



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

Board of Directors

***Environmental Quality and
Operations Committee
Monday, November 17, 2008***

11:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

David W. Lake, Chairman
David J. Bardin
Joseph Cotruvo
Howard Gibbs
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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lake called the Committee Meeting to order at 11:15 a.m. after conclusion of a joint meeting of this Committee, the District of Columbia Retail Services Committee, and the Finance and Budget Committee.

II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Mr. Walt Bailey, Director of Wastewater Treatment, reported that plant performance was excellent for October. Flow was low and averaged 267 MGD for the month with a resulting 12-month rolling average of 295 MGD. Rainfall for the month was lower than average. BNR performance was at 8.1 mg/l, somewhat higher than the 7.4 mg/l annual goal.

Biosolids production for the month averaged 1100 tons per day, lower than our 1165 tons per day annual average. All material was beneficially reused. During October, 1292 tons went to compost production.

Mr. Bailey discussed an excursion that the plant experienced, in which the permit limit for pH was violated for a brief period. This occurred during a shutdown of west half of the Nitrification Facilities to accommodate the cleaning of grit out of

the Nitrification Reactor Influent West Channel. To run the full plant flow through the east half of the nitrification/denitrification facilities required the suspension of denitrification which meant that pH was likely to fall. To offset the drop in pH, caustic soda was added to the process in accordance with standard procedures. Apparently a large amount of unmeasured chemical entered the process through an open drain valve. A higher than expected rise in pH at the outfall was noticed, and the chemical addition was stopped. However, due to the transit time from the application point to the outfall, the chemical already in the process caused the effluent outfall level to continue to rise. EPA had been notified of the half plant shutdown which generated the need to add chemicals, and was immediately notified of this pH excursion. WASA has installed a continuous pH monitor closer to the chemical application point to detect pH level rises, and refresher training for operators of the caustic soda facility is being conducted.

III. STATUS UPDATE

1. AWTP NPDES Permit Appeal/EAB Ruling and Appeal

Status is unchanged from last month. Mr. Johnson advised the Committee that WASA has taken a couple of steps to deal with misinformation that was recently published in the *Bay Journal*. We have contacted them about their lack of factual information and spoken to political leadership to explain WASA's position relative to the article. Mr. Johnson met with former Mayor Anthony Williams to ensure that he had the correct story with which to inform others. The Committee requested that copies of the *Bay Journal* article and WASA's responses thereto be distributed to Board members.

2. LTCP/Water Quality Standards

Status is unchanged since discussions held in the Executive Session at the full Board meeting. Mr. Johnson noted that key people in this issue, Mr. Capacasa and Mr. Grumbles of EPA and Mr. Hawkins from DCDOE were all here recently to announce the City's vision for going Green. Mr. Johnson took this opportunity to discuss the LTCP Water Quality standards issues with all three of the officials. As a consequence, Mr. Grumbles will meet with DDOE and DCWASA, as well as EPA Region III to attempt to resolve the Water Quality Standards issues.

3. TN/LTCP Planning Issues

Mr. Benson advised that if there are delays in implementation of the LTCP, there are still some components of the TN plan shared with the LTCP that likely would go forward, particularly some parts of the Blue Plains Tunnel. There is the need for 31 million gallons of storage to accommodate the TN plan.

Mr. Lake stated that over the next month we will know more on the water quality question, and can hear about alternatives being considered for the TN program

in January. The Committee noted that if the existing LTCP consent decree required modification, it would not be a timely process, and also requested an opinion as to whether the inability of WASA to acquire financing for capital projects constitutes a force majeure event. The Committee requested a presentation on options being considered, if it appears that the Blue Plains Tunnel will be constructed to meet only TN requirements.

4. Pretreatment Regulations

Mr. Benson stated that the regulations are in the process of being promulgated, and Ms. Russell advised that the pretreatment statute needs to be revised. Review of the proposed changes by the District of Columbia Retail Services Committee and approval by the full Board and by the D.C. City Council will be required. Mr. Lake noted that wholesale customers need to have an understanding of the contemplated associated regulatory changes as they will also have to comply.

