



***District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority***

Board of Directors

***Environmental Quality and
Operations Committee
Wednesday, October 22, 2008***

9:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

David W. Lake, Chairman
Joseph Cotruvo
Howard Gibbs
Jimmie Jenkins
Brenda Richardson
Paivi Spoon
Beverly Warfield

WASA Staff Present

Jerry Johnson, General Manager
Leonard Benson, Acting Chief Engineer
Avis Russell, General Counsel
Linda Manley, Board Secretary
Charles Kiely, Assistant GM for
Consumer Services
Aklile Tesfaye, Manager Wastewater
Treatment

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lake called the Committee Meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Mr. Aklile Tesfaye, Manager of Wastewater Treatment, reported that plant performance was excellent for September. Flow averaged 295 MGD for the month with the resulting 12-month average below 300 MGD. Rainfall for the month was 6.4 inches, higher than average, resulting in 150 MG of excess flow being discharged. BNR performance was good at 6 mg/l, for a 12-month total discharge of approximately 6 million pounds, which is below the annual goal of 8,467,000 pounds.

Biosolids production for the month averaged 1145 tons per day. All material was beneficially reused. During September, 669 tons went to compost production.

The Committee requested clarification as to why the ammonia nitrogen limit changed over the year. The NPDES permit allows higher discharge limits in cold weather months when the toxicity of ammonia in the lower temperature receiving water is less. Mr. Lake asked about WASA's recent experience on the price of

methanol. Mr. Tesfaye responded that it has remained constant since last spring at \$1.75/gal. There was potential for a spike in price due to an emergency shutdown of the plant in Trinidad that WASA's supply contract comes from, however the vendor had a large inventory, and thus price has not been affected.

Mr. Lake asked about investigations into other carbon sources. Mr. Tesfaye advised that WASA has done bench scale testing and is involved in much of the research in the industry. Mr. Johnson reminded the Committee that WASA hosted a seminar on this topic recently. The Committee also noted that other area plants, such as Noman Cole, have experience that could be shared with WASA. Mr. Lake requested a report to the Committee on alternative carbon sources (availability, practicality, and cost) sometime within the next six months.

III. STATUS UPDATE

1. AWTP NPDES Permit Appeal/EAB Ruling and Appeal

Ms. Russell, General Counsel, advised that EPA has filed a motion to dismiss WASA's appeal of the permit on the grounds that it was not based on a final decision. If the Court of Appeals agrees with EPA, then WASA will have to wait to file the appeal. Ms. Russell reminded the Committee that WASA thought it prudent to file the appeal in the first case, in order to ensure that WASA do not miss its opportunity.

2. LTCP/Water Quality Standards

Ms. Russell reported that the Authority have not heard back from the management of the District's Department of Environment after meeting with them in early September.. WASA is fast approaching the point when WASA must make a decision about moving forward with the LTCP or requesting a delay in the consent order schedule. Something may have to be done within 30 days due to the TN/WW schedule along with WASA's outstanding question regarding whether implementation of the Long Term Control Plan would meet water quality standards (an issue that was called into question by the EPA Environmental Appeals Board).

IV. POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR SEWER ODOR ABATEMENT PROJECT UPDATE

Mr. Dave McLaughlin informed the Committee that progress on this project continues on pace - the DC site has been submitted to CFA for approval at the November meeting and permits have been received from Washington Aqueduct

Mr. Johnson and Mr. Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager for Customer Services, briefed the Committee on a recent event related to the Potomac Interceptor. A well contractor in Potomac MD apparently drilled through the

interceptor while drilling a well on private property. The line was hit about 200 feet below the surface, which is consistent with our records of its location. The contractor appears to have all necessary permits, and Miss Utility marked the site. WASA is in the process of trying to video the pipe to determine the extent of damage. If videoing the line does not work, a diver will have to be sent in. This investigation work is being scheduled during the lowest flow period 4 a.m. WASA is working with the appropriate regulatory agencies. It doesn't appear that there is any secondary contamination.

V. POTOMAC SEWAGE PUMPING STATION – CONSENT DECREE COMPLIANCE UPDATE

Mr. McLaughlin briefed the Committee on the status of the inability to certify pump performance at the station. Some of the possible causes for the reduced pump performance have been eliminated, such as air entrainment, or pre-swirling of the influent flow. WASA is investigating the revisions made to the pump influent structures, including the installation of straightening vanes under the contract, with the idea that some of them may be removed to see if performance improves (although some of the laboratory modeling experts retained to assess this problem think to do so will worsen the problem). The Committee will continue to be updated on this issue.

Ms. Russell advised that WASA submitted a report to EPA on October 1st. EPA has some questions, and has not yet agreed that this is a force majeure event. A conference call is being arranged to discuss their comments and concerns.

VI. DISCUSSION: CONTRACT DCFA #420, LTCP PROJECT MANAGER

Mr. Johnson briefly advised the Committee that this contract is a necessity for managing critical design work that must start by March. The designer will be working under the direction of this program manager.

Mr. Lake thought that if there was agreement on the TN/WW components of the contract, that perhaps the contract could be started and focus on that part, with stipulations regarding the LTCP aspects. Mr. Johnson was not in agreement to change the focus of the contract, even initially, as that may lead to protests from other respondents. Also, it does not help WASA advance on its obligations under the LTCP Consent Decree. He pointed out that the District is a signatory to the LTCP Decree. He also pointed out that there are other instances in WASA prosecution of work regarding joint-use facilities where there is an after-the-fact reconciling of costs. This project may lend itself to that type of approach.

Mr. Lake pointed out that IMA negotiations are not moving forward expeditiously, so that is not an avenue to decide this issue in the short timeframe its needed for approval. He noted that this Committee cannot resolve this issue or add to the

actions taken by the Board at its last meeting-this issue is presently with the full Board.

VII. ACTION ITEMS – JOINT USE

The following contracts were presented by Mr. Benson and submitted for Committee action:

Joint Use Contracts Considered and Approved				
No.	Type	Prime Contractor	Scope	Amount
03210	Construction	Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC	Change Order	\$287,552.00
FCWA-05-01(F)	Goods and Services	J&K Distributors	Contract Modification	\$1,100,000.00
FCWA-05-01(G)	Goods and Services	J&K Distributors	Contract Modification	\$470,000.00

Mr. Johnson clarified that all increases were still within approved budgets. Mr. Lake confirmed the consensus of the Committee to forward these contract items to the full Board for approval.

VIII. EMERGING ISSUES/OTHER BUSINESS

1. Budget Presentation/Review Schedule

The schedule for budget approval was distributed. A joint meeting of this Committee and the Budget and Finance Committee will be held in November for the Budget Presentation.

In response to a request from the Committee for advance notification of upcoming large contracts that will be presented for consideration, a list covering the next three months was included in the mail-out. The Committee requested that a six month look-ahead be considered in the future.

The Committee requested that Mr. Batuik of EPA be invited back for a continuation of his presentation on the benefits of the implementation by WASA of the TN program. In response to a comment that latest modeling may not be completed, it was requested that Mr. Batuik share the information that resulted in their original assessments.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30 a.m. to convene a joint meeting of this Committee and the D.C. Retail Services Committee.