



*District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority*

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

Thursday, May 15, 2008, 9:30 a.m.
Room 407, COF, Blue Plains

SUMMARY MINUTES

Board Members

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

Staff Members

Jerry Johnson, General Manager
Avis Russell, General Counsel
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary
Walter Bailey, Director, DWT

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 April performance was excellent; in 100% compliance with all permit limits. Flow for the month averaged 319 MGD, with a 12-month rolling average of 290 MGD. This is a 10-year low for annual average. It was noted that the drought has ended with 7.75" of rain thus far in May, and the plant has averaged 400 MGD in the first 13 days of May, with one day of 800 MGD. Biosolids production was 1267 wet tons per day. Effluent total nitrogen for the month was 10 mg/l with a 12-month rolling average of 6.5 mg/l; below the annual goal of 7.5 mg/l.

2. Analysis of AWTP Flow Data

Mr. Bailey gave a presentation of analyses done to evaluate trends in long term flows at Blue Plains. Current flow is at its lowest point in 10 years. This evaluation has established that recent plant flows are not as responsive to rainfall and groundwater as they were in the past. Flow data was compared to rainfall data and groundwater data and regression analyses were performed on the data to determine correlations. An estimate based on these analyses is that reduction in flow to Blue Plains due to tide gate and inflatable dam improvements is 15 MGD.

3. Status AWTP NPDES Permit Appeal/EAB Ruling Status

Mr. Bailey updated the Committee on the appeal status, with Ms. Russell advising that WASA's appeal for a hearing of the full Environmental Appeals Board was denied. WASA is evaluating whether to appeal this decision, which would be appealed to the Court of Appeals. WASA's contention is that the load allocation for Blue Plains did not go through a normal process or rulemaking, nor was it grounded in science, but rather was the result of a political process.

A Committee member asked what other plants in the watershed are doing, and Virginia and Maryland Committee members advised that they are moving ahead on short time tables with aggressive TN goals. They pointed out that they have funding mechanisms in place for assistance, but even so Fairfax County expects rates to go up 10% per year.

Ms. Russell pointed out that WASA has additional issues with the 77,000 pounds of TN that was transferred from Blue Plains to WSSC's Seneca WWTP, and the 55,000 pounds of TN associated with the 4.5 MGD of BPAWTP capacity held in reserve by DC for the Virginia Users of the Potomac Interceptor.

Issues remain with how EPA III will comply with the EAB ruling concerning the requirement for a TN compliance schedule in WASA's permit. EPA has not indicated what they are going to do; though they did say that they will issue the permit in about a year. The Committee expressed some concern about going forward with the TNR project without knowing EPA's position.

4. Status of EPA Approval of TN/WW Plan

Mr. Bailey advised the Committee that at the meeting with EPA in Philadelphia on April 9th, EPA stated that would respond in writing within 30 days. They have not done so. WASA's main issue is the bubble permit approach (outfalls 001 and 002 both being limited to the nitrogen pound loading that is allocated to Blue Plains. WASA is soliciting proposals from engineering firms for the necessary design. Mr. Johnson pointed out that the design will not go full speed ahead until there is resolution on the issues that WASA is concerned about.

III. POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR ODOR CONTROL PROJECT - UPDATE

Mr. Dave McLaughlin, Acting Director of Engineering and Technical Services reviewed a status report and a schedule of activities on this project. It was noted that a stakeholders meeting has been tentatively set for June 5th. He thanked Fairfax County for their help with WASA's plan to use chemicals this summer, and advised that the project website has been updated, with further revisions anticipated.

IV. 2ND QUARTER FY 2008 CIP REPORT

Mr. Lake noted that the report had been distributed and asked if any Committee member had any questions. A Committee member asked why the Sewer Field Operations Facility project was carried in the combined sewer section of the CIP. Mr. Johnson advised that this CIP category seems appropriate. It has to be shown in the CIP somewhere, even though it is expected that no WASA funds will be required since these operations are being moved for development purposes around the Nationals Stadium.

