



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

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

Thursday, July 17, 2008, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room B, CMF, Blue Plains

SUMMARY MINUTES

Board Members

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

Staff Members

Jerry Johnson, General Manager
Gregory Hope, Staff Counsel
Leonard Benson, Acting Chief Engineer
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary
Walter Bailey, Director DWT
David McLaughlin, Acting Director, DETS

Presenter

Dr. Sudhir Murthy, DWT Process Engineer, WASA

I. CALL TO ORDER

David Lake called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Mr. Walter Bailey, Director of Wastewater Treatment, reported on the plant performance for June. Blue Plains flow for the month was 318 MGD, and a 12-month average of 297 MGD. Rainfall for the month, at 4.8" was slightly above normal (3.1") and the 12-month total at 46.5" is above the average of 39".

All permit parameters were met. Biosolids production was 1177 tons per day (12 month average of 1157 tons per day).

Mr. Bailey reported that the effluent total nitrogen for the month was 8.4 mg/l with a 12 month rolling average of 6.7 mg/l. It was relatively high due to construction outages along with the need to take a return sludge pipe out of service for repairs and inspection, which shuts down half of the process. Mr. Lake inquired whether the strategy to limit methanol use due to cost was still in place, given that methanol has come down in cost. Mr. Bailey responded that staff expect to achieve a discharge of 6 million pounds or lower, which is lower than the current goal of 8.4 million pounds, but higher than the future limit that EPA plans to set.

2. Status AWTP NPDES Permit Appeal/EAB Ruling Status

Mr. Bailey reported that there are no new developments in this regard; WASA is still awaiting the draft permit from EPA.

A Committee member suggested that information related to electricity consumption be included in the monthly report, either for Blue Plains or on a WASA-wide basis.

Potomac Interceptor Sewer Odor Abatement Project

Mr. David McLaughlin, Acting Director of Engineering and Technical Services provided the Committee an update on Potomac Interceptor project. The project continues on schedule.

Progress has been made on obtaining approval for the interim chemical addition project. Thanks were expressed to Mr. Lake and Montgomery County for their invaluable assistance with the Maryland site. Mr. Jenkins advised that for the Fairfax County site, the necessary agreement has been drafted, with only a question of WASA's self-insurance to be resolved. Mr. McLaughlin stated that WASA's Risk Management Department would be forwarding the self-insurance certificate to Fairfax County lawyers shortly. It remains WASA's intention to seek approval for both sites.

The dedicated website for this project is accessible and is being updated. WASA intends incorporating this website into the WASA website in the near future.

III. ANACOSTIA FORCE MAIN: UPDATE

Mr. Benson provided the Committee with an update on the concerns over the Anacostia Force Main (AFM), which had been raised last fall as an emerging issue. The AFM carries about 200 MGD to Blue Plains - the majority being WSSC flow. Concern over the possibility of catastrophic failure had arisen based on the type of pipe and its condition and it was clear that if such failure took place there would be extreme consequences.

It has since been determined that catastrophic failure is not likely. WASA has been working directly with WSSC to resolve concerns. Mr. Johnson pointed out that the pipe is operated at a lower pressure than it was designed to withstand. WSSC has put in place measures to prevent pressure surges. Even with these restrictions, the needs of WSSC to transmit flow are fully addressed.

Studies are continuing, and it is expected that they will be concluded in November. Mr. Lake would like the Committee to get a summary of this issue (what was looked at/what was found/what has been done) in the December/January time frame. An Emergency Response Plan (ERP) is being developed for this facility (to incorporate mutual aid agreements with WSSC) and all other large sewers entering the city.

IV. BLUE PLAINS REGIONAL COMMITTEE: JOINT-USE FACILITIES DISCUSSION

Mr. Benson noted that the Committee had requested that legislation be drafted to better define joint-use facilities and provide the ability to add and subtract from that list of facilities. Avis Russell, General Counsel has advised that this topic is under the purview of the Governance Committee and therefore will be discussed next week in that venue.

The Committee stated that the real issue is how costs are shared and how facilities are used and costs are allocated. Mr. Johnson stated that cost allocations are tied to specific projects and staff has defined very specifically how costs are shared, with users, particularly WSSC, auditing those costs annually.

A Committee member requested information (examples) of how previous cost allocations have been derived, and with respect to the LTCP, a) how much of the flow (in gallons) into the tunnels is suburban in origin and how much is of D.C. origin, and b) a calculation of how many less overflows there would be per year if there was no suburban contribution to storm flows (preferably by specific parts of the tunnel system). Mr. Johnson advised that he would have to consult with the Acting Chief Engineer before responding to that request.

Mr. Lake pointed out that it is clear in the IMA that interpretation of joint-use facilities cost sharing is the responsibility of the Blue Plains Regional Committee.

Mr. Lake also pointed out that the role of the suburban BOD members is defined in the context of “joint-use facilities” in the WASA enabling legislation.

The Committee requested that the Joint Use Facility maps distributed to members at the last Committee meeting be provided in electronic and hard copy to all Board members.

