



**District of Columbia  
Water and Sewer Authority**

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

Wednesday, March 24, 2004, 2004– 9:30 a.m.  
Room 407, COF, Blue Plains

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Board Members**

James Caldwell, Chairman  
David J. Bardin  
David Lake  
Stephanie Nash  
Alexander McPhail  
Alexis Roberson  
Larry Coffman

**Staff Members**

Jerry Johnson, General Manager  
Michael Marcotte, Chief Engineer  
Wendy Hartmann Moore, Interim  
General Counsel

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman James Caldwell called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

**II. STATUS UPDATES**

Mr. Marcotte presented a brief update on plant performance and permit status. Flows for February averaged 365 MGD, and were fairly consistent except for the 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Flows so far in March are trending toward 330 MGD and are trending downward toward 300 MGD with the continued dry weather. All Blue Plains NPDES permit requirements are being met. Per a request from the committee, a summary of lead readings, both entering and leaving the plant, will be provided at next month's meeting.

EPA will be publishing a draft final NPDES permit for public comment (30 to 60 days) within the next week.

The Washington Aqueduct is currently working on, and narrowing the options, for future treatment of solids.

WASA will be starting the annual flushing program for water mains throughout the city shortly. On April 2, the Aqueduct will start treating the water with free chlorine for 5 weeks. During this period, WASA will be opening fire hydrants to flush the mains, starting in the far North areas. During this period, the water may have a more 'swimming pool' flavor and odor, and immediately after flushing, may be slightly more turbid. WASA has distributed a press advisory, and the Washington Aqueduct held a press conference on the shift to free chlorine and its implications. A separate letter addressing these issues will be mailed to each customer and each ANC Commissioner prior to start of the procedure. The issues will also be addressed in the April *What's on Tap* that is included with each bill. WASA and the Washington Aqueduct have, as a courtesy, also advised EPA of the changes. Since the treatment used to remove chloramines will also remove free chlorine, no special notification to dialysis centers or those who own fish tanks is required.

The Committee requested that specific consideration be given to notifying all users by letter, rather than limiting the notification only to customers.

### **III. DCWASA'S LEAD REPLACEMENT PROGRAM**

WASA has responded to an EPA inquiry requesting an update on our program in four specific areas: filter distribution; public outreach; service line replacement; and sampling procedures. EPA gave a positive reaction to our response.

Within the letter to EPA, WASA indicated that efforts would be made to accelerate the replacement of services within public space. Under current procedures, such replacements are being accomplished to the inside of the house (to the first threaded fitting).

A 'Fact Sheet' was presented to the Committee outlining an owner-initiated program to replace services in both public and private space. Basically, an owner that has not achieved priority status may take the initiative to hire a private contractor to replace the service, and would be responsible for management, permits, and other aspects of the project. WASA would match the cost up to 50%, to a maximum of \$5,000. Contractor quality control would be managed through the licensing and bonding requirements.

The Committee requested that the licensing and bonding requirements be added to the 'Fact Sheet.'

A proposed resolution presented by the Committee on Customer and Community Service was discussed. Some of the major items included in the resolution are the following:

- A policy to have no lead service lines in the public space by not later than September 30, 2010.
- To assist in the financing of private property lead service replacement for customers qualifying under the Customer Assistance Program. The assistance would be in the form of paying 50% of the cost of the replacement, and financing the remainder with a no-interest loan over a five-year period.
- Replacing lead service lines discovered after September 30, 2010 within 90-days.

Legal counsel pointed out that under the city's Charter, no agency of the city, including WASA, can finance a private loan; this would take an Act of Congress to modify. The committee questioned whether this requirement could be worked around. Other questions raised included:

- Has this program been coordinated with the Health Department? Is this removal within their time frame?
- Has permitting for this program been coordinated?
- Have all legal issues been addressed?
- What impact would this have on the current CIP?

The General Manager, Jerry Johnson, was directed to prepare a memo to the committee by March 31 addressing all of the issues involved. The staff should have a complete report available for presentation to the full Board at the April 2 meeting.

There was a discussion of the desirability of establishing a separate subcommittee to deal with the lead issues. It was pointed out that a separate subcommittee would have essentially the same composition as the current subcommittee, and an additional meeting was not desired. Also, it was felt that the current level of attention required for lead issues should decline.

### **IV. ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY & OPERATIONS COMMITTEE WORK PLAN**

No items were presented or discussed.

## V. **DIGESTER PROJECT – ZONING/REGULATORY APPROVAL PROCESS**

A presentation of the legal requirements for zoning and regional approval was presented by Ken Barnhart from the General Counsel's Office. The presentation compared two approaches to achieving zoning approval; a Planned Unit Development (PUD) vs. a Text Amendment.

