



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

Board of Directors

**Environmental Quality and
Operations Committee**
Thursday, February 18, 2010

9:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

David W. Lake, Chairman
David J. Bardin
Joseph Cotruvo
Howard Gibbs
Brenda Richardson
F. Alexis Roberson
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 9:34 a.m. Mr. Lake stated that based on prior discussions with Committee members, he would like to have extended discussion of the Committee's opinion on the new Quarterly Capital Improvement Project Report, and on proposed Committee structure revisions. Accordingly, discussion items were added to Agenda Item IX. Under "Other Business," as follows:

1. Is a mid-year CIP review necessary?
2. Proposed changes to the Board Committee structure.

II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Mr. Walt Bailey, Director of Wastewater Treatment, reported that plant performance was excellent for January and met all permit parameters. Precipitation for the month was below average at 1.6 inches, however flow was high at 317 MGD. Biosolids production averaged 1124 wet tons per day with a 12 month rolling average of 1167 tons. Biological Nutrient Removal performance was 5.9 mg/l and the 12 month average was 5.5 mg/l. The high plant influent flow correlated with high ground water levels during the month.

Mr. Bailey advised the Committee that plant operations went very well during the recent blizzard with no permit violations. Extra crews were brought in and some remained at the plant from Friday morning until Tuesday. Additional chemicals were ordered as a precaution. Biosolids hauling contractors worked to keep the solids from backing up in the plant, by hauling to storage and landfills, since biosolids cannot be applied to fields in these weather conditions. A Committee member noted that there were odors evident from the plant recently, and

Mr. Bailey advised that some biosolids were stockpiled on site and were in the process of being removed.

III. STATUS UPDATES - US EPA

1. AWTP NPDES Permit

Ms. Avis Marie Russell, General Counsel, advised that there are no new developments on the pending National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit (NPDES).

2. LTCP/Water Quality Standards

On this regulatory topic, Ms. Russell noted that WASA has not been engaged recently with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on a regular basis, however staff has met internally. Our approach was to send EPA a facility plan to document what we intend to do, and include the Total Nitrogen/Wet Weather Plan of October 2007 as a supplement to that facility plan. In response to a question about WASA's recourse with regard to a disagreement with EPA on these Long Term Control Plan (LTCP) issues, Ms. Russell stated that staff would have to initiate the dispute resolution process defined in the Consent Decree.

3. DC DOE – Trash TMDL

Ms. Russell explained that the District is in the process of preparing a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) on trash and we have met with the District Department of Environment (DDOE). DDOE has changed the proposed language from zero trash allowed, to a 100% capture requirement, neither of which seems achievable. DDOE has stated that they will continue to share proposed language with us prior to issuing this TMDL. A Committee member requested that WASA investigate what could be done to reduce trash from the Combined Sewer Overflows (CSOs) prior to LTCP completion. Mr. Hawkins noted that this proposed TMDL illustrates the classical regulator/operator interaction. DDOE is pushing the envelope, while WASA would propose a standard that is achievable and practical. Greater focus on this issue was requested by the Committee in a future meeting.

Mr. Hawkins noted that he is aware that the perspective on regulations depends on where you sit, and he is considering suggesting a rotation of staff between DDOE and WASA to provide perspective to both agencies.

IV. STATUS UPDATES: POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR

1. Potomac Interceptor Sewer Odor Abatement Project

Mr. David McLaughlin, Acting Director of Engineering and Technical Services, stated that the contractor for the MD and DC sites is working on preliminary activities prior to mobilizing, and yesterday WASA received a draft of the National Park Service (NPS) general permit conditions. NPS requirements for each individual site will be addressed through supplemental permits. For the Virginia sites, Zoning Special Exception, and other approvals are progressing.

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

Mr. McLaughlin advised that the contractor has been requested to provide spool pieces with straightening vanes for the two pumps still requiring inlet modifications. Due to fabrication and construction time, the next update will likely not be until May/June. Mr. Lake suggested that the tentative plan be for an update at the May meeting. In response to a Committee question on EPA acceptance of this pump issue as a force majeure event, Mr. McLaughlin noted that we report to EPA monthly and have recently had teleconferences with them; their position has been to withhold judgment on the force majeure issue while WASA focuses on fixing the problem.

V. QUARTERLY CIP REPORT

Mr. McLaughlin discussed the simplified CIP report and at the request of the Committee explained what each report entry represented. The Committee expressed a desire to see more detail that explained what was behind each of the charts or metrics, perhaps if possible, having details available through the electronic copy of each chart that defined the source information. A listing of milestones was requested as was an explanation of how Board members can use this information.

A Committee member suggested that thought be given to a mid-year CIP review that gave a more detailed idea of where WASA is on CIP performance. The committee recommended that this review be in the June time frame, based on the January Board approval of the proposed CIP.

VI. CHESAPEAKE BAY PROGRAM – TMDLS VIS-À-VIS BPAWTP NUTRIENT ALLOCATIONS

Mr. Len Benson, Acting Chief Engineer gave a presentation to the Committee to inform them of the concerns that WASA has with Chesapeake Bay TMDLs and load allocation process as they pertain to the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant (AWTP), which is unusual in that it receives flows from multiple state jurisdictions. The current Chesapeake Bay Plan is a voluntary program based on waste load allocations

(WLA) and associated tributary strategies with the WLA being assigned to the various states and the District. A concern is that the states and the District “own” these loads, and could theoretically take allocations away from Blue Plains, resulting in the need for sizeable capital and O&M cost increases to comply with reduced nutrient limits. It was recognized that this was a developing issue and that more information would be brought to the committee as the TMDL process progresses during 2010. On a related topic it was mentioned that there is also the potential for a new TMDL for ammonia, which would possibly result in a lower limit than the plant is currently designed to achieve.

