



**District of Columbia  
Water and Sewer Authority**

**Board of Directors**

**Environmental Quality and  
Operations Committee**  
Tuesday, March 24, 2009

9:30 a.m.

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present**

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

**WASA Staff Present**

Jerry Johnson, General Manager  
Leonard Benson, Acting Chief Engineer  
Gregory Hope, Staff Counsel  
Linda Manley, Board Secretary

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Cotruvo called the Committee Meeting to order at 9:35 a.m., at the request of Mr. Lake, who was delayed by traffic. Mr. Lake arrived shortly thereafter.

**II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES**

**1. BPAWTP Performance**

Mr. Walt Bailey, Director of Wastewater Treatment, reported that plant performance was excellent for February. Flow averaged 275 MGD for the month with a resulting 12-month rolling average of 296 MGD. Rainfall for the month was extremely low at 0.35 inches, setting a record for low rainfall. BNR performance averaged 6.4 mg/l, with the 12 month rolling average of 7.5 mg/l, meeting the annual nitrogen goal. On the biosolids side, production for the month averaged 1239 tons per day, with a 12 month average of 1152 tons per day.

**III. STATUS UPDATE**

**1. AWTP NPDES Permit**

Mr. Leonard Benson, Acting Chief Engineer, advised the Committee that WASA is actively negotiating the NPDES permit and LTCP/Water Quality Standards with

EPA. It is EPA's intention to issue a proposed permit as a discussion item for comment by WASA, Earth Justice, and the Chesapeake Bay Foundation, and after a joint meeting and receipt of comments, issue a formal draft for public comment. EPA is well aware of WASA's objection to their proposing the inclusion of both Outfalls 001 and 002 as permitted outfalls (bubble permit issue) and has agreed to work with DCWASA on resolving differences over this permit parameter

## **2. LTCP/Water Quality Standards**

As noted above, the Consent Decree modifications as related to the NPDES Permit modifications, to accommodate the TN/WW plan, are being discussed with EPA.

A Committee member asked about progress of the discussion by the Blue Plains Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) on IMA issues. These have been characterized as "cautiously promising." Mr. Lake reported that the negotiating team will meet again this week and the CAOs are expected to meet in the next few weeks. Cost splits for the LTCP and Nitrogen projects are the topics to be addressed by the CAOs when they meet, and once the CAOs have met there will be a report to the Board.

## **IV. STATUS UPDATES**

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

Mr. David McLaughlin, Acting Director of Engineering and Technical Services, updated the Committee on recent activities. The Odor Abatement project continues on schedule towards a July construction advertisement for Maryland and D.C. sites. A newsletter on the project is going out to stakeholders, and a meeting with the stakeholders groups is to be held tonight (March 24<sup>th</sup>), hosted by the Cabin John Civic Association. The newsletters will be posted on the DCWASA website. A Committee member requested that Mr. McLaughlin confirm that such is the case, and that a search for "Potomac Interceptor" will result in valid links.

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

Mr. McLaughlin advised the Committee that DCWASA has modified the inlet to the second of three pumps, and expect good results. The modification involves the removal of a crescent plate that had been installed under this contract to improve pump performance. Hydraulic modeling by Alden Labs had shown an 18% improvement in flow distribution with these plates. However, it appears that the installation of these plates in the inlet channels has had an unintended adverse impact on pump operation. The pump experts reviewing this situation

are at a loss to explain why. The third of the three pumps will be modified shortly, after which the rated capacity of the pumping station may be achieved and certified.

### **3. Biosolids Management Program**

Mr. Lake opened this topic by noting that the Board Chairman had made a specific request for a report each month. Mr. Benson provided an update on the status of the program, which is proceeding on two tracks, one of which is developing the technical plan for the necessary projects, and the other of which is developing the delivery methods, to achieve completion by a late 2013/early 2014 date. Mr. Benson advised that a presentation and recommendation on the recommended delivery methods could be made at the June Committee meeting. There was discussion from the Committee regarding whether different technologies are still being considered. It was clarified by both Mr. Benson and Mr. Johnson that proposals promising significant savings will be reviewed, however, the project is proceeding on the basis of using thermal hydrolysis. Other technologies that are being promoted by vendors, such as fluidized bed incineration and the Enertech process, had been considered in the project planning process, and were not found to be favorable for WASA's program. Mr. Johnson emphasized that he did not want to be "serial number 001" on a new technology.

Mr. Lake requested the project management plan be submitted showing that a thorough technical review has been done, confirming technology selection and that the project is on the right path. The Committee requested that "crisp and concise" monthly updates be furnished in the future updates showing progress achieved in the prior month.