The Acting General Counsel and WASA's legal consultant continue to recommend the PUD approach as the most advantageous. One committee member recommended readdressing the entire issue, and trying to solicit support from the elected officials to support a text amendment passage through the zoning commission. In lieu of that, the Board Secretary will work with the General Counsel's Office to set up a conference call with the outside legal consultant and the committee members prior to the next committee meeting.

## VI. **BLUE PLAINS FACILITY PLANNING**

Postponed to the next meeting.

## VII. **BLUE PLAINS FLOW VS. WAD PURCHASES**

Postponed to the next meeting (briefing material was distributed).

## VIII. **WASA BIOSOLIDS ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT SYSTEM**

Mr. Marcotte made a presentation on the Biosolids Environmental Management System. The presentation included overview of WASA's Environmental Management System (EMS) as developed under the guidelines of the National Biosolids Partnership (NBP).

The EMS covers the critical 17 elements of biosolids management. The management system starts with a policy statement, develops through the other critical elements, and culminates with management review and approval.

**The committee received the presentation enthusiastically, and strongly endorsed the vision, mission and policy of the EMS.** The committee also added special thanks and appreciation to Mr. Chris Peot, WASA's Biosolids Manager, for his contributions and management in developing the EMS and the *Biosolids Environmental Management System Manual*.

**IX. ACTION ITEMS**

The following contracts were submitted for action by the Committee with the District members recommending the non-joint use contracts.

<b>Contracts Considered and Approved</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Prime Contractor</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Amount</b>
02-0020	Construction (Joint Use)	Ulliman Schutte Construction Co.	Change Order	\$413,000
03-0090	Construction (Non-Joint Use)	C & F Construction Co.	Approval To Award	\$2,986,986
02-0140	Construction (Non-Joint Use)	Fort Myers Construction Corp.	Exercise Option Year	\$3,619,799.85
04-0070	Construction (Non-Joint Use)	Noair Engineering Corp.	Approval To Award	\$4,085,000
WAS-04-035-AA-JS	Services (Non-Joint Use)	BTS Laboratories, Inc.	Approval To Award	\$3,240,000
WAS-02-021-AA-LW	Goods (Non-Joint Use)	Steinway Auto Parts, Inc.	Exercise Option Year	\$586,724.40

All action items were approved unanimously, with the exception of WAS-04-035-AA-JS, Lead Test Analysis of Drinking Water.

WAS-04-035-AA-JS, Lead Test Analysis of Drinking Water, was questioned on the following points: why is WASA continuing free testing; why is a three-year contract required?; and why wasn't this contract competitively bid?

WASA has been directed by EPA to test the water at all known or discovered lead service locations. WASA will also be required to continue regulatory testing for the foreseeable future. The contract consists of a base year and two optional years; for each optional year renewal, the contract would be brought back before the Board for approval.

EPMC IIA, as an extension of their consulting contract, accomplished testing in early 2004. While they have been supportive in stepping in to help WASA out during the emergency, this is not what that contract was designed for, and there have been problems in turnaround times, and other problems. Management feels that getting a contract with a certified laboratory, performing testing under EPA protocols, is a priority. While the contract was not openly advertised, proposals from six laboratories were received and evaluated in choosing a successful Bidder. The laboratory was chosen because of their ability to handle the volume, and provide a quick turn-around time (20 days required by contract). The contract includes a 10% penalty for not meeting the turn-around time.

After the explanation, there was a consensus within the committee, with the exception of Alex McPhail, to recommend the contract for approval.

Two additions to Fact Sheets were suggested and will be incorporated prior to submittal to the full Board.

**X. CSO/STORM WATER MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE**

Mr. Johnson presented the status of the litigation. The other parties did not agree to a narrowing of the focus as part of the case management plan. Therefore, each party will file its own case management proposal, and the court will decide which method is proper.

One committee member asked if the other parties could be approached on modifying the consent decree to allow delaying some of the items, allowing the monies to be used for the lead replacement program. This approach was not recommended by the General Counsel's Office.

## **XI. OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Lake indicated that, starting in April, states will be filing specific plans for compliance with the goals of the Chesapeake Bay Program. His understanding is that "phosphorus equivalency" will not be accepted by EPA. The DC Health Department has apparently not addressed this, and the approximately \$800 million budget requirement needs to be addressed.

The Committee requested that the agenda for meetings in the future indicate beside each presentation the expected time to be allowed. As the agenda is developed, allow an additional hour for discussions, and limit the agenda to the time available.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Caldwell adjourned the Meeting at 12:36 p.m.