



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

Board of Directors

***Environmental Quality and
Sewerage Services Committee
Thursday, April 15, 2010***

9:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Robert Hoyt, Chairperson
Joseph Cotruvo
Howard Gibbs
David Lake
James Patteson
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

Other Board Member Present

David J. Bardin

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hoyt called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. and noted his commitment to start the meetings on time. He then announced that he had asked Mr. Lake to be Vice Chair and thanked him for his hard work in chairing the Committee for the last few years, which was followed by a round of applause.

II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Mr. Walt Bailey, Director of Wastewater Treatment, noted that March was an average month for precipitation, with 3.6 inches of rainfall, but due to high groundwater levels the average flow for the month was high, at 367 MGD. Biosolids production averaged 1332 wet tons per day, higher than the annual average, which typically occurs in winter due to less efficient dewatering. BNR performance was 6.7 mg/l with a 12-month average of 5.4 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.

At the Committee's request, Mr. Bailey explained a chart in the wastewater treatment report that showed the relationship between groundwater elevations and plant flow, indicating a high degree of correlation. A Committee member pointed out that rainfall if overlaid on the chart would also correlate to plant flow, leading both the groundwater and plant flow curves.

III. STATUS UPDATES

1. US EPA AWTP NPDES Permit

Mr. Leonard Benson, Acting Chief Engineer, advised that there is no new information to report on the permit revision by EPA. An informal comment received from EPA was that they would like to get it out soon. EPA did issue a finding that the new permit would benefit the fish species that the Marine Fisheries Service had cited in their discussion. Avis Russell reiterated that EPA has stated that DC WASA would see a draft permit before the permit is officially issued. Mr. Hawkins noted that he would like to schedule a presentation of the Cummings and Cardin Chesapeake Bay congressional bills that have been introduced in Congress.

2. US EPA LTCP/Water Quality Standards

Mr. Benson noted that DC WASA is working with DDOE on the proposed trash TMDL and also working with EPA on consent decree modifications necessary to reflect the Total Nitrogen/Wet Weather Plan implementation that DC WASA is proceeding with. Ms. Russell noted that a conference call with EPA on the modifications is scheduled. In response to a request that the Board be provided with specific details of the proposed language, Ms. Russell advised that the draft will be shared in executive session once concurrence with the parties to the consent decree has been reached.

IV. STATUS UPDATES: POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR

1. Potomac Interceptor Sewer Odor Abatement Project

Mr. David McLaughlin, Acting Director of Engineering and Technical Services, advised that there is more good news regarding progress, in that the contractor has broken ground on the D.C. site near Fletchers Boathouse. There is a formal groundbreaking ceremony scheduled for May 20th which will be attended by representatives from NPS, DC WASA, the District Government and various private stakeholder groups. The Committee noted that since Mr. Lake will be unavailable for the May 20th ceremony, his efforts in moving the project forward should be recognized by those in attendance.

NPS permits are still pending on two of the Maryland sites.

On the Virginia sites, special exception zoning meetings have been scheduled for Fairfax County. Loudoun County sites do not yet have meeting dates scheduled. The Committee member from Fairfax expressed a willingness to help with the special exception zoning issue if necessary.

V. CLEAN AIR ACT PERMIT: STATUS UPDATE

Mohsin Siddique, PhD, Supervisor of Environmental Planning in the Department of Engineering and Technical Services gave a presentation on Clean Air Act (CAA) permitting activities related to the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant. Potential emission sources at the plant were noted. The regulatory background was summarized. DC WASA at this time does not consider itself a major source under Title V, if seasonal heating restrictions are considered. However, WASA has agreed to apply for a Title V permit since future projects will put WASA over the major source threshold. This agreement was also part of a settlement of a Notice of Infraction issued to DC WASA for not obtaining a permit for boilers on a project. Currently a testing program is underway to quantify the emission of methanol at the plant, which is a matter of disagreement between WASA and the regulators. In response to a question, Dr. Siddique confirmed that the design of the nitrogen removal facilities being constructed at Blue Plains would allow us to switch to a different source of carbon should continued use of methanol become a regulatory issue with respect to air emissions.

