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**MMWEC Annual Conference**

**Public Power Utilities Mark Forty Years of Joint Action**

LUDLOW, Mass. – May 10, 2016 – Marking four decades of service to Massachusetts municipal utilities, the Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company (MMWEC) elected directors and officers to lead the organization into its fifth decade at MMWEC’s annual conference, conducted May 4 and 5 in Beverly, Mass.

State energy officials, the Massachusetts Attorney General’s chief energy litigator and the senior policy advisor for U.S. Rep. Joseph Kennedy spoke about emerging energy technologies and evolving wholesale power markets, consistent with the conference theme, looking forward to MMWEC’s fifth decade.

MMWEC CEO Ron C. DeCurzio told conference attendees that municipal light departments need to be prepared for what’s ahead.

“Emerging technologies are changing our industry and as a result, light departments need to be one step ahead of these changes,” he said. “As we enter our fifth decade, MMWEC is committed to providing its members with the same quality services it has offered since 1975, ensuring that members are prepared for the future.”

**Elections**

Peter D. Dion, general manager of the Wakefield Municipal Gas & Light Department, was re-elected by the MMWEC membership to his eighth one-year term as president of MMWEC.

Michael J. Flynn, a gubernatorial appointee and Town of Wilbraham representative to the MMWEC board, was elected by the board to his fourth one-year term as chairman.

Representatives of MMWEC’s 20 member municipal utilities also voted to fill three, three-year terms on the



*Shrewsbury Electric and Cable Operations (SELCO) General Manager Michael Hale accepts the Francis H. King Leadership Award on behalf of SELCO. This award recognizes exceptional leadership and dedication to public power joint action, demonstrated by a long-term commitment to the ideals of public power. The award was presented by former municipal utility manager H. Bradford White, right, who served multiple terms as a director and chairman of MMWEC.*

MMWEC board. They elected Sean Hamilton, general manager of the Sterling Municipal Light Department; Jeffrey R. Cady, manager of the Chicopee Electric Light Department; and Joseph M. Sollecito, director of the Mansfield Municipal Electric Department. John Driscoll, general manager of the Templeton Municipal Light & Water Plant, was elected to fill the remaining year of a vacated term.

Additional MMWEC officers for the coming year, as elected by the board, are Ronald C. DeCurzio, chief executive officer and secretary; Matthew J. Ide, treasurer; Stephen J. Smith, assistant treasurer; Peter H. Barry, general counsel; and Nancy A. Brown, assistant secretary.

Other MMWEC directors, elected previously by the membership, are James M. Lavelle, Holyoke Gas & Electric Department general manager; Glenn Trueira, Peabody Municipal Light Plant general manager; and Kevin P. Kelly, Groton Electric Light Department manager. Charmaine White of Springfield is a gubernatorial appointee to the MMWEC board. Other town representatives on the board are Luis Vitorino, representing the town of Ludlow, and Cornelius Flynn, representing the Town of Hampden.

The MMWEC board consists of 12 director positions, with seven directors elected by the MMWEC membership, two appointed by the governor of Massachusetts, and three representing the towns of Ludlow, Wilbraham and Hampden.

### Speakers

While MMWEC's 2015 Annual Report includes a timeline of the organization's first four decades of service to municipal utilities, this year's conference focused on the future. Speakers delved into emerging technologies and trends, such as community solar, battery storage, microgrids, combined heat and power, the emergence of distributed generation activities, and the role of MMWEC and its municipal utilities in these areas. Evolving wholesale power markets was also a focus of the conference.

Speakers included Judith Judson, commissioner of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (DOER); Stephen Pike, Interim CEO of the Massachusetts Clean Energy Center; Rebecca Tepper of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office, and Eric Fins, senior legislative assistant for U.S. Rep. Joseph D. Kennedy.

Hamilton of the Sterling Municipal Light Department also presented a case study of Sterling's energy storage initiative, the state's first utility-scale battery storage project, funded in part with a \$1.5 million DOER grant.



***MMWEC CEO Ron DeCurzio presents former Ashburnham Municipal Light Department manager and MMWEC Chairman Stanley W. Herriott with the James E. Baker Service Award. This award recognizes distinguished service to the MMWEC organization, including service as a director, officer or member of an MMWEC committee.***

Tepper vowed to continue fighting the high rates that consumer pay for electric transmission and said her office continues to seek clarity on the process for setting transmission rates.

“It’s a simple transparency issue in this day and age,” Tepper said. “It has to be a back and forth process so people can ask questions before the (transmission) rate is filed at FERC. We also want a resolution process.”

Fins said the constant tinkering of rules in New England’s wholesale power market is frustrating, and Rep. Kennedy’s office is working to raise awareness in Congress.

“We need to educate members and (Congressional) staff,” Fins said. “It’s important to make this issue of capacity market reform national,” because wholesale power market issues can affect customers throughout the country.

Judson and Pike provided details on several emerging technologies programs and initiatives available to municipal light departments, including a new energy storage study program offered by DOER and MassCEC, which will provide \$10 million for studies and pilot projects.

Judson said regulations need to catch up with technology. “ There’s no mention of energy storage in our state laws,” she said.

MMWEC staff presentations addressed emerging technologies and what MMWEC is doing to prepare Members for the future. MMWEC has created emerging technology teams to conduct research and keep informed of impending market rule developments and changes; develop renewable energy certificate and other alternative energy certificate programs; and to facilitate emerging technology project financing for Members.

MMWEC is the joint action agency for public power in Massachusetts, providing a variety of power supply, financial, risk management and other services to the state’s consumer-owned, municipal utilities. MMWEC was created in 1969 and became a non-profit, public corporation and political subdivision of the Commonwealth in 1976, empowered to issue tax-exempt bonds to finance energy facilities for the benefit of municipal utilities and their customers.



*Groton Electric Light Department Manager Kevin Kelly presents 23-year Groton Commissioner Rodney R. Hersch with the Philip W. Sweeney Public Service Award . This award recognizes exceptional service to the public or in the public arena that advances the goals and perception of public power in the eyes of the public or public officials.*

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