



*District of Columbia  
Water and Sewer Authority*

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

Thursday, December 20, 2007, 9:30 a.m.  
Room 407, COF, Blue Plains

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Board Members**

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

**WASA 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 9:35 a.m. and advised that there would be modifications to the original agenda, with Agenda Item IV, scheduled for 10:00 a.m. being deferred until the January Committee meeting. At 10:00 a.m., a full Board of Director's meeting would be opened to act on a single item, after which the full Board meeting would be adjourned and the Committee agenda continued. Original Agenda Items VI and VIII would be moved up to the Item IV slot.

**II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES**

1. BPAWTP Performance

Mr. Bailey, Director of Wastewater Treatment, reported that November performance was excellent for all parameters, with complete compliance with permit limits. Flow for the month averaged 270 MGD, the lowest in ten years due to low levels of precipitation over the prior months. Biosolids production was 1148 wet tons per day. Effluent total nitrogen for the month was 6.45 mg/l, below the annual goal of 7.5 mg/l.

2. Status AWTP NPDES Permit

Mr. Bailey reported that the permit appeal was argued in November, and the final decision has not been received. There is no specific time frame for the decision. The decision will be rendered by a three judge panel.

**III. WATER SERVICES PROGRAM**

1. Coliform Testing

Mr. Dunn reported on coliform results. November had no positive test results, however, there have been two days in December with multiple positive hits. December 4<sup>th</sup> had two positive samples, with the check samples testing negative. These sample results seem to correspond to repairs on an 8-inch main that were made in the vicinity of the sample locations. WASA intends to emphasize main disinfection procedures to the responsible crews. On December 5<sup>th</sup>, there were two positive samples, and these have no obvious explanation. However, follow-up testing was negative, as was testing for e-coli. It was pointed out that coliform testing is pass-fail type, not a graduated scale. WASA conducts 210 samples monthly, and by regulation is allowed up to 5% positive samples before public notice and other measures must be taken. WASA remains well below this level, however WASA has been running at virtually 0% positives, so these results were unexpected. From all other indications, the water quality is good.

2. LCR Compliance Testing: Report and Review Status

Mr. Dunn reported that WASA has completed Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) compliance testing for the second semester and is considering whether to petition EPA to reduce the future sampling requirement, a request that was denied by EPA last year under similar circumstances.

The Committee Chairman suggested that as long as WASA is in the position of evaluating and perhaps reducing the scope of the replacement program, it would not be a good idea to reduce the testing program.

There was a recent meeting of the Washington Aqueduct customers, with the suburban customers being in favor of a chlorine burn next year. WASA can also see advantages of it, but is not fully committed. Discussion ensued on the need for and timing of notice of any WASA objection to a chlorine burn. Mr. Giani advised that a decision should be made by January, as the Aqueduct would have to give EPA 60-days notice. The Committee requested a report on this issue before the next Committee meeting, in order to determine if any members would like to put forth any objection to proceeding with the chlorine burn.

3. Winter Season Activities for Water Main Breaks

Mr. Kiely reported on the activity that has been undertaken by the Authority in preparation for the seasonal main breaks that can be expected. The various crews have been re-aligned, with flushing crews being changed to valve and investigation crews. Also, there is a "16-hour strategy" in which the crews will be placed on a 16-hour work schedule, if needed, to ensure full coverage, with overlapping day and night shifts. Details of the winter season activities are in the GM's report.

#### **IV. TOTAL NITROGEN/WET WEATHER PLAN**

Mr. Dunn noted that EPA has all but accepted the WASA \$800M plan that integrated the TN (Total Nitrogen) reduction goals with the LTCP, in lieu of the \$1.3B plan that would be needed if the plans were not integrated. An e-mail has been received indicating approval, and the Committee requested that it be forwarded. A formal letter approving the plan is expected in early January. There are still unresolved issues, the most important being that EPA has not indicated that they intend to approve WASA's request that Outfall 001 be classified as a CSO outfall.

