



*District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority*

**Board of Directors
Environmental Quality and Operations
Committee Meeting**

Thursday, October 11, 2007, 9:30 a.m.
Room 407, COF, Blue Plains

SUMMARY MINUTES

Board Members

David W. Lake, Chairman
Chris Akinbobola
David J. Bardin
Joseph Cotruvo
Kenneth Davis
Howard Gibbs
Brenda Richardson
F. Alexis H. Roberson
Paivi Spoon
Dan Tangherlini

Staff Members

Jerry Johnson, General Manager
Avis Russell, General Counsel
John Dunn, Chief Engineer
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

David Lake called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Mr. Bailey, Director Department of Wastewater Treatment (DWT), reported that September performance was excellent for all parameters, below the respective 7-day and monthly limits. Flow for the month averaged 279 MGD, with no Excess Flow events. Precipitation was very low for the month, at 0.6". Biosolids production was 1001 tons per day. All biosolids met EPA 503 regs for Class B and were land applied. Effluent total nitrogen for the month was 4.35 mg/l, well below the annual goal of 7.5 mg/l.

2. Status AWTP NPDES Permit

Status of the new permit is unchanged from last month; there is a November 15th hearing of protests by the Environmental Appeals Board.

3. Impact of Tide Gate Replacements on BPAWTP Flows

A handout was distributed that summarized the impact of tide gates on flow to Blue Plains. A 15.4 MGD impact was projected by Greeley and Hansen from inflatable dams and tide gates. DWT performed a regression analysis of plant data for the past several years and estimated that the reduction could be 20 MGD, although that is not a certain number; inflow through tide gates cannot be directly measured, although it is obvious that prior to the gate repairs, inflow occurred since fish were found on the screens into the plant. The plant is no longer finding fish on the screens. The Committee asked if there are any additional tide gate replacements; staff confirmed additional locations are under design.

The Committee asked about and requested copies of any incident reports on the fire that destroyed a fine screen (October 4th, 2005). WASA will furnish what is available. In response to a Committee question about responsibility for fire hydrants at Blue Plains, Mr. Bailey clarified that they are the responsibility of the Facilities Department and Water Services, not DWT.

III. **WATER SERVICES PROGRAM**

1. Coliform Testing

Mr. Dunn reviewed the occurrence of 3 positive samples early in September. Arlington and Falls Church also had positive samples from the same sampling crew, and sampling error is suspected. There were no further positive samples in September, nor have there been any to date in October.

2. LCR Compliance Testing: Report and Review Status

WASA has completed Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) compliance testing for 45 samples, with no results above the action level of 15 µg/l, and the 90th percentile result at 10 µg/l.

WASA replaced 3750 lead services in the fiscal year just ended, 400 above the goal. This was in spite of some glitches in coordinating with DDOT, and some changing priorities due to the change in city administration.

The Committee asked whether the lead concentrations are still tailing down, or if they are stabilizing. Mr. Dunn advised that they are stabilizing.

The Committee asked that WASA include more lead information on its website, including relevant reports and studies. It was also requested that customers be advised of the possible negative impacts of partial service line replacements.

The Committee asked about the disposition of legislation requiring property sellers to disclose the existence of lead services. Mr. Johnson advised that we had a public hearing and had submitted the legislation to the former chair of the Public Works committee, and resubmitted to the current chair. No action has been taken. It was suggested by the Committee that a letter be sent to the Council Chairman with the hope that the Council Chairman would direct the legislation to the appropriate Council committee.

3. Fire Hydrant Program Update

Mr. Kiely, Assistant General Manager-Customer Services, reported that there were 27 out-of-service hydrants in public space; 10 of which are blocked from access due to construction or are out due to adjacent watermain construction, leaving 17 to be replaced. A question was raised by Mr. Tangherlini as to whether FEMS reports the same number to be out. It is his desire that the communication issues be ironed out and that WASA and FEMS work from one set of numbers, with some degree of certainty on the number and no assumptions. It was acknowledged that WASA is only responsible for the 9035 public space hydrants, and there are perhaps 1000 more that FEMS deals with on private space which is a point of discrepancy in the numbers. It was clear from the Committee that improvement of communication must become a reality and is not just a goal.

WASA has developed a significant database on the hydrants and water distribution system, and any activity involving hydrants or valves results in data entry into this database. All hydrants have been inspected this year. FEMS proposes to inspect all hydrants twice annually, with the proposal being that WASA pay for one inspection and the District the other with WASA also supplying equipment.

