2 and 3 at the Stonehedge Inn and Spa in Tyngsboro, Mass.

The first day of the conference, aimed at policymakers, included a presentation on MMWEC’s proposed peaking power plant, which secured a capacity supply obligation for 2021 in ISO New England’s recent Forward Capacity Auction. The peaking plant will serve as a hedge against capacity costs for participating municipal utilities and support the increasing amount of renewables coming onto the grid. Other topics focused on MMWEC’s Emerging Technologies Initiative, which helps members integrate electric vehicles, battery storage, microgrids, reciprocating engines, and smart home technologies. It also helps members develop and implement strategies that can turn risks associated with new technologies into opportunities. Doug Alderton of NEC Energy Solutions presented on the future of energy storage in the region.

The evening’s keynote speakers were Dennis Murphy of Ventry Associates, who provided updates on pending state legislation with potential impacts on municipal utilities; and MMWEC’s Washington D.C. counsel Scott Strauss of Spiegel McDiarmid, who addressed developments related to the ISO New England markets and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

MMWEC recognized two individuals and a municipal light department with awards presented at the conference.

The Holden Municipal Light Department received the 2018 Francis H. King Leadership Award, named in honor of one of the founders of MMWEC. This award recognizes exceptional leadership and dedication to public power joint action, demonstrated by a long-term commitment to the ideals of public power and the philosophy of MMWEC.

H. Bradford “Brad” White, retired manager of the West Boylston municipal utility, received the 2018 James E. Baker Service Award, named after the influential former manager of the Shrewsbury municipal utility. This award recognizes distinguished service to the MMWEC organization, including service as a director, officer or member of an MMWEC committee for at least five years.

West Boylston Municipal Light Plant Commissioner William “Denny” Smith



Holden Municipal Light Department Manager Jim Robinson accepted the Francis H. King Leadership Award on behalf of the Holden utility. HMLD is a founding member of MMWEC, and representatives of the Holden utility have served in many different roles in support of MMWEC. They include Holden Manager Edla Bloom, who served 10 years on the MMWEC Board, including three years as Chairman and one year as MMWEC’s first female president.

received the 2018 Philip W. Sweeney Public Service Award, named in honor of the former director of MMWEC and chairman of the Marblehead Municipal Light Board. This award recognizes exceptional service to the public or in the public arena that advances the goals of public power.

The second day of the conference began with a presentation from Patrick Luckow of market analysis firm IHS Markit. Luckow offered his insight into market trends and the outlook for peak demand, load growth and wholesale power prices.

Following Luckow's talk, MMWEC staff walked through a power portfolio strategy for members,

H. Bradford "Brad" White, retired West Boylston manager, received the James E. Baker Service Award. White served 14 years on the MMWEC Board of Directors, including eight years as chairman and three years as president. In addition, White served as president of the Berkshire Wind Power Cooperative, overseeing the development and operation of the Berkshire Wind Project through to completion in 2011.



William "Denny" Smith of West Boylston received the Philip W. Sweeney Public Service Award for his extensive service to public power. Smith has been an elected commissioner on the West Boylston Municipal Light Plant Board of Commissioners for 16 years, and has worked actively to advance the goals and tout the benefits of public power.



tying industry impacts to the overall MMWEC outlook on the power markets. This in-depth presentation offered a detailed examination of how power market changes today and in the future can present opportunities for municipal utilities and MMWEC.

The conference concluded with a presentation on the value of MMWEC's new quantitative reports, forward-looking reports and new monthly power cost portfolio reports soon-to-be available to members. ∞