



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

***Board of Directors***

***Environmental Quality and  
Operations Committee  
Monday, December 15, 2008***

***9:30 a.m.***

***MEETING MINUTES***

**Committee Members Present**

David W. Lake, Chairman  
David J. Bardin  
Howard Gibbs  
Robert Hoyt  
F. Alexis Roberson  
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 9:33 a.m. Mr. Bardin participated via speakerphone.

**II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES**

**1. BPAWTP Performance**

Mr. Walt Bailey, Director of Wastewater Treatment, reported that plant performance was excellent for November. Flow was low and averaged 268 MGD for the month with a resulting 12-month rolling average of 295 MGD. Rainfall for the month was lower than average. BNR performance averaged 7.8 mg/l, with a 12-month average of 7.3 mg/l. This performance was somewhat less than desired, and was attributable to construction related shutdowns.

Biosolids production for the month averaged 1053 tons per day, with a 12 month average of 1157 tons per day. All material was beneficially reused.

Mr. Bailey gave a presentation on the recent shutdown of the nitrification/denitrification facility for the removal of grit in the reactor influent channels. These channels had not been cleaned since the facility was placed into service 30 years ago. Over that time, large volumes of grit had accumulated,

consisting of grit from the facility's quicklime slaking operation and media and sand that had been recirculated back into the process from blown filters. The presentation included videos of the removal operation. The shutdowns for the grit removal operations went very well, and the facility was placed back into operation in less time than EPA had allowed for the shutdown.

A Committee comment was made that the electrical usage chart showed an upward trend over time. Mr. Bailey stated that he did not expect that to continue as we are implementing several energy savings measures, most significantly is the fine bubble aeration system in the nitrification/denitrification facility. Another Committee comment was that biosolids production appears to be decreasing over time. Mr. Bailey stated that that may be attributable to better sludge dewatering, largely related to the improvements to the primary treatment facility, which is achieving better solids removal, along with the added benefit that sludge from the primary process has better dewatering characteristics.. The Committee stated that they would like to know the quantity of greenhouse gases released from the plant. Mr. Lake stated that he has had conversations with WERF, and they are looking into this at Blue Plains and several other plants. Mr. Benson stated that we expect to provide a presentation on this topic in January. The Committee also asked about the apparent trend upwards in total nitrogen. Mr. Bailey stated that this is likely due to the ongoing construction activities, as we will have one reactor and two sedimentation basins out of service continually for the next two years, impacting nitrogen removal effectiveness.

### **III. STATUS UPDATE**

#### **1. AWTP NPDES Permit Appeal/EAB Ruling and Appeal**

Status is unchanged from last month.

#### **2. LTCP/Water Quality Standards**

Status is unchanged and WASA intends to continue with the legal strategy discussed with the Board in Executive Session. Ms. Russell advised that Mr. Capacasa of EPA has stated that EPA anticipates issuing a draft permit before the end of the year, and it can be expected that the nitrogen limit and compliance schedule will be in that draft.

#### **3. TN/LTCP Plan Issues**

Ms. Russell advised that we will wait until we have heard something definitive from the regulators before any further reports are given to the Committee.

### **IV. PRETREATMENT STATUTE**

## 1. **Pretreatment Statute**

Mr. Bailey reviewed the history of WASA's pretreatment regulations and their basis in Federal regulations. The Pretreatment Program is a requirement of the Clean Water Act, and recent EPA required changes impact language in the District's Statute and the regulations that govern our program. The law must address slug control and best management practices, which it currently does not. Optional changes are also proposed to streamline the regulations. In response to a question as to who our largest significant industrial users are, Mr. Bailey identified the Bureau of Printing and Engraving, the Government Printing Office, and Metro. All these sources are in compliance with our pretreatment program.

## 2. **Regulations**

Statute revisions were summarized, as was a list of the required steps that will result in the final rulemaking. The Board will be presented with final statute language and final draft regulations for approval. Each of these are to be followed by the necessary legislative and notification actions to accomplish rulemaking.

## V. **POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR FACILITY UPDATES**

### 1. **Potomac Interceptor Sewer Odor Abatement Project**

Mr. McLaughlin, Acting Director of Engineering and Technical Services, advised the Committee that site 1995 has been formally approved by CFA. All tasks are generally on schedule. Site Impact Analyses have to be done for sites 31 and 46, and a special exception to zoning is required for these two Fairfax and Loudoun County sites.

