



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

**Board of Directors
Environmental Quality and Operations
Committee Meeting**

Tuesday, December 14, 2004, 9:30 a.m.
Room 407, COF, Blue Plains

Meeting Minutes

Board Members

James Caldwell, Chairman
David J. Bardin
David Lake
Brenda Richardson
Stephanie Nash
F. Alexis Roberson

Staff Members

Paul Bender, Acting General Manager
John Dunn, Chief Engineer
Avis Russell, General Counsel
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Mr. James Caldwell called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

II. STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Average flow at Blue Plains for the month of November was 330 MGD, approximately the same as the annual average of 340 MGD. All permit parameters were met, and the total nitrogen was the best ever recorded for November at 2.7 mg/l. Total biosolid production was 1,336 tons.

2. Status AWTP NPDES Permit

EPA has notified WASA that the permit will be issued this week. The Committee requested that when the revised permit is issued a copy be provided to each Board member.

3. WAD / Residual EIS

A draft EIS is to be issued by mid-to late January. This will include responses to public questions.

4. Digester Project / Zoning Commission

The Zoning Commission has approved the digester design. We are currently working with the Commission on Fine Arts to gain approval of the architectural design of the facility. The Fine Arts Commission has raised some concerns, indicating that they would prefer the design appear less late 19th century Victorian, and more 1930's art deco/industrial. They also would prefer to eliminate the circles on the bridges, and the "pedal" pattern on the eggs. They felt that the design balanced well with the Wilson Bridge. The redesign will be submitted by January 6 for the meeting on the 25th.

The Committee requested that staff keep the following considerations in mind: 1) Distinguish between the time-lines for NCPC approval and Fine Arts Commission approval. 2) The Zoning Commission very much liked the design as presented and requested that WASA resist CFA's attempts to alter the design. And 3) the National Capital Planning Commission will meet on January 4, and will likely pass a motion that the design is not in conflict with the Planning Commission guidelines.

III. WATER SERVICE PROGRAM - STATUS

1. Coliform Testing

Since the violation of the coliform rule in September, there were no coliform "positives" in October, one in November, and none, thus far, in December. Per EPA, the results of the flushing program so far are looking good, however, we do expect that the counts will again go up with the return of warmer weather.

From the results of the flushing program so far, it appears that the pipes are in worse shape than we had thought as indicated by the flushing time to reach clear water being greater than anticipated. One of the problems with the flushing program has been the fact that we are finding many valves that are inoperable, either in the open or shut positions. WASA does not currently have a system wide "valve exercising" program to periodically operate valves, thus keeping them operable. Such a program is presently being developed and will be presented to the Committee in the spring for consideration.

2. Lead Program

The first report of the OCCT program has been submitted to the EPA. Because of the format required by EPA, the report is very detailed, and consists of approximately 500 pages. It contains results from approximately 50 sites, approximately twice as many as WASA would normally test. The results are generally good but in some cases the water quality deteriorated for a limited period immediately after flushing.

The results of the regulatory LCR lead testing program are starting to show improvement, with the lead levels at the tap generally decreasing since mid-October. However, with the limited number of samples taken to date and changing parameters, such as temperature, more time will be required to evaluate the data. The quarterly report, due in January, will contain more detailed information.

The Washington Aqueduct is setting up test loops using some of the lead pipes removed during our lead service replacement work to further study the optimization of system corrosion control. There is additional evidence to indicate that prior to the change to chloramines for disinfection, the high free chlorine residuals (5mg/l) and associated high oxidation-reduction potential (ORP) maintained in the system resulted in the lead service lines developing a protective coating of lead oxide which prevented leaching. When the switch was made to chloramines, which has a much lower ORP, the lead oxide coating started to dissolve and lead levels at the tap increased. If this theory prevails it raises concerns about what will happen if the present practice of a once per year chlorine "burn" is continued. One of the test loops at Fort Reno has been converted to study this issue.

For the 2005 Lead Service replacement Program, WASA has distributed approximately 3,200 contracts for private property lead service replacement. To date, we have had approximately 500 returned. Approximately 13% of the responses have opted to have the private service replaced. The staff will place emphasis on encouraging residents to replace the private portion of the service.

The Committee requested that the staff provide the approximate percentage of the total water supply that is used in the flushing program.

IV. CAPITAL BUDGET ACTION ITEMS

1. Approval of FY 2004 – 2013 Capital Improvement Program — Lifetime & Cash Disbursement Basis

As shown in the provided handout, item D, the total project lifetime budget is \$4.6 billion, down approximately \$560 million. The 10-year disbursements-based CIP budget is \$2.1 billion. The \$529.9 million Authority requested from Congress (shown on the fifth page), modifies neither lifetime budgets nor spending. The Committee requested that the single line item for the LTCP (\$1.9 billion) be broken down into four line items, and substituted throughout the report.