V. JOINT-USE FACILITIES DISCUSSION

Mr. Lake opened with a comment that some but not all facilities that are joint-use are listed in the IMA. The Committee was provided with a list of joint use facilities that included the existing facilities shown in the IMA and some additional facilities not included. The Chairman of the Board has reconstituted the Governance Committee,

which has been tasked with addressing joint-use facilities. The Environmental Quality & Operations Committee needs to be a resource to the Governance Committee with respect to joint-use facilities and related issues. The ability of the WASA Board to designate joint-use facilities needs to be reviewed by the Governance Committee, and it is expected that there will be a fair amount of legal review regarding the mechanisms that should be considered.

It was requested that the distributed list be shared with the Blue Plains Regional Committee (BPRC), and although a Committee member thought it was not the province of this Committee to do so, it was noted that several Committee members are also BPRC members. Mr. Lake determined that it is appropriate to share the list with the BPRC.

A Committee member requested that the list be expanded to consider facilities that do not exist yet, specifically the Sewer Field Operations Facility discussed under the prior agenda item, and the Long Term Control Plan Facilities. Mr. Johnson will consider adding a category for future facilities.

A Committee member asked that a map be prepared showing the locations of joint use facilities.. It was agreed that WASA would prepare a map identifying the location of the list of joint-use facilities submitted by WASA that were not listed in the WASA legislation.

The Committee pointed out that any identified joint-use facilities also need to include an explanation as to why they are so designated and should be discussed by the BPRC. Mr. Johnson pointed out that there is a periodic audit of the use of each facility. The Committee pointed out that a change in the law to allow the Board to designate joint-use facilities in a timely manner would be very beneficial.

Mr. Lake closed this discussion by stating that the next step is for this Committee to report back to the full Board with the list additions as requested, and advise that discussions are underway.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

The following contract items were submitted for Committee action:

Contracts Considered and Approved				
No.	Type	Prime Contractor	Scope	Amount
Joint Use				
WAS-07-012-AA-JS	Goods and Services	M.C. Dean, Inc.	Option Year 1	\$2,476,000.00
WAS-07-024-AA-JW	Goods and Services	Ideal Electric Supply Corporation	Option Year 1	\$972,900.00
WAS-04-041-AA-JS	Goods and Services	Maryland Environmental Services	Option Year 4	\$600,895.00
WAS-08-025-AA-RV	Goods and Services	Carter and Carter Enterprises, Inc.	Contract	\$3,132,000.00
Non-Joint Use				
070100	Construction	Anchor Construction Corporation	Change Order	\$1,041,850.00

It was clarified in discussions that the new contract was being awarded to a low and sole bidder for chemical supply (ferric chloride). The bid price is consistent with our previous price experience and the market, and this contractor held our previous contract. A Committee member asked that this information be added to the fact sheet prior to presentation to the Board for approval. A question was raised regarding the non-joint use item, for replacement of 155 defective hydrants. The cost worked out to about \$7,000 per hydrant. Staff explained that the cost includes valves, tees and pipe in addition to paving after the replacement. The four joint-use items were recommended for forwarding to the full Board for approval by all members; the Non-joint use contract change order was recommended for Board approval by the D.C. members of the Committee..

VII. EMERGING ISSUES

Mr. Lake noted that a presentation of the Biosolids Management Plan and Project Recommendation was slated for next months meeting. Mr. Johnson stated that that was staff's optimistic anticipation, and he will advise the Committee if that will not occur as scheduled.

A presentation of one of the technologies being considered in WASA's Biosolids Management Plan, thermal hydrolysis, was made by Mr. Bailey. This is a process utilizing pressure and heat to break down cells resulting in a greatly reduced digester volume required to handle the Blue Plains biosolids. Operating personnel made a recent trip to visit several operating and planned facilities in Europe. This technology has not been utilized yet in the US, however the sites visited were very successful and the operators were very happy with the facilities themselves, and the Class A biosolids product that was produced. WASA staff was impressed with the facilities and considers this technology viable for use at Blue Plains. This technology will be reviewed in greater detail at next month's presentation of the Biosolids Management Plan.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

A Capital Projects Workshop has been set up for Thursday May 29th from 8:30 to 12:30. A Capital Projects tour is proposed to follow the June 19th Environmental Quality & Operations Committee meeting. The tour will focus on Blue Plains capital projects.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lake adjourned the meeting at 11:00 p.m.