Copies of a proposed City Council bill that would assign responsibility for all fire hydrants both public and private to WASA were circulated for information.

Mr. Johnson advised that significant progress has been made on an MOU, but it may have to be presented to the Board for approval. The Committee requested that the General Manager put together a list of unresolved issues for the Committee to review.

Mr. Tangherlini requested that WASA stop thinking in terms of three different entities; the City Council, FEMS and WASA. They are all city entities, and the organization charts should be ignored in the effort to solve this issue.

As a final note on this topic, it was pointed out by the Committee that WASA costs related to fire suppression are billed to the City.

Discussion then proceeded to the Adams Morgan fire, Agenda Item IV.

4. Briefing on USEPA Report: "Elevated Lead in DC Drinking Water: A Study of Potential Causative Events".

After discussion of the Adams Morgan fire and Action Items, the EPA report on lead in DC drinking water was discussed. WASA did not have a chance to review the report prior to publication, however it has been reviewed fully, and except for some minor technical comments that WASA staff had on it, it appears to be a fairly straight forward report. The lead problem was caused by a change in water chemistry, as opposed to being distribution system related.

Mr. Jacobus of WAD is expected to attend the November meeting. A Committee member again expressed his dissatisfaction with the percent of representation of WASA on the WAD customer board. The Committee expressed the desire to be notified of any future actions that could have an impact on WASA, such as a chlorine burn.

Mr. Hemphill followed with an outline of WASA's current plan for outreach on the LSR Policy and Program Review. Target audiences have been identified and notices and meetings planned to reach parties impacted by modifications to the LSR program. The Committee expressed a desire to see any materials going out for distribution. The Committee recommended that e-mail options be considered, and also some means of reaching those without e-mail and that part of the population that is not highly educated. It was proposed by Mr. Tangherlini that the Customer Service committee take the lead on this issue.

IV. UPDATE ON ADAMS MORGAN FIRE ISSUES

Mr. Dunn gave a presentation that schematically illustrated the complexity of the D.C. water distribution system, which involves multiple pressure zones related to varying ground elevations. Contrary to the understanding of some, there is very limited ability to increase pressures in a given zone. The pressure is largely governed by the height of the storage source, be it an elevated tank, or a reservoir. Also illustrated were possible scenarios as a result of tapping one, two or three hydrants off the same 6" main. This was developed based on information known to WASA and computer modeling; however FEMS information has not yet been received, and therefore was not factored in. It was demonstrated that pressure in a water main is drastically affected by changes in flow (double the flow could have 4 times the pressure loss due to friction; triple the flow could have 9 times the pressure loss). The General Manager offered an everyday illustration of this pressure drop phenomenon, by drawing an analogy to turning on multiple water sources within a house. The pressure drop is apparent at all the outlets as more are opened.

The presentation indicated that in addition to the 6" main adjacent to the fire scene, there was ample flow available from other mains within 600' of the scene, much closer than the large mains that were sought out by FEMS. WASA is still awaiting a report from FEMS for evaluation. The chronology of WASA involvement was distributed. The feasibility of an actual field demonstration of the pressure drop due to multiple hydrants being opened on a small diameter line was discussed. WASA will investigate this.

Some discussion ensued regarding whether WASA is involved in training at the DC Fire Department Academy (it is not) and whether some such training should be done on the specifics of the District's water system. Mr. Dunn pointed out that officers in fire departments typically have training in water system hydraulics.

Mr. Gans of DETS gave a presentation on the Water Systems Facility Planning. A facility plan was developed in 2000; the last facility plan prior to that was done in 1968. Upon its formation, WASA immediately commenced rehabilitating all storage facilities and other priority projects while developing a facility plan. Fourteen specific projects were identified in the 2000 plan, 10 of which are complete or under construction. A new plan is currently underway, to be completed in 2008. This will review the projects in the 2000 plan and evaluate the need to supplement them, and will also have a primary emphasis on the small diameter water main system and set the framework for prioritization.

V. POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR ODOR CONTROL PROJECT

Mr. McLaughlin of DETS gave a PowerPoint presentation on the status of the project, and indicated the sites along the length of the Potomac Interceptor where odor control facilities are proposed. There are 2 sites in Virginia, 3 in Maryland, and 1 in DC. Testing of a proprietary process (ThioGuard) has been completed. It is estimated that the contract for the Maryland and DC sites will be advertised in Spring 2008, with the contract for Virginia sites sometime later, in January 2010, due to the need for coordination with an adjacent Potomac Interceptor rehabilitation project and zoning approvals. The Committee requested a quarterly update on this project.