VII. JOINT USE SEWERS COST SHARE ANALYSIS

Mr. Benson gave a presentation on the background and proposed plan for equitably assigning capital costs to joint-use sewerage facilities. The proposed method relies on the use of the MIKE URBAN hydraulic model, accepted for the development of the LTCP, to analyze joint-use flow pathways and develop logical capital cost allocations based on verifiable realistic peak flow demands. The purpose of this study is to propose a technical basis for all parties to consider.

The intention is to finalize the draft report on this subject by March 1, 2010 and present the report to the Blue Plains Regional Committee so that it may be considered in the IMA negotiations. Committee members requested they receive copies of the report when it is distributed to the Regional Committee.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS – JOINT USE

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

Joint Use Contracts Considered and Approved				
No.	Type	Prime Contractor	Scope	Amount
090220	Construction	Corinthian Contractors, Inc.	Contract	\$10,378,710.00
DCFA #412-WSA	Engineering Services	CH2M Hill, Inc.	Supplemental Agreement	\$1,876,325.00
WAS-10-025-AA-RE	Goods and Services	Kuehne Chemical Company, Inc.	Contract	\$2,135,812.00
WAS-06-035-AA-ND	Goods and Services	Urban Service Systems Corporation	Option Year 3	\$9,956,700.00
WAS-06-035-AB-ND	Goods and Services	Recyc Systems, Inc.	Option Year 3	\$2,537,000.00
WAS-06-025-AA-JW	Goods and Services	First Vehicle Services	Option Year 3	\$571,725.00
WAS-06-005-AA-ND	Goods and Services	Urban Service Systems Corporation	Option Year 4	\$890,300.00
DCFA #409-WSA	Engineering Services	PEER Consultants, P.C.	Supplemental Agreement	\$480,000.00

Mr. Benson noted that in the future, fact sheets will reflect the Committee's previous request to parenthetically include contract durations in years, next to the listed calendar days. The construction contract fact sheet (Contract 090220) did not list the subcontractor information, and by way of explanation, it was pointed out that the exact percentage participation of various subcontractors was highly variable and dependent on the type of work that is assigned under this task order-type contract. Discussion on option year renewals for the goods and services contracts revolved around the verification of reasonableness of costs for the contract renewals. Ms. Teresa Scott, Acting Procurement Director, confirmed to the Committee that market surveys were performed and prices validated. The new goods and services contract for sodium hypochlorite deliveries actually achieves significant chemical cost savings over the prior contract. The Committee requested that market survey information on any action items be forwarded to the Committee. The Committee agreed to forward all items for approval by the full Board.

IX. EMERGING ISSUES/STATUS UPDATES

1. Six Month Look Ahead: Large Contracts

It was noted that this list was handed out, and there were no issues that needed committee action.

2. FOG: A Valuable Resource

Mr. Benson noted that WASA is investigating the utilization of fats, oils and greases ("FOG") in our future digestion process due to its high energy value. There is interest in this region in the collection of this to make biodiesel. If instead it is received at Blue Plains, it could be introduced into the digestion process where it would generate methane for use in the combined heat and power facility. Mr. Lake noted that WSSC has adopted new FOG program and regulations and WASA may want to review these for applicability to the District program.

3. Agreement on Cost sharing for Blue Plains Tunnel Site Prep

Mr. Benson informed the Committee that there has been recent agreement with WSSC on the Blue Plains Tunnel Site Preparation contract cost sharing. A Committee member reminded staff of a previous request for an explanation of the cost shift between the TN and the LTCP budgets.

Other Business: Mr. Lake opened the floor up for Committee members to discuss any ideas that they had for Committee restructuring. Combining meetings, breaking up the committees further, developing a means of teleconferencing, alternating committee start times, and having a quarterly meeting to address more substantial topics were among the ideas broached. Mr. Hawkins noted that there needs to be some agreement on the jurisdiction of the various committees, the frequency of meetings and meeting management. Discussion is to be continued.

Mr. Hawkins advised the Committee of updates to the WASA website that allow users to see the locations of DC's fire hydrants and storm drains on Google Earth. The web site now includes an appeal to residents to clear out storm drains to allow snow melt to reach the drains, and to clear snow from fire hydrants

Mr. Benson noted that the Biosolids Management Project Update was included in hand outs provided before the meeting.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Follow-up Items

1. Investigate what can be done to reduce trash from CSOs prior to completion of the LTCP
2. Furnish the Joint-use Facilities Capital Cost Allocation Study to the Committee when it is shared with the Blue Plains Regional Committee
3. Provide further information on the transfer of CIP funding (\$100M) from the TN program to the LTCP program
4. Provide further details on the new CIP Quarterly Report format, including a list of all referenced milestones.
5. Provide a Mid-term CIP review at the June meeting
6. Furnish information with regard to how the Joint-use Facilities Capital Cost Allocation Study was funded, and associated cost splits.