



*District of Columbia  
Water and Sewer Authority*

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

Thursday, February 21, 2008, 9:30 a.m.  
Room 407, COF, Blue Plains

**SUMMARY MINUTES**

**Board Members**

David W. Lake, Chairman  
David J. Bardin  
Joseph Cotruvo  
Howard Gibbs  
Jimmie Jenkins  
F. Alexis H. Roberson  
Beverly Warfield

**Staff Members**

Jerry Johnson, General Manager  
Avis Russell, General Counsel  
Len Benson, Acting Chief Engineer  
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

David Lake called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

**II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES**

1. BPAWTP Performance

Mr. Bailey, Director of Wastewater Treatment, reported that January performance was excellent for all parameters, with complete compliance with permit limits. Flow for the month averaged 271 MGD, for a 12-month rolling average of 296 MGD. Rainfall for the month was 1.37 inches with 12-month rainfall at 31.8 inches. Biosolids production was 1235 wet tons per day, and a 12-month average of 1172 wet tons per day. Effluent total nitrogen for the month was 5 mg/l with a 12-month rolling average of 5.28 mg/l, below the annual goal of 7.5 mg/l.

2. Status AWTP NPDES Permit

Ms. Russell updated the Committee on the status of permit negotiations after copies of recent correspondence were distributed. WASA maintains that the technical and statutory/regulatory issues are intertwined, whereas EPA has been of the position that technical and legal issues can be considered separately and has urged WASA to proceed with the technical work as was proposed in our final plan. The General Manager has requested that EPA meet with WASA in the next 30 days. The commitment of a billion dollars in capital improvements without assurance from EPA that this will meet the regulatory requirements is not acceptable. A major problem for WASA is EPA's proposal for the "bubble" treatment of Outfalls 001 and 002 rather than 002 as a permitted outfall with numerical limits and a TN mass loading cap, and CSO 001 as a CSO outfall.

Chairman Lake recommended that the Committee review the correspondence in detail at a later time, and just consider the big picture at this meeting. At some point the Board will have to be briefed on the legal strategy and technical issues. An executive session at the next BOD meeting is requested if the Board's Capital Projects workshop is too far in the future.

The General Manager will be at a City Council budget oversight hearing Friday the 22<sup>nd</sup> and will bring up this issue due to its cost implications. The Committee suggested that the Mr. Tangherlini be given a heads up on this.

### **III. AWTP EFFLUENT TOTAL NITROGEN AND METHANOL COSTS**

Mr. Bailey gave a PowerPoint presentation illustrating the cost increases that have been experienced by WASA related to our use of methanol as the carbon source for our biological nutrient removal process. WASA had budgeted approximately \$1 per gallon, which was consistent with our historical experience. Our most recent contract came in above \$3 per gallon and has been negotiated down to a maximum of \$2.45. WASA has investigated the worldwide price trends for methanol, with the spike in prices being attributed to plants in Chile being off-line. The price is trending downward and industry sources say it is expected to continue downward. To stay within the available budget, plant operators have reduced the application rate to a dose that will achieve compliance with the current Chesapeake Bay Program voluntary goal of 8,467,200 pounds per year of nitrogen discharged from Blue Plains, but WASA will not dose at a rate that would approach the proposed EPA limit of 4,689,000 pounds per year. As the market changes, WASA will make adjustments to maximize nitrogen removal within budget constraints.

The Committee inquired as to whether staff is considering other carbon sources. Alternative sources include ethanol, glycerol, fructose or blends. Those are viable. Ethanol is only slightly more expensive than the current methanol price. A Committee member pointed out that ethanol is not necessarily an improvement in a carbon balance sense, as there are carbon intensive requirements for its production. Mr. Bailey pointed out that switching back and forth between different carbon sources is problematic, as the bacteria that utilize the carbon require some period to get acclimated. A Committee member pointed out that there will be a huge increase in demand for methanol in the region as more BNR plants come on-line to meet the Chesapeake Bay Program requirements.