### 2. **Potomac Interceptor Sewer: Repair of Drill Penetration**

Mr. McLaughlin advised that the three step repair process that was developed to fix the penetration has been reviewed and approved by Montgomery County and WSSC. The first step, sealing of the drill penetration beneath the pipe invert, has been completed. Risk Management is following up on legal aspects of this issue. The Committee asked how work inside the pipe would be done given that there is flow in the pipe. Mr. McLaughlin stated that the work has to take place at low flow periods-between midnight and 4 a.m.

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

Mr. McLaughlin advised that Doppler meters are being installed on the discharge pipes, and instrumentation on pump shafts, to confirm accuracy of the existing venturi meters and develop flow profiles. A conference call with EPA took place

ten days ago. Also on the conference call was EPA's technical expert, Earth Justice, and the Department of Justice. The EPA technical expert requested additional information, which has been provided, and Mr. Johnson commented that the expert from EPA seemed to agree that WASA has taken all appropriate steps.

## **VI. ANACOSTIA FORCE MAIN PLAN – STATUS UPDATE**

Mr. Roger Gans, Manager of Planning and Design, Department of Engineering and Technical Services, updated the Committee on the developments related to this 108-inch, 6.2 mile long pre-stressed concrete cylinder pipe (PCCP). The need to address this pipe has been known for some time, and WSSC along with many other entities has experienced failures of similar pipe. This pipe is WASA's responsibility to maintain, although WSSC had performed an assessment in the late 1990's which resulted in a determination that the pipe was serviceable if the operating pressure was kept below 25 psi. WASA has retained an expert firm to investigate the condition of this pipe; the same firm also assists WSSC with its PCCP pipe issues. There is a need to evaluate condition of the pre-stressing wire, steel cylinder, internal lining and structural capacity under varying conditions. A report on Phase I (above-ground investigation) is due in February 2009. A report on Phase II (internal and external inspection) is due in November 2009 with a resulting Action Plan in April 2010. The Committee inquired when to expect a follow-up report on this, with the answer being the March/April time frame of next year.

## **VII. BIOSOLIDS MANAGEMENT PLAN DIGESTER PROJECT – STATUS UPDATE**

Mr. Benson commenced with a presentation on the current status of the Biosolids Management Plan and the commitment made to the Board to keep them apprised of evaluation and planning efforts to determine if there was a more cost-effective project to replace the deferred Egg-shaped Digesters Facility (EDF) project. The recommended alternative of a thermal hydrolysis (Cambi) process followed by mesophilic digestion, with digester volume greatly reduced from the tank volume included in the EDF project (14 million gallons vs. 46 million gallons) has been presented to the Committee previously, most recently at the June 30<sup>th</sup> meeting. Mr. Benson pointed out that the economics drive this project, as it will be cost-competitive with the costs of our current biosolids program approximately four years after being placed in operation, and start saving money from that point on. It also will mitigate risks of a land application ban, by producing a Class A product with the potential of developing market outlets that may take the product without cost, or possibly generate some income. The possibility of income was not a basis in the cost-benefit analysis, as the markets have to be developed.

There was some discussion whether the recommended plan included sludge dryers. The plan does not include dryers, although it was pointed out by the Committee that this is possible to add-on at a later date if absolutely necessary. The Committee requested that an analysis of greenhouse gas production of this plan and the alternatives be furnished and requested a date when the resulting report on this plan would be available. The submission date to WASA is December 18<sup>th</sup>. Mr. Benson will converse with Mr. Lake to determine whether the Committee would like to have the complete report or an executive summary or a variation. Greenhouse gas production was addressed in the report, and in the June 30<sup>th</sup> update to the Committee.

There was discussion whether the contracting climate has or could be expected to improve. There are not assurances of this, as wastewater facility work is a specialized field with limited contractors. When asked by the Committee, Mr. Johnson also pointed out that if the bond issuance is delayed, this is a project that will require another look.

## **VIII. REVIEW OF REVISED FY 2009 AND PROPOSED FY 2010 BUDGETS**

### **1. Action Items**

#### **A. Fiscal Year 2008 -2017 Capital Improvement Program (Lifetime & Cash)**

Mr. Olu Adebo gave a brief presentation of the proposed budget in summary form by service areas along with an action item for this Committee to forward to the full Board. Committee questions centered around the bond issuance impact on what is being proposed and whether there will be revisions related to the bond issuance, and whether the board has to act in the January meeting. Mr. Johnson stated that he is not planning on generating alternative FY 2009 budgets at this time.

#### **B. Fiscal Year 2010 Capital Authority Request**

Mr. Adebo reviewed the need for congressionally approved capital authority in some service areas to continue the capital program in those areas, and an action item was proposed. He stated that WASA has capital authority to execute contracts for the next 24 months, however the authority increases that are requested are on top of authority already granted. Mr. Lake asked whether the Committee felt comfortable forwarding the two resolutions to the Board. One Committee member expressed reservations regarding financing issues, however, the Committee agreed to forward the items for approval since it was consistent with the prior reviews of capital project planning .

