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**MMWEC Annual Conference**

***Municipal Utilities Advancing Toward Decarbonization***

LUDLOW, Mass. – November 9, 2021— How the Commonwealth’s not-for-profit, consumer-owned municipal light plants (MLPs) are proactively working towards decarbonization as the regional electric grid evolves was the focus of this year’s Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) Annual Conference. The conference, entitled, “Advancing Toward Decarbonization,” was held November 4 and 5 at the Babson College Executive Conference Center.

In the first MMWEC conference since 2019, MLP managers, staff, commissioners and others in the industry learned about MMWEC’s efforts and programs addressing electrification and decarbonization, and how MLPs can be proactive in meeting the needs of customers.

The first day of the conference featured guest speakers from Ørsted Wind, who discussed the company’s innovative work as one of Europe’s leaders in offshore wind. MMWEC staff presented on developments in its energy efficiency programs, including a rebranding to better reflect today’s leading edge initiatives and emerging technologies. An in-depth presentation on technological advances and what to expect in the near future was followed by a technology showcase, featuring local vendors working in these emerging spaces.

On the legislative front, Ventry Associates addressed activity on Beacon Hill. The evening’s keynote dinner speaker was State Representative Jeffrey N. Roy, Chair of the Joint Committee on Telecommunications, Utilities and Energy. Chairman Roy addressed the Commonwealth’s decarbonization roadmap, his legislative priorities and the clean energy accomplishments achieved by municipal utilities in support of the state’s decarbonization targets.



***West Boylston Municipal Light Plant General Manager Jonathan Fitch accepting the 2021 Francis H. King Leadership Award.***



***Patrick Cannon of the Hull Municipal Light Plant Board of Commissioners receiving the 2021 Philip W. Sweeney Public Service Award.***

The second day of the conference featured a presentation by Mitsubishi Power Aero on the future of green hydrogen. Other presentations addressed rate design, changing markets and the evolving transmission process, and defining the path forward with power portfolio roadmaps.

MMWEC recognized a municipal light department and an individual with awards at the conference.

The West Boylston Municipal Light Plant received the 2021 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.

Longtime Hull Municipal Light Plant Light Board Commissioner Patrick Cannon received the 2021 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.