2. Approval of FY 2006 Capital Authority Request

The projects for wastewater reduction are, for the most part, still within the presented budget. WASA and DDOT have come to the understanding that DDOT will maintain the stormwater pumping stations, and that WASA will maintain the catch basins. The sewer separation at Dumbarton Oaks is still included and negotiations with the National Parks Service are continuing with fees the primary issue.

V. STORMWATER BUDGET ACTION ITEMS

The stormwater budget is actually DC funds that are managed by WASA. The costs of the program are increasing with the FY '06 requirement approximate doubling. The DC Government must either act to raise the fees, or come up with additional funds.

To understand the stormwater budget, it is helpful to compare the first MS4 Permit and the current MS4 permit. The first MS4 permit required interagency planning and coordination, and did not have TMDL loading requirements. With the new MS4 permit, TMDL loading must be met, and some agencies that did not previously use their funding are now using it. The implementation plan for meeting the TDML loading will be developing for approximately 2 to 2 1/2 years.

VI. ELECTRICITY PROCUREMENT (not on original agenda)

WASA executed two contracts for electricity service on Friday (December 10) with a duration of 12 months. The first is with Pepco for 48 small WASA accounts. The second is with Amerada Hess for service to Blue Plains. Both contracts are for 'blocks' of electricity, and, in total, will provide approximately 1/4 of WASA's electrical needs. After investigating WASA electrical needs, it is the staff's opinion that this amount is in WASA's best interests. While it is believed that the electricity costs are on a downward trend, this will protect approximately 1/4 of the costs at current prices, allow 3/4 to fluctuate with the market price, and give WASA experience in the purchase of electricity.

From viewing the charts of WASA's electricity usage (provided to the Committee), it is apparent that WASA's usage is generally steady (1999 was an anomaly). Blue Plains accounts for approximately 80% of WASA's usage. Blue Plains' power requirements are fairly flat, not varying from summer to winter, or from day to night. What will have an affect on Blue Plains power usage in rain and snow events, and, because of cloud cover, these will tend to be during off-peak times. Therefore, peak load shedding is not a viable option for WASA.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

The following contracts were submitted for Committee action:

Contracts Considered and Approved				
No.	Type	Prime Contractor	Scope	Amount
970099	Construction (Joint Use)	W. M. Schlosser Company, Inc.	Change Order	\$888,916
020130	Construction (Joint Use)	W. M. Schlosser Company, Inc.	Change Order	\$118,035

All action items were approved unanimously.

The Committee requested a paper summarizing the causes of the problems leading to these Change Orders, and any possible future savings that will result from them. The paper should also summarize lessons learned. The Committee also requested a copy of the Contracting Officer's letter, dated November 21, 2002, referenced in the Fact Sheet for the Filtration Facility Pumping System Upgrades, Contract Number 970099. These should be included in the distribution package for the next Board Meeting.

VIII. CSO/STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

1. Anacostia Tunnel System — progress since previous meeting

On November 23, the short-list was developed. January 5 is the date that proposals are due, and presentations by the selected proposers will be made on January 12 and 13. A selection is to be forwarded to the General Manager by February 4, with contract execution anticipated by March 15.

2. Status MS4 Permit Appeal

WASA has filed a brief in support of the USEPA in an appeal by environmental groups to the EPA's Environmental Appeals Board. The environmental groups appeal contests certain terms of the District's MS4 NPDES Permit.

3. Status — Ft. Stanton

The study of the system is completed, and is moving into final design. Staff was asked to investigate ways to accelerate the project.

The Committee asked for a report in January or February on monitoring, if any, currently in place on the Anacostia River. This is to be only a 'Big-Picture' report. This should also address the Channel and the Tidal Basin with respect to how they are presently operated and any implications to the CSO program and the MS4 permit.

IX. EMERGING ISSUES

1. Baseball in DC

To date, WASA has had only one request for information relating to the stadium from the DC Government. There are 11'-0" and a 36-inch diameter sewers running through the site which are more than 20' deep. It is not known if these sewers will require relocation.

The Committee requested that WASA investigate if there is any sewer separation potential in the surrounding area that could be addressed during the stadium construction.

2. DC DOT Light Rail in CSX Route to BPAWTP

There is a current plan by DDOT to construct a light rail line on the existing CSX rail ROW, with a design-build contract starting in early summer '05. WASA is evaluating the need for an additional sewer line from the LTCP tunnel pump out station to Blue Plains. There could be an opportunity to have the additional sewer line constructed in the DDOT light rail right-of-way.

The Committee requested a presentation on the Appleseed Report within the next few months.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

After discussing the possible conflict on January 20, Inauguration Day, it was the consensus of the Committee that the meeting could be held on that day.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Caldwell adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.