VI. IMPACT OF DC STADIUM ON WASA OPERATIONS

Mr. Johnson reviewed the status of WASA operations that will be affected by the new stadium. There are ongoing discussions and planning for the relocation of affected staff and facilities. Currently, it is anticipated that some staff and operations will move

in March, although Fleet Services may remain. WASA is involved with day-of-game impact planning with the city.

Discussion on general operations resulted in requests from the Committee that WASA consider developing a report on carbon footprint and energy audit/conservation measures. There appear to be opportunities to get financial credits related to CO₂ credits, the recovery of CO₂ and utilization of methane. A recent report on significant cost savings achieved by Metro working with Pepco leads to questions whether similar savings are available at WASA facilities. The General Manager advised that WASA does pursue energy savings, and is converting our wastewater aeration facilities to fine bubble systems, to save energy. Aeration is by far the largest energy user in wastewater treatment. The General Manager also advised that WASA is recruiting an energy manager.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

The following contracts were submitted for Committee action:

Contracts Considered and Approved				
No.	Type	Prime Contractor	Scope	Amount
Joint Use				
040140	Construction	Ulliman Schutte	Change Order	\$76,000.00
WAS-06-012-AA-JW	Goods and Services	First Vehicle Services	Option Year	\$1,366,737.00
WAS-04-024-AA-VW	Goods and Services	Topflite Building Services	Option Year	\$461,575.12
WAS-05-027-AA-VW	Goods and Services	Alpine Trading Company	Option Year	\$490,549.77
Non-Joint Use				
WAS-06-014-AA-VW	Goods and Services	Wachs Utility Services	Change Order	\$842,180.00

All action items were approved by the Committee for recommendation to the full Board, with appropriate modifications as requested.

The Committee requested a bracketed clarification whether an item pertains to the water or sewage system, where such a clarification would be helpful. A Committee member requested clarification whether the janitorial services contract utilized union labor. It was pointed out that LSDBE is not the current terminology; CBE for “Certified Business Enterprise” is the current term.

VIII. EMERGING ISSUES

Mr. Dunn brought to the Committee’s attention a recent action by EPA and MDE that resulted in the reallocation of 77,000 pounds of nitrogen from the Blue Plains AWTP to a WSSC plant. WASA staff has many concerns over this action, not the least of which is the unilateral aspect of it without any input from DC or WASA. There are potential cost implications and possible impacts on the NPDES permit that WASA believed had been substantially negotiated. The full impacts of this action are still being determined.

A Committee member raised his concern, stated in a previous meeting, that the District is funding a share of nitrogen reduction at Blue Plains that is not consistent with what studies established as the proper nitrogen reduction goal for the District of Columbia. Thus, in the member’s opinion, there is an inequity in the cost burden to the District.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

None.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lake adjourned the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

COMMITTEE REQUESTS:

- Requested copies of the incident reports on the Influent Screen fire at Blue Plains AWTP- WASA report and DCFEMS report if available.
- Requested more lead information be posted on website including pertinent studies and reports.
- Requested weekly report on fire hydrant operational status.
- Requested circulation to all Board members, of proposed City Council bill assigning hydrant responsibility to WASA.
- Requested the Committee be advised of the unresolved hydrant responsibility issues.
- Requested distribution to all Board members of the recent e-mail Q&A on a Committee member's discussion of a culture change of plan/train/drill.
- Investigate a demonstration in the field of the scenario where multiple hydrants on a 6" main would reduce the pressure to the point where flow would not reach the upper stories of a building; coordinate with a field trip and videotaping.
- On future action item fact sheets related to pumping stations or otherwise where such clarification would help, indicate in brackets "water" or "sewage" to differentiate the system that the item pertains to (completed).
- Advise the Committee by e-mail whether the janitorial services contract utilizes unionized labor.
- Committee would like to see lead replacement program information before it is disseminated to the public and customers.
- Report to the Committee on a quarterly basis on the status of the Potomac Interceptor Odor Abatement Project.
- Consider developing a report on carbon footprint and energy impacts of WASA operations.
- Report back on impact to WASA of the reallocation of 77,000 pounds of nitrogen from Blue Plains to WSSC.
- Send a letter to the Council Chairman with the hope that the Council Chairman would direct the legislation requiring property sellers to disclose the existence of lead services to the appropriate Council committee