



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

***Board of Directors***

***Environmental Quality and  
Operations Committee***

***Thursday, January 21, 2010***

***9:30 a.m.***

***MEETING MINUTES***

**Committee Members Present**

David W. Lake, Chairman  
David J. Bardin  
Howard Gibbs  
Jimmie Jenkins  
Brenda Richardson  
Paivi Spoon  
Beverly Warfield

**WASA Staff Present**

George S. Hawkins, General Manager  
Leonard Benson, Acting Chief Engineer  
Avis Marie Russell, General Counsel  
Olu Adebo, Chief Financial Officer  
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Lake called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

**II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES**

**1. BPAWTP Performance**

Mr. Walt Bailey, Director of Wastewater Treatment, reported that plant performance was excellent for December and met all permit parameters. Precipitation for the month, in the form of rain and snow, was the equivalent of 6.8 inches of rain, versus an average of 3.05 inches, and near the record of 7.5 inches. This translated to a very high average flow of 357 MGD, with a 12 month rolling average of 312 MGD. Biosolids production averaged 1237 wet tons per day with a 12 month rolling average of 1167 tons. BNR performance averaged an excellent 4.2 mg/l, and the 12 month average is also excellent at 5.7 mg/l. Mr. Bailey noted that nitrogen removal is much better than last year, attributed to the availability of upgraded reactors.

**III. FURTHER REVIEW OF REVISED FY 2010 AND PROPOSED FY 2011 BUDGETS**

Mr. Olu Adebo, Chief Financial Officer, presented the latest recommended capital budget, which was prepared with consideration of comments that have

been received from the various Committees and the full Board. The various versions of the budgets that have been presented to the Board were noted as Alternative 1, which included all mandated projects and projects otherwise deemed necessary; Alternative 2, which deferred projects that were not underway or legally mandated; and the currently proposed Alternative 3, which includes most of the original Alternative 1, but accounts for savings in the current and next fiscal year, due to project deferrals pending budget approval schedule extensions and already realized savings on recent projects for which bids received were significantly less than the approved budgets.

The Committee Chair noted the presentation led to some confusion, and terming all the various budgets as “alternatives” was somewhat misleading, due to the differing assumptions and time period of development and the fact that 1 and 2 are not true alternatives for consideration. Mr. Lake suggested that the currently recommended plan (Alternative 3) could be most accurately called the “January 2010 General Manager’s Recommendation.” Ms. Russell expressed concerns with staff renaming something that has previously been formally presented to the Board. Mr. Hawkins noted that what has really been done is that Alternative 1 has been updated in consideration of all Committee/Board directions.

The Committee requested clarification on the presentation prior to the Budget and Finance Committee meeting.

The major differences in the latest budget recommendation was explained; it is the result of accounting for timing of projects that were deferred under the Alternative 2 budget scenario, and when moving back into current recommendation, some unrecoverable schedule slippage pending budget approval occurred; extension of some project schedules, particularly related to the digester Combined Heat and Power (CHP) project which has been extended to coordinate with the other aspects of the digester project (the schedule had been compressed to comply with conditions of possible federal grant funding; that grant application was unsuccessful) and savings that have been seen in recent project bids. The Committee noted that in the Slide 4 table, these are reduced costs over the next two years, and should be shown with some convention for negative numbers.

#### **IV. ANACOSTIA FORCE MAIN ASSESSMENT - STATUS**

Mr. Leonard Benson, Acting Chief Engineer, reported on the findings on the Anacostia Force Main (AFM) Assessment. The Committee was first advised of concerns over the integrity of this pipe several years ago, and WASA undertook an analysis, the draft report of which is now available. Starting with the report conclusions first, it appears that the pipe can be monitored and maintained such that catastrophic failures are not likely. Sections of the AFM that were identified as deteriorated can be repaired using an external carbon fiber material while the pipe is in operation. It was originally feared that a catastrophic failure was possible and that an emergency response plan was necessary. It is now felt that

a specific plan for the AFM is not necessary; WASA has established emergency response procedures that could handle a failure of this pipe. In general discussion, it was clarified for the Committee, that this is a D.C. owned pipe, it transports approximately 60 MGD on average (approximately twenty percent of Blue Plains flow); the existing vacuum relief valves that were noted as potential problems will be evaluated; the pipe has been de-rated drastically from its original design pressure. The pipeline was designed to eventually transport flow from WSSC's Anacostia Pumping Station to the WSSC Piscataway plant and since it only goes as far as Blue Plains, the pressure rating can be reduced. Repairs to the pipe will not require any shutdown. It is the only effluent pipe from the Anacostia station to Blue Plains. Coordination with WSSC continues, and regional emergency response plans for this and other large pipelines will be worked out in the Blue Plains Regional Committee and reported back to this Committee, with consideration not just of other jurisdictions, but also regulatory agency coordination.

