



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

Board of Directors

***Environmental Quality and
Operations Committee***

Tuesday, January 27, 2009

9:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

David W. Lake, Chairman
David J. Bardin
Joseph Cotruvo
Howard Gibbs
Brenda Richardson
Paivi Spoon

WASA Staff Present

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lake called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Due to the many agenda topics and presentations, Mr. Lake suggested that just an overview of Agenda Item VI on revisions to WASA procurement regulations be presented, and he will speak with Mr. Tangherlini about a joint presentation with the Finance and Budget Committee for a more comprehensive review of this topic.

II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Mr. Walter Bailey, Director of Wastewater Treatment, reported that plant performance was excellent for December. Flow averaged 287 MGD for the month with a resulting 12-month rolling average of 295 MGD. Rainfall for the month was normal, at 3 inches, but 2008 overall was a wet year at 46.5 inches. BNR performance averaged 7.6 mg/l in December, with a 12-month average of 7.5 mg/l. This performance is still better than the Chesapeake Bay Program goal, but is somewhat elevated due to construction shutdowns associated with the ongoing Nitrification-Denitrification rehabilitation contract. On the biosolids side, production for the month averaged 1191 tons per day, with a 12 month average of 1162 tons per day.

2. Impact of Maryland Phosphate Ban

Mr. Bailey reported on the expected impact of the recent ban by Maryland on phosphorus in automatic dishwashing detergent. The ban will become effective on January 1, 2010, and while only applicable in Maryland, it is expected to affect products sold in our entire service area due to the extent of product distribution. The impact of this ban will reduce the cost of phosphorus removal, requiring less ferric chloride to be purchased, and will result in lower biosolids production. The estimated annual cost savings are \$230,000. There will be no change in the plant effluent (90,000 lbs per year) and impact on CSO phosphorus will be nominal, since it is already very low (an estimated reduction of 100lb/yr, i.e., from 650 lb/yr to 550 lb/yr).

The Committee suggested that there might be other opportunities for operational savings for WASA through similar legislative regulatory actions, and requested that WASA investigate any opportunities. Mr. Johnson advised that he is aware of some legislation that City Council Member Cheh has introduced and will get back with definitive information.

III. STATUS UPDATE

1. AWTP NPDES Permit Appeal/EAB Ruling and Appeal

Avis Russell, General Counsel advised that the status is unchanged from last month; WASA still has not received the new permit, although USEPA has once again advised that we should expect it shortly. The status of the EAB ruling and appeal is likewise unchanged. WASA has been told that our objection to allocations is not ready for appeal (premature), and the law is somewhat unclear in this area. She believes from all indications that WASA's opportunity to appeal is still intact.

2. LTCP/Water Quality Standards

Ms. Russell advised that the status is unchanged and WASA has not received any official responses from EPA or DDOE. There have been two TMDL lawsuits filed in District court, one pertaining to TSS limits in the Anacostia River, and one on several pollutants on several waterways.

IV. POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR FACILITY UPDATES

1. Potomac Interceptor Sewer Odor Abatement Project

Mr. McLaughlin, Acting Director of Engineering and Technical Services, updated the Committee on recent activities. The District and Maryland sites are on the NCPA agenda for their February 5th meeting and approval is expected. Construction bidding on those sites is expected in July. These activities are

proceeding according to the project schedule. Virginia sites remain on a separate approval track, but are progressing towards construction.

2. Potomac Interceptor Sewer: Repair of Drill Penetration

Mr. McLaughlin advised that the first step of the three step repair process has been completed. The second step will require specialized construction methods, and proposals are being reviewed. Repair cost estimates are in the \$150,000 - \$200,000 range.

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

Mr. McLaughlin advised that testing is continuing, as the pump performance issues are not resolved. The experts looking into this are focusing on pump inlet conditions, and some modifications have been made to the inlet of one pump. Testing will take place on Thursday. The next step after that will be to go back to Alden Labs and redo the hydraulic modeling that was the basis of design of the pump inlet upgrades. There has been no response from EPA on WASA's assertion that this is a force majeure circumstance. It was originally anticipated that resolution on the performance issues could be reached by May; however Mr. McLaughlin is reluctant to put a time frame on resolution at this point given that the cause and corrective actions have not been determined.