WASA's commitment to achieving the schedule goals of construction completion in July 2014 and permit compliance starting in 2015 was predicated on receiving approval by January 2008. Design activities have to start in soon in order to meet the target in-service date.. WASA is currently running a pilot test to evaluate alternative,

and hopefully less costly, technologies than the baseline proposed facility, and would like to get the project designer selected and involved in the study.

The Committee raised the issue of equity of cost distribution in the nitrogen reduction facilities, since the District's TN requirement of 4.7 mg/l is higher than the MD and VA requirements of 4.0 mg/l. The cost of compliance with the higher number for comparison with the current \$800M plan cost was requested by a Committee member. This has not been developed by staff or WASA's consultants.

Also, it was pointed out by Mr. Lake that this is a technical issue being addressed by the Blue Plains Regional Committee, and will be discussed at a January 9<sup>th</sup> meeting. He will report back to this Committee on those discussions.

A Committee member requested a more detailed report on all the issues involved, including policies on nitrogen removal, scientific bases, and legal requirements, while Mr. Johnson offered to arrange for a meeting with interested Committee members to discuss the data and background material for the development of the TN/WW plan; which did not appear acceptable to the member. Mr. Johnson did note that Blue Plains as a point source is a convenient target for regulators, whereas non-point sources are well recognized as a greater problem but are not regulated for political reasons. Mr. Lake offered to resolve the information needs and format for meeting this request, in consultation with Committee members and the General Manager.

The nitrogen trading aspects of this project, and benefits that might accrue to WASA by trading within the water shed (including air) were briefly touched on. This plant has economies of scale that would make nitrogen removal more economical than at smaller plants or non-point sources of nitrogen.

## **V. FIRE HYDRANT PROGRAM UPDATE**

Mr. Kiely reported that 803 hydrants were replaced in FY 07, with 500 of these being done due to a strategic initiative. 241 have been replaced so far in FY 08. 45 hydrants are currently out of service, of which 5 are inaccessible and 5 are out due to water main construction. The MOU with DC FEMS is in place with 15 provisions and is working well. Response time of 24 hours is met, with most responses within 4 hours.

772 hydrants have been banded and are NFPA compliant with color coding based on flow rate. A GIS system is being implemented, which in the future will be tied to the asset management system.

## VI. ACTION ITEMS

The following contract items were submitted for Committee action:

<b>Contracts Considered and Approved</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Prime Contractor</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>Joint Use</b>				
000090	Construction	Emerson Process Management	Change Order	\$427,742.00
FCWA-05-01	Goods and Services	Allegiance Chemicals, LLC	Option Year 3	\$977,100.00
FCWA-05-01(I)	Goods and Services	Hardy & Son Trucking, Inc.	Option Year 3	\$321,200.00
FCWA-05-01(B)	Goods and Services	Tricon of Washington, D.C.	Option Year 3	\$2,774,300.00
FCWA-05-01(C)	Goods and Services	Colonial Chemical Solutions, Inc.	Option Year 3	\$11,941,400.00
FCWA-05-01(E)	Goods and Services	Kuehne Chemical Company, Inc.	Option Year 3	\$4,052,800.00
FCWA-05-01(F)	Goods and Services	J&K Distributors	Option Year 3	\$3,235,600.00
FCWA-05-01(G)	Goods and Services	J&K Distributors	Option Year 3	\$852,900.00
FCWA-05-01(J)	Goods and Services	PVS Chemical Solutions Inc.	Option Year 3	\$521,000.00
FCWA-05-01(L)	Goods and Services	J&K Distributors	Option Year 3	\$364,000.00
FCWA-05-01(A)	Goods and Services	Kemire Water Solutions, Inc.	Option Year 3	\$1,059,729.00
WAS-04-053-AA-MB	Goods and Services	J. Givoo Consultants, Inc.	Option Year 3	\$1,228,822.61
<b>Non-Joint Use</b>				
070120	Construction	Fort Myer Construction Corporation	Contract	\$5,853,305.00

The action items were submitted as a group, without going through discussion on each particular item, but the Committee members were encouraged to raise any specific questions that they had. Concerns were raised over the increase in several of the chemical contracts. The methanol contract increase appears tied to the global marketplace and the fact that major production facilities in Chile are not in operation due to political issues. This has impacted supply. Other chemical increases appear to be tied to energy cost increases. WASA will continue to consider new procurements to reduce the costs, and is not locked into these contracts.