#### **V. PROPOSED REFORMATTING OF QUARTERLY CIP REPORT**

Mr. David McLaughlin, Acting Director of Engineering Services, reviewed a proposed format for future quarterly CIP reports, which emphasizes visual indicators of performance, rather than verbiage and specific numbers. It is modeled after the General Manager's Report, and was generally well received. Mr. McLaughlin noted that any comments would be appreciated, hopefully by next week, so that production of the next quarterly report in this format can proceed. Initial comments from the Committee included a desire to see a definition of the baseline, consideration of other performance indicators for infrastructure work other than pipe mileage, and relationship of spending to lifetime budgets. Additional Committee comments should be sent to Ms. Manley.

#### **VI. 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:

| <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-10-009-AA-CE                                   | Goods and Services | Tricon Chemical Corporation       | Contract     | \$2,976,000.00  |
| 090240   | Construction       | Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC | Contract     | \$6,556,000.00  |
| 090040   | Construction       | Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC | Change Order | \$560,000.00    |
| 060090   | Construction       | Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC | Change Order | \$208,288.00    |
| 080010   | Construction       | Singleton Electric Company, Inc.  | Contract     | \$14,909,300.00 |
| 030210   | Construction       | Ulliman Schutte Construction, LLC | Change Order | \$480,106.00    |

Mr. Benson noted that the “Tricon” item was the result of a single bid received. Staff has concluded that the bid price should be accepted, as it is a reduction in unit costs over our current contract, and is less than a recent bid received for the same chemical at another local utility. The Committee requested assurances that all work is coordinated with WASA’s Energy Manager, which Mr. Benson confirmed was the case. Another comment received was that the length of contracts would be more easily grasped if expressed in years rather than calendar days. Clarification whether federal grant funding indicated applied to the entire action item cost or the D.C. share was requested. No comments or concerns over the merit of the action items were expressed and the Committee agreed to forward all for approval by the full Board.

## **VII. EMERGING ISSUES/STATUS UPDATES**

As Committee Member Jimmie Jenkins had to leave, Mr. Lake took the opportunity to thank him for his service on the Committee, since this is his last meeting. Mr. Lake noted that he greatly appreciated working with him through the many years. Mr. Jenkins in turn commended the Board and the WASA staff, and noted that WASA is improving every day.

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

It was noted that this was handed out, without comments.

### **2. Status Updates - USEPA**

Ms. Russell confirmed that there has been no action to report on permit reissuance. A Committee member noted that some parties are promoting the idea to the general public that delay in issuing the permit will result in continued pollution of waterways, and it was recommended that Mr. Hawkins get the word out that WASA is acting to complete work per the proposed permit schedule, regardless of the status of permit issuance.

### **3. Status Updates: Potomac Interceptor**

Potomac Interceptor Sewer Odor Abatement Project: Mr. McLaughlin noted that the Park Service failed to meet their commitment to issue permits by January 18<sup>th</sup> and has not committed to a new date, which is a cause for concern. Mr. Lake noted that the General Manager may have to contact the Park Service at higher levels. Virginia sites are proceeding, with County Commissioners having been engaged; formal hearings have not taken place yet.

Potomac Sewage Pumping Station Consent Decree Compliance: Mr. McLaughlin advised that the proposed spool piece with straightening vanes has been installed and engineers are cautiously optimistic. It appears that the pump “drift” (the previously observed decrease in flow over time) seems to be eliminated. We expect a report today or tomorrow and delivery of the report to EPA on the 25<sup>th</sup>. A conference call will follow in early February.

Other Business: A Committee member noted that the Governance Committee is considering the restructuring of Board committees and meetings. Mr. Lake noted that as further developments are known, they will be brought forward to this Committee. If Committee members have any thoughts on this, they can be shared with the Governance Committee.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

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