## **V. DCWASA ENERGY MANAGEMENT WORK PLAN**

Mr. Ernest Jolly, Energy Manager updated the Committee with a presentation on the approach that the Authority is taking to develop a comprehensive energy plan. An Energy Policy Statement was presented. The highlights of the work plan are that it focuses on environmental stewardship; recognizes that over 80% of WASA's carbon footprint is due to energy use; compliance with DC's "Clean and Affordable Energy Act of 2008" should be facilitated; and many of Metropolitan Washington Council of Government's recent climate change report recommendations have been incorporated.

Mr. Jolly also reported that a Carbon Footprint Steering Committee has been established. A Committee member asked whether there was an inventory of WASA's greenhouse gas emissions (annual CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent). Mr. Jolly stated that studies were ongoing, aimed at developing this inventory. The question was raised due to a prospective EPA rule that will designate 25,000 tons per year of

CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent as a reporting threshold. The rule does not include municipal systems at this time, but conceivably could in the future. The Committee requested that staff provide the current estimate of WASA's greenhouse gas emissions.

Mr. Jolly summarized the schedule for the implementation of the energy management work plan, with energy audits to be completed and a baseline and benchmarks developed by December 31, 2009. It is anticipated that expert assistance from a specialized consulting firm will be required. The Committee requested that baseline information be furnished prior to the end of the year if possible. Some discussion followed on how to report energy information on large capital projects, including projected energy cost assumptions. The Committee requested that staff review this issue and provide recommendations.

## **VI. WSSC ENERGY MANAGEMENT**

Mr. Lake introduced Mr. Rob Taylor, WSSC Energy Manager, who gave a presentation on "WSSC Energy Initiatives". Mr. Taylor has been on board with WSSC for eight years; prior to that, WSSC had not had a formal energy manager position. WSSC has a broad range of energy management approaches being accomplished in multiple phases. The most prominent is their participation in the capital funding of a wind farm that will provide up to 33% of their energy needs when fully operational. WSSC must purchase the remaining power from other market sources. They have developed strategies to do so. Other significant WSSC energy projects completed or pending include improvements in pumping efficiency and load shifting, co-generation with digester gas, improvements in efficiency of a sludge incinerator that they operate, and solar panel installations. WSSC makes use of revenue neutral contracts with energy companies that develop/construct projects with their fee for doing so recouped from anticipated energy savings. WSSC also makes extensive use of various Maryland state grants. WSSC's long term goal is to achieve an 80% reduction in carbon footprint, with no increase in operating costs, by 2050.

## **VII. 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:

<b>Joint Use Contracts Considered and Approved</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Prime Contractor</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Amount</b>
WAS-09-009-AB-SM	Goods and Services	Polydyne, Inc.	Contract	\$2,000,000.00
WAS-09-009-AA-SM	Goods and Services	Ciba Corporation	Contract	\$1,280,000.00
080120	Construction	EMH Environmental, Inc.	Contract	\$1,887,100.00
030210	Construction	Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC	Change Order	\$1,649,578.30
090040	Construction	Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC	Contract	\$42,267,000.00

The Committee agreed to forward all to the full Board for approval, with the caveat that additional information on the user jurisdiction funding split for Contract 090040 be furnished. Corrections were requested to the Goods and Services contracts to correct the units indicated in the cost per unit. The contract type for Contract 090040 is to be corrected to "Construction Contract".

## **VIII. EMERGING ISSUES/OTHER BUSINESS**

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

The updated six-month look-ahead of anticipated large procurements was distributed.

### **2. Revision of Procurement Regulations**

Mr. Benson updated the Committee on recent actions and a proposed schedule for Board approval of these regulations. The regulations will go to the full Board on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. The plan is to publish for a 30 day comment period, and go back to the Board on June 4<sup>th</sup>. Implementation goal is June 12<sup>th</sup>.

### **3. Stimulus Program**

A list of projects proposed by WASA for stimulus program funding was distributed. Mr. Johnson noted that \$19 million was granted for Clean Water Act (CWA) projects, and \$19 million for Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) projects. Twenty percent of the grant funding for the CWA projects is set aside for "green" projects, and the District's Department of the Environment will be the lead agency to review these. The SDWA also has a twenty percent "green projects set aside" component which must be approved by EPA

### **4. Other Business**

A Committee member distributed a printout of the Chief Engineer position, that he obtained from the WASA website and questioned its accuracy and completeness. Mr. Johnson apologized for this erroneous web posting, and

noted that it has been corrected. WASA has engaged a new search firm for this position and is actively interviewing candidates. A more comprehensive position description was given to the Committee.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m., to be followed by the Retail Services Committee.