IV. FACILITY UPDATES

1. Potomac Interceptor Sewer Odor Abatement Project

Mr. McLaughlin advised the Committee that progress continues, with a hearing on the D.C. sites at CFA this Thursday, slightly ahead of schedule. This will be followed by NCPC action, and then permit issuance by the Park Service. Fairfax sites lag slightly behind the progress of the D.C. and MD sites, but remain on schedule.

2. Potomac Interceptor Sewer: Repair of Drill Penetration

Mr. McLaughlin advised that a repair methodology has been determined involving grouting of the drilled shaft, and manually applying an internal sleeve in the pipe. The well that caused the penetration must be abandoned. Montgomery County and WSSC will be notified and asked to provide comments on the repair method.

3. Potomac Sewage Pumping Station – Consent Decree Compliance: Update

Mr. McLaughlin advised that a meeting of the expert group was held on November 7th and investigations continue. There is a plan to install Doppler flow meters on the discharge pipes, and strain gauges on pump shafts. No solution has been determined at this time. Ms. Russell advised that EPA has not yet agreed that this is a force majeure event. If they do not agree, WASA's recourse is through the dispute resolution process. A conference call with US EPA Region III is being planned for early December. WASA has kept EPA apprised on a monthly basis of what we have done, and what we plan to do.

V. ACTION ITEMS – JOINT USE

The following five contract items were presented by Mr. Benson and submitted for Committee consideration to forward to the full Board:

Joint Use Contracts Considered and Approved				
No.	Type	Prime Contractor	Scope	Amount
DCFA #418	Engineering Services	Metcalf & Eddy Management, P.C.	Agreement	\$17,000,000.00
DCFA #421	Engineering Services	Jacobs Associates	Agreement	\$40,000,000.00
060090	Construction	Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC	Contract	\$32,920,000.00
WAS-04-053-AA-MB	Goods and Services	J. Givoo Consultants	Option Year 4	\$1,283,132.00
7507000445AD	Goods and Services	Criswell Chevrolet, Inc	Contract	\$2,000,000.00

The Committee requested that a note be added to the DCFA #418 fact sheet indicating that federal funds will be used if available.

The Committee requested an opinion as to why only one proposal was received for DCFA-418, which Mr. Benson provided. Mr. Lake pointed out that WASA will need to work with WSSC and Fairfax to ensure that their cost shares are grant fundable from their respective grant agencies. On the DCFA #421 fact sheet, jurisdictional funding will be noted as “TBD” for “To be Determined.” Also the Committee concurred with adding the funding language from BOD Resolution #00-93 to this fact sheet. Mr. Benson noted that the notice to proceed on Contract 060090 may be impacted by decisions related to the planned bond issuance in January, 2009. A Committee member asked if this contract was compatible with the proposed biosolids program. Mr. Benson advised that it was. The Committee requested that an update of the Biosolids Management Plan be scheduled. Mr. Benson advised that it is planned for January. Mr. Lake confirmed the consensus of the Committee to forward these contract items to the full Board for approval.

VI. EMERGING ISSUES/OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Benson advised the Committee that they received the requested six-month look-ahead on large contracts at today’s meeting.

The Committee pointed out that Ms. Manley had sent out a MWCOG brochure on climate change policies. A future briefing was requested on what WASA intends to do with respect to this policy. Mr. Lake stated that he is interested in a Committee meeting that would take up the full range of issues related to climate change. He advised that he has had discussions with an expert in climate change as it relates to utilities and will schedule this individual to come in and

brief the Committee.

The Committee requested an update on the Anacostia Force Main. Mr. Benson gave a status report-WASA is currently doing an assessment. The situation with this large force main is that there are concerns over the condition of this pipe, however, as reported earlier this year to the Committee it does not appear that there is the prospect of imminent failure. WASA is working on obtaining permits with the intention of conducting a physical inspection. An emergency response plan is also being developed. Mr. Lake requested a brief (one-page) report on this for the Committee.

The Committee inquired whether WASA is looking into locking in a Cambi price now that the euro has dropped relative to the dollar. Mr. Benson advised that we are considering all courses of action with respect to the biosolids program particularly the commercial aspects of doing business with Cambi.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:05 p.m.