The General Manager advised the Committee that WASA hosted a national conference on Alternate Carbon Sources in December. WASA remains active and on top of this issue.

Chairman Lake acknowledged that the Committee has been put on notice that nitrogen levels will be creeping up as a cost control measure.

### **IV. WATER SERVICES PROGRAM**

#### **1. Coliform Testing**

Mr. Kiely, Assistant General Manager for Consumer Services, reported on coliform testing results. There were four positive coliform results in January, with 3 of those occurring at one sampling location (including retests after an initial failure). A possible cross connection was discovered and coliform results were negative upstream and downstream of this point. This sample location has been problematic in the past (positive coliform hits in December and January), and WASA is requesting that EPA allow WASA to discontinue this location as a monitoring site.

2. LCR Compliance Testing: Report and Review Status

Mr. Kiely reported that WASA is still waiting for certification by EPA of the 2007 second semester results, which was the sixth straight monitoring period with results below the action level with respect to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR).

3. Temporary Use of Free Chlorine as a Disinfectant

Mr. Kiely reviewed findings from the investigation, requested by the Committee, into the practices of local and regional utilities with respect to periodic temporary secondary disinfection with chlorine. Sixteen Virginia utilities were surveyed by EPA of which 14 periodically use chlorine as a secondary disinfectant. North Carolina mandates the use of chlorine by statute. Philadelphia uses chloramines as a secondary disinfectant, however they elected to do increased nitrification monitoring and more localized flushing. Baltimore and WSSC do not use chloramines as a secondary disinfectant.

The watermain flushing practices of WASA were discussed. WASA utilizes uni-directional flushing, and flushes 50% of the system each year, resulting in a complete flush every two years. Some local utilities (Falls Church and Arlington) use sequential hydrant openings. The uni-directional method works well based on the age of our system. Falls Church and Arlington's flushing method works well for their systems.

The Authority staff recommends a temporary change to chlorine this year. After this year, we will have two years of data to evaluate and make decisions for future use of chlorine. It was noted that the temporary addition of free chlorine on our system last year reduced the potential for bacteria and nitrification.

A coordinated Public Communication Plan was discussed. A media briefing will be held in late March. It is to be prepared by WAD and coordinated with its customers. The Committee suggested that all stakeholders be invited to the table to discuss the plan. Information is available on "What's on Tap". The temporary use of free chlorine as a secondary disinfectant will take place in the April/May time frame.

4. Pumped-Sold Report

Mr. Kiely reviewed current data on the pumped/sold ratio. Currently, the ratio is 79%. A sample data sheet of the program that WASA is currently implementing was displayed. Once the data is available in the displayed format, WASA will be able to compare our results to that of other utilities using this AWWA developed program. Quantities of water used in hydrant flow and the flushing program account for part of the difference between pumped and sold quantities. The General Manager pointed out that the District pays a fee for hydrant use.

Chairman Lake requested a time frame for a report back to the Committee. Mr. Kiely suggested 90 to 120 days. The Committee raised the issue that there are reports that suggest that water utilities in France are achieving higher ratios than ours; the question being, what can we learn from them? .

## **V. LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

1. Public Outreach Program Status

Mr. Benson, Acting Chief Engineer, reviewed the flyer that is being distributed. The meeting schedule was reviewed. A Public Hearing is scheduled for May 1<sup>st</sup> at the Council of Governments building. After that hearing, there will be a comprehensive meeting with the Board. The General Manager advised that staff will have a recommendation for the Board at that time.

Maps as requested last month, showing locations of lead service replacements, lead services and services of unknown material were distributed. A Committee member raised a question regarding what it might cost to determine the material of construction of the unknown services, and whether that investigation might be a better use of money than continuing with the LSR program. A question was also raised about the LSR activity east of the Anacostia River as compared to west of it. The General Manager pointed out that a lot of the replacements are tied to street repair and construction work which is more active west of the river. He also pointed out that there is no dearth of spending east of the river; \$78M in capital spending is planned for water system improvements east of the Anacostia River and in fact has already started.

