



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

Board of Directors

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

9:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

David W. Lake, Chairman
David J. Bardin
Joseph Cotruvo
Howard Gibbs
Robert Hoyt
Brenda Richardson
F. Alexis Roberson
Paivi Spoon

WASA Staff Present

George S. Hawkins, General Manager
Leonard Benson, Acting Chief Engineer
Gregory Hope, Staff Counsel
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

Board Member Present

Alethia Nancoo

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Lake called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m. and noted that due to the full agenda, he would like for the Committee to stay on topic.

II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Mr. Walt Bailey, Director of Wastewater Treatment, noted that February was an interesting month, with 2.7 inches of total precipitation, but that the precipitation fell as 32 inches of snow. As a result, all of the precipitation was treated at the plant. Due to high groundwater and the slow melting of the snow, the average flow for the month was high, at 351 MGD. Biosolids production averaged 1233 wet tons per day. BNR performance was 5.8 mg/l with a 12-month average of 5.5 mg/l, still well below the annual average limit of 7.5 mg/l. There was complete compliance with all permit parameters for the month.

A Committee member raised a question regarding combined sewer overflows (CSO), noting that the New York Times stated flatly that there were overflows of untreated sewage last weekend, a period when he had observed a steady drizzle and rain, without any sudden heavy downpours. He thought that previous modeling of CSO's for the development of the Long-term Control Plan had indicated that such rainfall would make it to Blue Plains, rather than overflowing. Questions he raised were, 1) What happened over this weekend? 2) What does the model predict to happen in such a rain event?, and 3) How useful is the model in predicting overflows from this type of rain event?

Mr. Carlton Ray, Director of the LTCP responded that he thinks that the model referenced is a very well calibrated and accurate hydraulic model, and noted that he would follow up on the specific questions related to last weekend. Mr. Lake raised the question whether there was a record of the automatic lights that are supposed to be activated in an overflow event and Mr. Ray said he would check the records. In response to this earlier question regarding whether CSO overflow lights were activated over the weekend, Mr. Hawkins advised that the indicator light at CSO No. 7 on the Anacostia River did activate, and confirmed that the hydraulic model estimated an overflow of eighty million gallons occurred over this past weekend.

A Committee member asked a question regarding apparent differences in biosolids management unit costs incurred by the user jurisdictions, as indicated in market surveys provided last month for contract action items. Staff responded that the principal difference was a result of higher wages mandated by Davis-Bacon wage rates that are included in WASA contracts. Mr. Lake noted that this issue was not on the agenda, and would be best handled/discussed as an agenda item at a future meeting.

III. STATUS UPDATES

1. US EPA AWTP NPDES Permit

Mr. Leonard Benson, Acting Chief Engineer, advised that the revised permit is still pending with the current issue being an ongoing discussion between EPA and the national Marine Fisheries service over their objections to the proposed permit. In response to a question whether that was the only outstanding issue, Mr. Benson and Mr. Hawkins noted that WASA still has some concerns with other permit language (previously briefed to the Board in executive session), of which EPA is well aware.

2. US EPA LTCP/Water Quality Standards

On this regulatory topic, Mr. Benson noted that WASA is actively working on proposed modifications to the consent decree with EPA and DOJ to reflect what EPA has accepted, but not formally approved, in the Total Nitrogen/Wet Weather

Plan. Mr. Lake requested that the Committee see the Consent Decree language that we are trying to amend.

IV. STATUS UPDATES: POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR

1. Potomac Interceptor Sewer Odor Abatement Project

Mr. David McLaughlin, Acting Director of Engineering and Technical Services, opened with the good news that the National Park Service has issued permits for the DC odor control facility and for one of the three Montgomery county sites. Mr. Lake requested notification of the date of an upcoming public meeting in Montgomery County.

Mr. McLaughlin noted that on the Virginia sites, engineering design is proceeding well, with final bid documents expected next month. He is not as confident with regard to the schedule for the zoning special exception process, but still hopes to have a contract before the committee in June or July. Regarding a suggestion that Board members be engaged to help the zoning effort, he stated that he would like to see the process proceed a little further before getting Board members involved.