The Committee brought up the need to have Mr. Batiuk of EPA back to continue discussion of the benefits to the Chesapeake Bay of WASA's Total Nitrogen (TN) plan investment. A member of the Committee also complimented Messrs. McLaughlin, Benson and Johnson on a response to his question on the TN program and requested that the full Board receive the response and that it be formatted appropriately and made available on the WASA website.

V. CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE GASES

Mr. Ernest Jolly, Energy Manager gave a presentation on WASA's review of the MWCOG climate change report and areas of applicability to WASA's activities. Mr. Jolly is active on an MWCOG committee and is involved in all ongoing capital projects to ensure that energy efficiency is properly addressed. His presentation was followed by one by Mr. Chris Peot, Manager of Biosolids, who has been working with WASA staff and consultants to develop a baseline carbon footprint for Blue Plains, utilizing the World Resources Institute Model, an internationally recognized computer model for generating carbon calculations.

The Committee asked when an energy management plan for WASA would be available. Mr. Jolly advised that a draft for management review would be available at the end of March. The Committee noted that it is important to establish a baseline early. The Committee posed some questions to establish

that WASA currently does not utilize “green” power such as solar or methane, and sought to ensure that the impact of the TN program was reflected in analyses of future energy use or carbon balances. Mr. Johnson pointed out that WASA is pursuing energy reduction strategies such as more efficient mixers and fine bubble diffusers for aeration. The Committee asked that a date be added to the front page of Mr. Peot’s report and that it be distributed to the full Board. Mr. Lake noted that he has arranged to have Mr. Rob Taylor, WSSC Energy Manager, make a presentation to this Committee in March, which will be enlightening as to what a similar large sized local utility is doing in this regard.

VI. REVISION OF PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS

In the interest of time, Mr. Lake suggested that an overview of these regulations be presented, since the allotted time is insufficient to cover the topic in detail. Mr. Johnson introduced this topic with a recap of the history of procurement regulations and policies and procedures at WASA. Mr. John Christodoulakis, Director of Procurement, followed with a brief summary regarding the procurement of the consulting services necessary to perform this work. Mr. Scott Baker, a consultant with AECOM, the firm that was retained to revise and update the regulations, then reviewed highlights of the changes that are proposed. The Committee questioned whether the proposal to remove some provisions from the regulations and include them in procurement procedures authorized by the General Manager was a change in governance. Mr. Johnson pointed out that the existing regulations contain a similar provision and he did not see a governance issue. A more in-depth presentation on the revisions will be scheduled for a future joint committee meeting attended by additional Board members.

VII. STATUS UPDATE: IT PROJECT: GIS

The presentation on this topic by Mr. Mujib Lodhi, Director of Information Technology, was reluctantly deferred to a future meeting by Mr. Lake, in the interest of time.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS – JOINT USE

The following five joint use 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
030210	Construction	Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC	Change Order	\$782,582.00
050250	Construction	Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC	Change Order	\$115,000.00
DCFA #412-WSA	Engineering Services	CH2M Hill	Agreement	\$19,500,000.00
WAS-06-025-AA-JW	Goods and Services	First Vehicle Services	Option Year 2	\$544,500.00
040060	Construction	Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC	Change Order	\$17,150.00

With respect to DCFA #412, the Committee expressed concern over liability if constructed projects involving compliance with legal mandates or permits do not accomplish their objectives. Ms. Russell stated that she has recommended that all contracts dealing with consent decrees or legal requirements have provisions to hold parties responsible. The Committee also asked whether the TN design contract was for the lowest cost solution. Mr. Benson responded that the planned design is for a TN Project that was significantly less expensive than what was envisioned prior to consideration of the impacts of the LTCP. An off-line discussion on alternatives was requested by one Committee member.

IX. EMERGING ISSUES/OTHER BUSINESS

1. Six Month Look Ahead: Large Contracts

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

The Committee requested an update of the Stimulus Package projects. Mr. Johnson advised that one would be scheduled after the legislation passes, and the impacts on WASA projects are known.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:25 p.m., to be followed by the Retail Services Committee.