V. BLUE PLAINS AWTP CARBON FOOTPRINT

Dr. Sudhir Murthy, DWT Process Engineer, gave a presentation on carbon considerations for the Blue Plains AWTP, and acknowledged Chris Peot, Biosolids Manager, for his work in developing the presentation. Mr. Lake advised that due to time constraints, Dr. Murthy should give an overview of the topic, without too much detail. The presentation touched on the carbon balance in nature, the developing markets for carbon trading, the estimated carbon production at Blue Plains, and the possible value of carbon reductions that we may make. It was pointed out that while CO₂ is the greenhouse gas mentioned most prominently, there are other greenhouse gases that result from wastewater collection and treatment, such a methane, and nitrous oxide, that are much more potent.

Committee discussion delved into broader issues, such as use of renewable energy, and who takes carbon reduction credit for that use; the fact that definitions on this topic are very important, as carbon is being moved, and not eliminated; and in the event that WASA had marketable carbon reductions-who pays for them/what is the mechanism of payment. Due to the interest in this topic, Mr. Lake stated that the Committee would like updates on this topic in the future, and on how WASA is proceeding with respect to renewable energy. As well, he invited the Committee to send forth any questions they have concerning the presentation, for discussion at the September meeting.

The Committee requested information on how much energy WSSC and Fairfax County derive from wind sources and whether any discounts on energy cost had been obtained. Mr. Johnson agreed to contact those agencies to request the information.

A Committee member asked for information on how other utilities have “sequestered” methane from their sewer systems.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

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

Contracts Considered and Approved				
No.	Type	Prime Contractor	Scope	Amount
Joint Use				
020130	Construction	W.M. Schlosser Company, Inc.	Change Order	\$18,907.00
04140	Construction	Ulliman Schutte	Change Order	\$29,500.00
970099	Construction	W.M. Schlosser Company, Inc.	Change Order	\$165,886.01
WAS-04-024-AA-VW	Goods and Services	Topflite Building Services	Option Year 4	\$576,282.00
DCFA 415-WSA	Engineering Services	Delon Hampton & Assoc.	Agreement	\$12,600,000.00

Mr. Benson reviewed the action items. Two of the change orders will result in closing out of those contracts. The fact sheet for the proposed engineering services agreement (DCFA # 415-WSA) will be modified to clarify that this contract will be a joint-use contract, with appropriate division of funding to be determined based on the work performed. All action items were recommended for forwarding to the full Board for approval.

A Committee member suggested that it would be useful to the Committee to have a "look ahead" schedule for large contract awards.

VII. EMERGING ISSUES

1. Potomac Sewage Pumping Station-Consent Decree Compliance

Mr. McLaughlin reviewed the situation that has arisen on the Potomac Sewage Pumping Station upgrade, which jeopardizes achievement of the consent decree requirement that the station be in service at rated capacity as of September 1, 2008. A newly installed pump motor has failed and been sent back to the factory for warranty repairs. A motor from another of the station's pumps has been installed on that pump to make it operational, however the station's firm capacity cannot be achieved until all motors and pumps are in place.

WASA has notified the proper regulatory authorities in order to preserve our rights in this matter as a force majeure condition. The Committee requested copies of the referenced correspondence, which was distributed at the meeting.

2. SSO/CSO Community Right-to-Know Legislation

Mr. Benson advised the Committee that the referenced legislation, which is not yet law, has a huge potential for onerous cost and responsibility problems for WASA and any other utility. WASA is working with other utilities and organizations to raise their awareness.

3. Federal Triangle Flooding Mitigation Task Force

Mr. Benson updated the Committee on the status of work regarding the flood mitigation in the Federal Triangle area. A \$550,000 study has been proposed, utilizing WASA computer models, with the study funded by various federal and District parties excluding WASA. The Committee suggested that DCWASA coordinate with DDOE on this topic.

The Committee raised a question regarding alleviation of two other flood prone areas in the District. Mr. Johnson advised that this is a topic for future discussion.

4. Biological Treatment Yielding Net Energy

The Committee agreed to defer the discussion on this topic due to time constraints.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

1. New Standing date for EQ&Ops Committee and Ad Hoc Committee on Drinking Water Quality

Mr. Lake advised that he has set a proposed schedule of Committee meeting dates for September through December which depart from the standing Committee date of the third Thursday of each month. He requested that if any committee member has problems with the dates that have been set, they should contact him for discussion. A committee member stated that after these meetings, it is important that a standard recurring date be established to facilitate scheduling for all parties.

Mr. Lake thanked Ms. Manley for her work in coordinating the new dates that have been established.

2. DDOT Permits: A Continuing Issue

Mr. Benson briefly reviewed the continuing problems that WASA has dealing with DDOT public space permits, which can be summed up as multiple and redundant permit requirements, which are issued in an untimely manner, impacting our ability to efficiently perform any work involving public space. Mr. Johnson clarified that this is not an action item for Board involvement, it is for information only; the issues are being worked out at WASA/DDOT staff level.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lake adjourned the meeting at 11:25 a.m.