



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

Board of Directors

***Environmental Quality and
Operations Committee***

Thursday, September 17, 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

Avis Marie Russell, Interim General Manager
Meena Gowda, Acting General Counsel
Linda Manley, Board Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lake called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m. and noted that an executive session would be held after Agenda Item VIII to discuss the Blue Plains permit and also noted that his goal was to strive to keep the meeting on time, with the open session agenda items done by 10:45, and allowing the remaining time until 11:00 a.m. for the executive session.

II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Mr. Aklile Tesfaye, Wastewater Treatment Manager, reported that plant performance was excellent for July and August and met all permit parameters. Flow averaged 287 MGD in July; 293 MGD for August. Rainfall for July was 1.1 inches, which is lower than normal, although there was 17 million gallons of excess flow. Rainfall for August was 2.5 inches; also lower than normal with no excess flow events. Biosolids production averaged 1028 wet tons per day for July and 1046 wet tons per day for August. BNR performance averaged 6.3 mg/l for July and 6.5 mg/l for August, for a 12-month discharge total for the period ending in August, of 5.9 million pounds of nitrogen, which is better than the current annual permit goal.

Mr. Tesfaye also gave a presentation illustrating the impact current construction work at Blue Plains is having on biological nitrogen removal performance. Ms. Russell noted that Chairman Walker had raised a question based on an earlier Board report that indicated that removal was impacted by construction activities. Mr. Tesfaye then continued with his presentation, which illustrated that although the permit goal is still being met, nitrogen removal performance is noticeably lower in the last two years due to construction requiring that reactor tanks and sedimentation basins be taken out of service for rehabilitation and improvements. The presentation included pictures of typical construction activity in the facility, the final reactor process flow diagram, and construction schedule. It is anticipated that construction in the reactors will be completed by the end of 2009 at which time we anticipate much improved biological nitrogen removal performance. The Committee requested that slide numbers be added to the presentation, and that on what would be slide 2, the graph indicate that the year periods referred to are calendar years, as opposed to fiscal years. They requested that a note be added to reflect this,

III. STATUS UPDATE

1. AWTP NPDES Permit

Ms. Russell, Interim General Manager, advised the Committee that a revised draft of the final permit was received yesterday (September 16, 2009), and that any specific discussion on it would have to be in executive session. Mr. Lake recalled that EPA said they would contact Mr. Benson prior to issuing it, and Ms. Russell confirmed that Mr. Benson sent an e-mail to EPA reminding them of that commitment. Mr. Benson and Mr. Walt Bailey are out of the office this week and not available to comment on the new draft permit before next week, and EPA noted that they intend to issue it next week. Ms. Russell recommended to EPA that a WASA and EPA staff have an opportunity to discuss the permit language before EPA issues the permit.

2. LTCP/Water Quality Standards

Ms. Russell noted that developments on this topic are related to the discussion above.

IV. STATUS UPDATES: POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR

1. Potomac Interceptor Sewer Odor Abatement Project

Mr. David McLaughlin, Acting Director of Engineering and Technical Services, noted that the construction bid phase for Maryland and D.C. sites is continuing, with bid opening anticipated for next week on the 23rd. As far as the Virginia sites, some time was lost in the rezoning process, and WASA has asked the consultant for a recovery schedule to see if the time can be recouped. Mr.

McLaughlin advised Mr. Lake that information on the bid results would be provided at next month's meeting.

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

Mr. McLaughlin advised that a spool piece with straightening vanes to improve pump suction conditions will be fabricated, installed and tested by December. Ms. Russell noted that WASA has received a Dept. of Justice (DOJ) notice to discuss the matter; probably due to the fact that it has been over one year since the station's performance was supposed to be certified. She has recommended that a conference call with DOJ take place after October 19th, which they are considering. The Committee questioned whether the original design work included modeling, which Mr. McLaughlin confirmed. Prior modeling addressed what was then suspected to be the performance problem. WASA has encountered an extremely unusual situation; which has since been confirmed to be occurring at two other large pumping stations in the U.S., where pump performance initially achieves its rating point, but then gradually falls off. The proposed solution will distribute flow more uniformly to the pump impeller and hopefully solve the problem.