D C WASA continues to be fully engaged with the regulators on CAA issues. The permit issuance timeframe is unknown. Mr. Hawkins pointed out to the Committee that he is not surprised at the time being taken to issue the permit, given the complexity of the issues and the unique nature of Blue Plains. He also noted that on this particular issue he has recused himself from day to day involvement, due to his former position as Director of DDOE, and if he needs to become more involved he will first consult with the DC WASA's General Counsel.

VI. RESEARCH UPDATE: ROLE OF ESTROGENIC ACTIVITY IN WATER QUALITY

Sudhir Murthy, PhD., Manager of Research and Laboratory, in the Department of Wastewater Treatment gave a presentation on the increasing concern over estrogenic compounds in wastewater discharges. Dr. Murthy gave a summary of the issue, including the sources of estrogenic compounds in receiving waters and findings of a recent USGS study. The estrogenic compounds found in wastewater effluents were listed and discussed. Mr. Hoyt noted the great deal of interest from the Committee on this subject, and asked that the remainder of the presentation, relating to EPA recommended water quality criteria and methods for control and removal of these compounds be deferred to a later date to allow the Committee more time to discuss the issue.

VII. 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
WAS-07-014-AA-JS	Goods and Services	Complete Building Services	Option Year 3	\$245,000.00
WAS-09-032-AA-GA	Goods and Services	C&E Services, Inc. of Washington	Contract Modification	\$566,200.00
DCFA #417-WSA	Engineering Services	Brown & Caldwell	Supplemental Agreement	\$10,660,375.00
DCFA #418-WSA	Engineering Services	Metcalf & Eddy Management P.C.	Phase II Agreement	\$19,477,713.00

In response to a question regarding cost of the option year fro Contract WAS-07-014-AA-JS, Ms. Teresa Scott, Acting Procurement Director advised the Committee that procedures were in place to ensure that costs were in line with current market conditions prior to recommending the approval of the option year. Ms. Scott also noted that for Contract WAS-09-032-AA-GA, an error had been made in awarding the initial contract amount, which necessitated the proposed contract modification. The fact sheet will be amended to indicate this prior to submittal to the Board for approval.

By way of explanation of the large increases in the engineering services agreements, Mr. Benson noted that regarding DCFA #417, for biosolids program management, the increase is driven by the decision to utilize alternative delivery contracting methods to expedite ultimate completion of this program, and noted that the overall capital cost of the related projects comprising the program is unchanged. Mr. Benson also explained that for DCFA #418 (ENR – TN Program Management), the availability of funds at the time the contract was awarded limited the amount of the initial contract to less than was necessary to complete the work. At that time the need for program management services related to the wet weather projects was known and was part of the original scope of work, but was unfunded in the CIP. Other program needs anticipated in the original contract procurement were not funded at that time because the need was not defined to the point that it was possible to accurately estimate costs. These program needs have now been defined by further study and analysis that allowed the establishment of better project cost estimates, that are now being funded in the Phase 2 Agreement.

A statement of clarification on the latter two fact sheets was requested, which would explain the basis of the original selection and funding limitations. A Board member requested that the staff provide an estimate of staffing (man-years and dollars) that will be spent managing these two contracts over their 5 year terms.

Mr. Hoyt asked if there were any objections to recommending these action items to the full Board for approval, with the additional fact sheet clarifications requested. The Committee agreed to forward the appropriately amended fact sheets for full Board approval.

VIII. EMERGING ISSUES/OTHER BUSINESS

1. Cost of DCWASA Trash Reduction Activities

Discussion on this topic was deferred to a future meeting due to time constraints for this meeting.

In Other Business Items, Mr. Hawkins advised the Committee of a small electrical fire that occurred yesterday (April 14th) at the Potomac Pumping Station. The subsequent loss of power resulted in an overflow estimated at less than one-half million gallons to the Potomac River. All formal regulatory notifications have been made, and notices posted on DC WASA's website. The investigation into what caused the incident is ongoing.

In response to a Board member request for an update on recruitment of personnel, Mr. Hawkins suggested that this would be under the purview of the Human Relations and Labor Relations Committee.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:27 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 (requested at a prior meeting).
2. Provide information on DC WASA spending on trash removal (requested at a prior meeting).
3. Schedule a presentation on the Cummings/Cardin Chesapeake Bay bills.
4. Schedule a continuation of the presentation on estrogenic compounds.
5. Modify fact sheets prior to submission to Board for approval.
6. Provide an estimate of staff hours and cost related to management of the program management contracts.