## **VI. WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT**

### **1. Cost of Residuals Management Facilities**

Mr. Benson reviewed the history of the Residuals Management Facilities, for which proposals were received by WAD in December. It was pointed out that WAD had prepared a budget with what was thought to be ample contingency; however the proposals received have apparently exceeded that budget. The project was advertised as a request for proposals, as opposed to a request for bids. WASA believes that the project was designed appropriately, and that the high costs received are indicative of the local and national construction bidding climate. Exact costs are not available, as the Corps is adhering to their confidentiality procedures, and is in discussions with the proposers to finalize costs.

### **2. Cost Allocation Study**

Mr. Johnson advised the Committee that Falls Church has proposed that their cost share be revised downward as they should not be required to fund peak use needs. They also requested this should their share of costs be reduced in the future, that the reduction be retroactive to include the entire Residuals Management Facility. This proposal was presented to this Committee for information only. The Cost Allocation Study by WAD remains to be completed.

### **3. Relationship: WASA/WAD**

The Board's previous study regarding combining the functions of WASA and WAD was distributed. It was noted by the Chairman Lake that WAD may be perceived as not responsive to its customers as it has only three wholesale customers, and no retail customers. Mr. Johnson noted that the legal aspects of such a consolidation need to be investigated, along with the pros and cons across all organizational areas: WASA staff will perform such an investigation.

## **VII. REVISION OF PRETREATMENT REGULATIONS**

### **1. Summary of Revisions**

A PowerPoint presentation was distributed, and Mr. Bailey reviewed the revisions that are necessary to the Authority's pretreatment regulations to comply with recent changes to EPA's regulations. Ms. Elaine Wilson, the head of the Pretreatment Branch was introduced. Changes are required in the District's statutes and regulations to allow WASA to modify the requirements to be placed on significant industrial users (SIU's) and non-significant industrial users that discharge to Blue Plains. Currently there are 22 significant industrial users, and 2 non-significant industrial users that are permitted. User jurisdictions are required to have similar programs and file reports with WASA.

2. Schedule

EPA desires that the necessary changes be implemented by publicly owned treatment works (POTW's) in 2008, however there is no specific enforceable deadline in the legislation. To accomplish the necessary changes, WASA has to secure changes to District statutes (DC Code 8-105) and regulations (21DCMR Chapter 15). This will require the completion of draft statute and regulation revisions for review by EPA, DC and user jurisdictions. The final draft revisions will be presented to this Committee and the Board followed by notification of permittees and stakeholders; initiation of the lawmaking process; submission of final revised regulations to this Committee and the Board; then a public comment period and final rulemaking.

**VIII. BOD CAPITAL PROJECTS WORKSHOP-PLANNING DISCUSSION**

The General Manager stated that Ms. Manley is coordinating with the Board to set up the proposed workshop in April.

**IX. ACTION ITEMS**

The following contract item was 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>Non-Joint Use</b>				
DCFA #381-WSA	Engineering Services	Greeley and Hansen LLC	Supplemental Agreement	\$2,700,000.00

The action item is to provide engineering program management services for the sewer services area while a new program management contract is procured. It will provide some overlap with the new contract for continuity of service. This non-joint use action item was considered by the D.C. Committee members only, and recommended for forwarding to the full Board for approval.

**X. EMERGING ISSUES**

A Committee member requested an update on the status of the digester project. The General Manager advised that he is being briefed this afternoon and it is anticipated that the Committee will be updated on the project in the coming months, consistent with the Board's request to be updated every 6-months with respect to the conditions that caused the deferral of the Egg-shaped Digester construction projects.

**XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

No other business issues were raised.

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Lake adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.