## **IX. ACTION ITEMS – JOINT USE**

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

<b>Joint Use Contracts Considered and Approved</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Prime Contractor</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Amount</b>
030210	Construction	Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC	Change Ordert	\$390,000.00
040140	Construction	Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC	Change Order	\$8,400.00
DCFA #380-WSA	Engineering Services	Malcolm Pirnie Engineers, PLLC	Supplemental Agreement	\$1,432,121.00
DCFA #417-WSA	Engineering Services	Brown and Caldwell	Agreement	\$12,100,000.00
FCWA-05-01(J)	Goods and Services	PVS Chemical Solutions, Inc.	Option Year 4	\$569,928.00
FCWA-05-01(B)	Goods and Services	Tricon of Washington D.C.	Option Year 4	\$3,184,279.00
FCWA-05-01(C)	Goods and Services	Colonial Chemical Solutions, Inc.	Option Year 4	\$6,336,716.00
FCWA-05-01(I)	Goods and Services	Hardy & Son Trucking, Inc.	Option Year 4	\$340,000.00
FCWA-05-01(L)	Goods and Services	J & K Distributors	Option Year 4	\$366,974.00
FCWA-05-01(G)	Goods and Services	J & K Distributors	Option Year 4	\$857,863.00
FCWA-05-01(E)	Goods and Services	Allegiance Chemicals, LLC	Option Year 4	\$3,837,091.00
FCWA-05-01(D)	Goods and Services	Allegiance Chemicals, LLC	Option Year 4	\$923,132.85
WAS-07-047-AP-RE	Goods and Services	Tiebridge, Inc.	Option Year 1	\$900,000.00
WAS-07-047-AO-RE	Goods and Services	Tessada & Associates, Inc.	Option Year 1	\$900,000.00
WAS-06-005-AA-ND	Goods and Services	Urban Services	Option Year 3	\$850,000.00

Mr. Johnson pointed out to the Committee that two of the proposed action items were to approve option years for chemicals whose costs had risen dramatically. The intention is to try to secure a lower cost for these chemicals, however these are critical to plant operation and therefore the current procurements must continue. The Committee noted the generic confusion on the option year goods and services commodity contracts in that the option year costs that they were being asked to approve, were lower than the costs experienced in previous years, and additional increases in the unit costs were noted. In response to the Committee request for more fact sheet information, Mr. Johnson pointed out that the format of these fact sheets has developed as an iterative process in response to Committee requests. Accordingly, the information as presented is thought to represent what the Committee has asked for thus far, although the format is subject to additional improvements as requested. The need to clarify the fact sheets in question was agreed to.

The Committee asked for a future workshop or session on how the Authority procures all contracts, and what the various contract terminology means. Mr. Johnson noted that procurement regulations are being rewritten, and it would be best for them to get an update on those new regulations when presented to the Committee, and then determine if further information or a workshop is necessary.

The Committee requested an update on the IT projects that were referenced in the action items presented.

The Committee agreed to forward all action items to the full Board for approval, with appropriate revisions to clarify the option year/goods and services fact sheets.

## **X. EMERGING ISSUES/OTHER BUSINESS**

### **1. Six Month Look Ahead: Large Contracts**

Mr. Benson provided an updated six-month look-ahead of anticipated large procurements.

### **2. DCWASA Bond Offering**

Mr. Johnson advised the Committee that he and Executive staff met bond rating agencies in New York last week. It appears that rating agencies will provide favorable ratings for our bonds.

### **3. CIP Budget: Additional Questions?**

There was no further discussion on this topic.

In Other Business, Mr. Benson distributed a graph of electrical consumption vs. gallons pumped, in response to previous requests from the Committee. Mr. Lake suggested that the Committee review and discuss next month to what extent this meets their needs.

The Committee inquired whether a white paper could be furnished on the effect or impact of phosphates. Mr. Lake recommended that staff provide some background as to whether phosphates are an issue or a non-issue for WASA before developing such a paper. Phosphates were banned from laundry detergents in the 1980's resulting in great improvements in wastewater treatment, although they are still allowed in some household products.

The Committee requested clarification whether the inability to sell bonds to finance the capital program could be interpreted by EPA as a force majeure event. This information will be provided at a future meeting.

The Committee asked if there has been any response from EPA to the recent pH violation. Mr. Bailey responded that EPA's enforcement section has asked further questions and we have answered. The overall long-term outstanding performance of the plant will probably have a bearing on whether any action is taken.

## **XI. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:22 p.m.