V. CONTROL OF TRASH IN THE ANACOSTIA RIVER

Mr. Lake introduced Mr. Carlton Ray, Director of the Long-Term Control Plan after noting that the Committee had been advised of the potential Trash TMDL, with the obvious concern over the 100% reduction standard proposed. Mr. Ray gave a presentation that outlined the sources of trash in the Anacostia, the scope of the problem, and various technologies and educational efforts that are available to deal with it. The Committee seemed particularly interested in the capture rates of the various technologies, and the education processes that WASA is engaged in.

A Committee member pointed out that there are multiple organizations with the same goal, and WASA should acknowledge them and partner with them as appropriate. Mr. Hawkins noted that he expects going forward that there will be 1) Increased public education, 2) Acknowledgement of other groups, and 3) More partnering with these groups.

A Committee member requested information on how much WASA currently spends on trash control measures. Another Committee member commented on what he saw as three policy questions for the General Manager, related to communications with the community; the proposed TMDL; and a policy on management/upgrading of WASA's existing trash control facilities.

VI. ENERGY AUDIT: STATUS UPDATES

Mr. Ernest Jolly, Energy Manager gave a presentation to the Committee to update them on progress on the Energy Audit Project for WASA. Energy represents ninety percent of WASA's carbon footprint. The audit team has interviewed 30 individuals, and held workshops to identify "quick wins"; as a result of this effort a group of over 250 cost saving opportunities were determined that could result in \$300,000 to \$500,000 in annual energy savings. The Blue Plains process control system (PCS) has been invaluable in obtaining data on energy consumption.

Mr. Jolly described the Pepco Energy Savings Program that could provide additional funding to WASA towards accomplishing a reduction in energy usage. The Pepco program could provide up to \$500,000 in 2010 and again in 2011 in funds that can be used to implement audit recommendations.

A ten-year energy master plan is under development and Mr. Jolly estimated that a draft would be available by September. Intermediate level projects requiring initial engineering efforts are being evaluated, as are energy generation alternatives. Mr. Jolly confirmed that in addition to the operating departments, both the Office of Public Affairs and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer will be involved in the audit efforts.

VII. CLEAN AIR ACT PERMIT: STATUS UPDATE

Due to time limitations, this Agenda item was postponed to a future meeting.

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
DCFA #375-WSA	Engineering Services	Rummell, Klepper & Kahl, LLC	Supplemental Agreement	\$839,276.00
030210	Construction	Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC	Change Order	\$151,599.00
060080	Construction	Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC.	Change Order	\$1,065,000.00
WAS-10-008-AA-JB	Goods and Services	Colonial Chemical Solutions, Inc.	Contract	\$6,135,831.00
040140	Construction	Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC.	Change Order	\$984,000.00

On DCFA #375-WA, the Committee raised questions whether the MBE and WBE percentages represented achievement of the overall contract, or on the particular action item. Mr. Benson clarified that it was on the action item, and also that performance with respect to participation goals is monitored over the entire contract. A question was raised on the Contract 060080 change order, which showed 100% DC funding, but is being presented as a Joint-use action item. Mr. Benson noted that, as is the procedure in such cases where the exact cost split is yet to be determined, there is an asterisked comment to that effect on the fact sheet. The Committee agreed to forward all items for approval by the full Board.

IX. EMERGING ISSUES/OTHER BUSINESS

1. Cost Sharing for Joint-Use Sewer Facility Capital Cost Allocation

Due to time constraints and the probability that there would be a great deal of discussion on this topic, Mr. Lake deferred it to a future meeting.

In Other Business Items, Mr. Lake requested that the Board be notified regarding meetings that the General Manager is having with the environmental community. Mr. Hawkins stated that he will take that under advisement. A Committee member asked when WASA was going to provide information/workshop on how minority contractors can do business with WASA. Mr. Hawkins responded that Mr. Gus Bass will be following up on this issue.

A Committee member took the opportunity to recognize and thank Mr. Lake for his leadership of this Committee, which was accompanied with a round of applause.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Follow-up Items

1. Provide information at a future meeting on differences between District of Columbia and WSSC unit prices for biosolids management contracts
2. Reschedule status update on the Clean Air Act Permit
3. Reschedule discussion of Cost Sharing for Joint-Use Sewer Facility Capital Cost Allocation
4. Provide information on WASA spending on trash removal