V. DCWASA FACILITIES MASTER PLAN

1. Overall Plan

Ms. Russell noted that the former General Manager had started a master plan effort based on the need to find more space for WASA employees, to review space needs at all facilities, as well as the impact of moving staff and certain functions out of the Main and "O" Street complex. Ms. Constance Schwartz and Mr. Paul Falkenbury, consultants involved in this study, went through the presentation, in an abbreviated form, due to the Committee's desire to understand the "big picture" at this point, and to maintain the meeting schedule. All WASA facilities were toured by the consultant team and senior management and staff interviewed during this study. The plan developed recommendations for Blue Plains, Bryant Street, Fort Reno, Anacostia Water Pumping Station and Main and "O" Street facilities and their operational/staffing functions.

2. Phasing and Near Term Needs

Ms. Russell reviewed the plan recommendations, along with the rationale for requiring some items to be completed as early as possible. It was recommended that cost implications and cost allocations among users should be developed due to the combination of joint and non-joint-use facilities that are proposed to be constructed. The need for the acquisition of two new sites for DSS and Fleet facilities was discussed.

VI. BIOSOLIDS PROGRAM

Mr. Chris Peot, Biosolids Manager, gave a status report on the Blue Plains Biosolids Reuse Plan, touching on the current status, research projects, new program highlights, digester implementation opportunities and recommendations as the program moves forward. An initial chart showed how the biosolids tonnage has been declining over the last five years. This is not due to less solids in the plant, but rather improvements in dewatering. WASA still depends almost entirely on Virginia for its land application program. There continues to be some public opposition and regulatory initiatives and WASA stays aware of these challenges. There are several biosolids use research projects underway with the active support and financial involvement of WASA. There are small scale and large scale compost projects in place, one on-site and one a contracted operation in Virginia. The Virginia site has recently added a bagging mechanism to create a packaged product. Mr. Peot believes that there is a void in the local market, formerly filled by Compro, that WASA will be able to fill in the future with its Class A digested product. A demonstration garden was developed on-site, and some examples of the plants were assembled on a table in the room. Mr. Lake thanked Mr. Peot for the status update and complimented him on the program and his enthusiasm in promoting Blue Plains biosolids.

VII. ACTION ITEMS – JOINT USE

The following four joint use contract items were presented to the Committee for consideration to forward to the full Board:

Joint Use Contracts Considered and Approved				
No.	Type	Prime Contractor	Scope	Amount
WAS-06-030-AA-ND	Goods and Services	Allied Barton Security Services.	Option Year 3	\$3,651,500.00
WAS-06-012-AA-JW	Goods and Services	First Vehicle Services.	Option Year 3	\$1,413,888.00
000090	Construction	Emerson Process Management.	Change Order	\$848,512.00
WAS-09-012-AA-GA	Goods and Services	M&M Electric Motor Repair, Inc.	Contract Modification	\$500,000.00

The Committee raised specific questions related to three of the fact sheets. The Allied Barton fact sheet should indicate the actual spending for the first option year. The First Vehicle Services fact sheet should reflect staff's opinion that they are satisfied with the contractor's past performance. The M&M Electric Motor fact sheet should clarify what the original scope was and what the change order scope is, and should be noted as a joint-use item. There were no objections to the items other than the need for these clarifications. The Committee agreed to recommend all action items to the full Board for approval, subject to appropriate fact sheet revisions.

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. Combined Heat and Power Project – Grant Application

Mr. Ernest Jolly, Energy Manager, updated the Committee regarding the Department of Energy (DOE) grant schedule, and the four criteria of that DOE program, which WASA's co-gen project aligns nicely with. The grant award, if any, is still pending.

3. Flushed Pharmaceuticals

Dr. Sudhir Murthy, Manager of Research reviewed the status of research into the fate of pharmaceuticals. It was noted that the pharmaceuticals measured at a wastewater treatment plant are mostly the result of human excretion with only small amounts that are the result of those chemicals being directly flushed. Dr. Murthy pointed out that the numbers being published in studies for the levels of the various chemicals are in parts per billion or less. A part per billion is equivalent to a single drop in a 25 Olympic size swimming pools, so these quantities are extremely small. Wastewater treatment typically reduces these amounts by an order of magnitude. Mr. Lake suggested a future briefing on the fate and effect of the pharmaceuticals once they get into receiving waters.

4. Publication of DCWASA “Good News” Stories

The Committee received a handout which listed media outlets which are or can be utilized for positive stories about WASA achievements. Ms. Russell advised that if any others are known, they can be added. The Committee noted that the original request noted a site that is a daily report and tends to list a lot of occurrences that take place at small utilities and facilities. WASA should provide info on its successful and much larger scale facilities and achievements.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The open meeting was adjourned at 11:10 a.m. and an executive session was convened.