



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

***Board of Directors***

***Environmental Quality and  
Operations Committee***

***Thursday, November 19, 2009***

***10:30 a.m.***

***MEETING MINUTES***

**Committee Members Present**

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

**WASA Staff Present**

George S. Hawkins, General Manager  
Leonard Benson, Acting Chief Engineer  
Avis Marie Russell, General Counsel  
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Lake called the meeting to order at 11:16 a.m. following adjournment of a joint committee meeting (Environmental Quality & Operations, D.C. Retail Services and Finance and Budget Committees) at which budget issues were presented.

**II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES**

**1. BPAWTP Performance**

Mr. Aklile Tesfaye, Manager of Wastewater Treatment, reported that plant performance was excellent for October and met all permit parameters. Flow averaged 298 MGD, with a 12 month rolling average of 300 MGD. Excess flow of 35 MG was treated and discharged during October. Biosolids production averaged 1108 wet tons per day, most of which was land applied. BNR performance averaged 5.2 mg/l, for an estimated 12-month discharge of 6.2 million pounds of nitrogen.

### III. STATUS UPDATES - USEPA

#### 1. AWTP NPDES Permit

Ms. Avis Russell, General Counsel, informed the Committee members that EPA had not issued the Blue Plains permit and advised the Committee that there are no new developments to report on this topic.

#### 2. LTCP/Water Quality Standards

Ms. Russell advised that there is also nothing to report on this topic.

### IV. STATUS UPDATES: POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR

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

Mr. David McLaughlin, Acting Director of Engineering and Technical Services, reported that the construction contract for Maryland and D.C. sites, which the Board approved earlier this month, should have a notice-to-proceed issued within the next few weeks. A revised schedule on the Virginia sites was distributed, which indicated recovery of schedule slippage would occur during the construction phase. Mr. McLaughlin asked the Committee whether monthly updates were still desired or would quarterly reporting be more appropriate. Mr. Lake stated that after the Virginia sites Invitation For Bids is advertised, we can consider quarterly reporting.

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

Mr. McLaughlin advised that the spool piece with straightening vanes to improve pump suction conditions will be delivered by December 15<sup>th</sup> and then installed. Some results should be available to report to the Committee at the January, 2010 meeting. It was agreed that the next update on this project would occur in January.

### V. PHILADELPHIA, PA LTCP – A “GREEN” PLAN

Mr. Carlton Ray, Director of the Long-Term Control Plan Department, introduced himself, noting that he is currently a department of one, with future employees to be hired. He is currently supported by consultants working to meet WASA's deadlines. He reviewed some background information on the WASA's LTCP plan. A site preparation contract that will demolish old digesters from the site where the tunnel shafts are to be located, is advertised with bid opening in mid December. An outreach meeting for potential designers and contractors for the LTCP projects was held on October 30<sup>th</sup> and was a huge success. The focus of

the project is currently on the Anacostia corridor, with construction of a four mile tunnel from Blue Plains to the Main and O Street Pumping Stations site

scheduled to commence in May 2011. A committee member commented that they expected to hear more about the LTCP progress in the future, Mr. Lake noted that perhaps such an update could replace the Potomac Interceptor Odor Abatement Project update. Mr. Lake suggested to the committee members that a visit to the Blue Plains work site would be beneficial in understanding the project.

Mr. Ray proceeded to review a presentation on the Philadelphia LTCP plan, noting that it has not been accepted by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania or EPA. That plan emphasizes a “greened acre” approach, and will not achieve the level of overflow reduction that the WASA plan will achieve. Mr. Hawkins noted that as a former regulator it is his opinion that the proposed plan will not meet water quality standards and is unlikely to be approved by EPA. He is completely in favor with our approach, particularly with respect to the Anacostia River projects.

A committee member noted that EPA is going full speed ahead with establishing Chesapeake Bay TMDLs. The Committee also requested that the General Manager seek to persuade the federal administration to work to install green roofs in the Federal Triangle, and also to determine how to declare victory on the Potomac River, since it is clearly swimmable based on a recent triathlon event. The committee member also requested a detailed briefing on cost sharing for the LTCP.

## **VI. DEPARTMENT OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT**

Sudhir Murthy, PhD, Manager of Research and Laboratory, gave a presentation highlighting the achievements in research that WASA has accomplished over the last seven years. The research approach is collaborative, involving operations, program management, universities and other utilities. The research budget is a small percentage relative to capital expenditures. Noteworthy accomplishments include a bioaugmentation process patent, establishment of lower kinetic rates for denitrification than previous literature had assumed, and a NACWA award. Time constraints prevented Dr. Murthy from going into the level of detail that he had planned. Mr. Lake noted that the Committee will review the presentation and have him back in the future to discuss other accomplishments.

## **VII. QUARTERLY CIP REPORT**

Mr. McLaughlin noted that the fourth quarter CIP report was being distributed, and he would be interested in comments from the Committee as to whether this

is what they would like to continue to see, or if there is other information or presentation that is preferred. Mr. Lake requested a memo more fully explaining what type of feedback is desired from the Committee.

## VIII. ACTION ITEMS – JOINT USE

Mr. Benson presented the following two joint use contract items to the Committee for consideration to forward to the full Board for approval:

<b>Joint Use Contracts Considered and Approved</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Prime Contractor</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Amount</b>
DCFA #409-WSA	Engineering Services	PEER Consultants, P.C.	Supplemental Agreement	\$492,824.00
090130	Construction	Civil Construction, L.L.C.	Contract	\$2,138,623.90

Mr. Benson noted that the construction contract action item has Stimulus (ARRA) funding, and also has an estimated WSSC share, which will be discussed further with WSSC tomorrow. A Committee member questioned whether approval of an item meant approval of cost shares. It does not. Ms. Russell noted that this item is not typical; virtually all joint-use items have agreed-upon cost sharing based on the Inter-Municipal Agreement. The Committee agreed to recommend both action items to the full Board for approval.

## IX. EMERGING ISSUES/OTHER BUSINESS

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

Mr. Benson noted that the updated six-month look-ahead of anticipated large procurements was distributed.

### 2. Master Plan – Joint Use & Non-Joint Use Capital Shares

A handout on retail/wholesale cost shares for the Master Facilities Plan was distributed. Also included was the cash flow by user shares for the Digestion Facilities.

Mr. Benson noted that in Other Business, an analysis of joint/non-joint use sewer system costs related to eleven sewers that flow between D.C. and the suburbs will be done by the first of December. The next step would be to present it to the Blue Plains Regional Committee. A Committee member requested that he receive a copy of whatever the Regional Committee receives. Mr. Lake advised that he would check with that committee's chairperson.

Another "Other Business" question was raised by a Committee member, requesting data on "engineer" positions in WASA. After a short discussion, it was

determined not to be within the purview of this Committee, and that the request should be pursued off-line.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.

### **Follow-up Items**

1. A request was made for a water supply-side monthly report similar to the Department of Wastewater Treatment monthly report. (Note-this is a Retail Services Committee Issue).
2. Provide a detailed briefing on the LTCP cost sharing.
3. Provide a memo requesting comments from the Committee on the CIP quarterly report.