A question was raised regarding the certification of the proposed instrumentation maintenance contract, as to whether the company as a whole had acceptable certifications. The Authority believes that the technicians supplied are ISA certified, but will investigate the question of corporate certifications.

All action items were recommended for approval.

## VII. REVIEW OF REVISED FY 2008 AND PROPOSED FY 2009 BUDGETS

Mr. Adebo presented and reviewed five action items pertaining to the budget. These were as presented and discussed with the Finance and Budget Committee on the 19<sup>th</sup>. The current schedule calls for adoption by the Board in January, for inclusion in the budget to the District in February. A Committee member requested confirmation that the double digit rate increases proposed in 2010 and 2011 were correct (they are). It was also pointed out by the Committee that the budget items subject to discussion on equitable cost allocation need to be flagged. Mr. Lake proposed that this Committee recommend approval to the Board, with the appropriate notations of concern. Mr. Johnson indicated that the Finance and Budget Committee had raised the same concern and also proposed handling it as a notation in the budget.

## VIII. LSR PROGRAM OUTREACH MATERIALS

Ms. Quander-Collins distributed an updated LSR Outreach Program schedule. Materials are still being reviewed by staff. They will be made available to the Committee in early January. In addition to the opportunity to review the materials, the Committee requested that they be notified of the specific meetings. It was requested by the Committee that WASA consider involvement of outside health experts such as from Children's Hospital in the meetings. It was noted by the Chairman that this material had been promised over the past two months and it is still not available for committee review.

## IX. UPDATES

### 1. Low Impact Development Advocacy

Mr. Johnson reported that an LID Innovation Program has been developed through several iterations, and is currently being reviewed by legal. It will be presented to the Committee next month.

### 2. Continuing Work with DC FEMS-Water Mains/Fire Department Concerns

Mr. McLaughlin reported that WASA has been working cooperatively with DC FEMS and has offered to help them with specific geographical obstacles of concern. WASA can help with hydraulic analyses. A quarterly update on this cooperative effort was agreed-to.

### 3. Biosolids Management Plan

Mr. Benson reported on the progress of the plan development. A draft plan had been scheduled for submission by the end of this year. The effort is running about one month behind, with several issues expected to take 2-3 weeks to resolve. It is anticipated that a report to this Committee can be made by February, with a final plan completed in March.

A two-day workshop with our biosolids experts took place December 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>. Five possible process trains that were considered in some detail have been winnowed down to the two most promising for in-depth technical evaluation and cost analysis.

As has been stated previously, the basis of the 1999 BMP which had digestion as its centerpiece is still sound. Current costs for the options being considered appears to be in the \$300-400M range, roughly on par with the budget for the deferred EDF project. Costs are being refined to obtain a greater comfort level. Suburban users will be updated on this plan development, but were not involved in the recent workshop as was previously requested by the Chairman of the EQ&Ops Committee.

4. Increase in Chemical Cost

Discussion of the increases in chemical costs and causes took place during the Action Items discussion, due to the multiple chemical contracts being considered.

**X. EMERGING ISSUES**

No emerging issues were raised.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Johnson advised the Committee of the recent 2-day External Carbon Workshop held at Blue Plains, cosponsored by WERF and MWCOG. This workshop included national experts on denitrification carbon sources and over 100 attendees from academia, government, utilities, industry and consulting firms.

Mr. Lake noted that this is quite likely the last EQ&Ops Committee meeting that Mr. Dunn will attend, and thanked him for being a strong advocate for WASA and for his service. The Committee and meeting attendees recognized him with applause.

Mr. Cotruvo advised that Prof. Perry McCarty will be in town in March and will be available to talk to the Committee and staff on topics of interest. Mr. Johnson and Mr. Cotruvo were to communicate on final arrangements.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Lake adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.