



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

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

Thursday, May 17, 2007, 9:30 a.m.
Room 407, COF, Blue Plains

SUMMARY MINUTES

Committee Members

David W. Lake, Chairman
Chris Akinbobola
David J. Bardin (via conference call)
Joseph Cotruvo
Kenneth Davis
Alexis H. Roberson
Paivi Spoon
Dan Tangherlini

Staff Members

Jerry Johnson, General Manager
Avis Russell, General Counsel
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

Board Member

Chairman Robin B. Martin

I. CALL TO ORDER

David Lake called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m.

II. FIRE HYDRANT PROGRAM

A general introduction was given explaining the history of the fire hydrant program since the Authority was established. When WASA was created in 1996 the number of hydrants that were the Authority's responsibility was not known. Many hydrants were on federal property, and there was an estimated 18-20% of known hydrants that were missing or out of service. The Authority established standards going forward for the identification of hydrants, and for their repair and replacement when reported to be out of service, with a target of no more than 1% out of service at any time.

The recent situation of the two hydrants near the Georgetown library that were reported in the press as out of services was clarified. One hydrant was in fact out, however the second was functional, but suffered from low pressure through its connection to a damaged water main. In any case, the Fire Department has expressed that their response to the fire was not hindered by the hydrants status. The Authority has maintained an ongoing dialogue with the Fire Department on the hydrants.

A PowerPoint presentation of the Authority's Fire Hydrant Upgrade Program was presented. An assessment program is underway of all hydrants, and in fact will be accelerated to be completed by September. The presentation included a chart showing hydrants reported to be out of service vs. the length of time that they were out. This led to extensive discussion, comments and questions regarding exactly how many hydrants were out, since the Fire Department seems to have come up with a different, higher number on a limited sample. The Authority is working directly with the Fire Department to develop a consolidated database.

The upgrade program approved by the WASA Board in this year's budget is a \$26.5M effort involving an anticipated nine construction contracts. There is a need to convert the Authority's hydrants from the nine different types in our inventory to two manufacturers of the break-away type, with NFPA hose connections to conform to industry standards and mutual aid agreements with surrounding jurisdictions.

WASA has conducted outreach through various forums including ANC meetings, the Mayor's news conference, news releases and fact sheets, editorial board meetings and daily media interviews. The status of hydrants is an ongoing coordination issue between WASA and the Fire Department.

A demonstration was given by the WASA IT Department of a geographical information database, to which the Fire Department will have access, and which will contain detailed data on each hydrant, along with WASA and Fire Department identifiers and water system pressures, and essentially real time operational status. It is planned, that in the future, field staff will enter hydrant information into the database directly by computer rather than the method presently in use (paper records.)

III. AWTP STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Average flow at Blue Plains for the month of April was 330 MGD, with above-average rainfall of 4.2". All permit parameters were met. Biosolids production was 1,203 tons per day, and effluent total nitrogen for the month was 5.2 mg/L vs. a permitted annual goal of 7.5 mg/L.

2. Status AWTP NPDES Permit

The re-issued permit has been appealed by the Chesapeake Bay Foundation and Earth Justice, as well as WASA. The requirements of the new permit that are the subject of the appeals cannot take effect until the appeals are resolved by EPA.

The Committee asked if there was data being developed on influent characteristics (strength/ concentration/pound loading) of the various flow contributions to Blue Plains and whether that data would be available next month. It was acknowledged that there is a plan to develop this data, although it will not be available next month.

IV. WATER SERVICE PROGRAM

1. Coliform Testing

WASA has had no positive samples for the month of April and to date in May.

2. LCR Compliance Testing: Report and Review Status

LCR compliance testing will resume after the chlorine burn impact subsides.

3. Chlorine 'Burn' Update

The chlorine burn ended on May 7th. Public was notified in writing of the start and end. Only a few chlorine taste complaints were received.

V. CIP QUARTERLY REPORT FOR 2ND QUARTER FY '07

The Second Quarter report was in the mail-out to all Committee members. The Committee asked specific questions about the presentation of the low percentage of participants in the opportunity to replace lead piping on the private property side of the service connection at the same time that the public side is being replaced. It was recommended that WASA staff look at the data in terms of feet of pipe replaced in private space to determine if this type of analysis would show more success in the replacement of private lead lines. There was also a question about the length of time that it took to get permits for the Anacostia Pumping Station. It was concluded that the permit delays were the result of project details needing extended communication between WASA and DCRA on this unique and complicated project.

The committee was advised, related to the LSR (Lead Service Replacement) program, that in the future, WASA will likely be required to pay for more pavement repairs, since there is anticipated to be less opportunities for coordination with DDOT paving work (DDOT plans do not coincide with areas that WASA has identified as having concentrations of lead service lines.)

VI. ACTION ITEMS

The following contracts were submitted for Committee action:

Contracts Considered and Approved				
No.	Type	Prime Contractor	Scope	Amount
Joint Use				
990040	Construction	W.M. Schlosser Co., Inc.	Change Order	\$173,000.00
DCFA #409-WSA	Engineering Services	PEER Consultants, P.C.	Agreement	\$4,386,932.00
WAS-04-041-AA-JS	Goods & Services	Maryland Environmental Services	Third Option Year	\$573,834.00
WAS-07-012-AA-JS	Goods & Services	M.C. Dean	Contract	\$2,446,600.00
Non-Joint Use				
070070	Construction	Anchor Construction Corp.	Contract	\$10,000,000.00
060020	Construction	Fort Myer Construction Corp.	Change Order	\$550,000.00

All action items were recommended to be transmitted for Board approval, however it was requested that the fact sheet for the M.C. Dean procurement explain the reasons why the low bidder was not awarded the contract, and that WASA staff determine if the contract award to Anchor Construction is a commitment to spend all or a portion of the contract amount (can it be reduced or cancelled if the LSR program is re-evaluated.)

VII. STATUS UPDATES

1. LSR Program

A PowerPoint Status Update of the Lead Services Replacement Program (LSR) was made, which reviewed the history of the program, milestones and actual replacements. The replacement program is on schedule relative the BOD LSR policy, and within budget.

It was noted that in the past DCWASA has been able to coordinate essentially all LSR work with the DC DOT roadway paving program and thus WASA has not had to perform (nor fund) the final resurfacing of the blocks in which major LSR work has been accomplished. This has resulted in substantial capital savings for the first three years of the LSR Program.

This year, 2007, will be the first year in which we have not been able to fully coordinate our LSR work with the DC DOT program and still meet the annual LSR target we have set to meet the BOD LSR policy goals. In order to meet the 2007 LSR target of 3350 replacements, we will have to work in blocks outside of those to be done as part of the DOT program to accomplish an estimated 850 to 1100 of the replacements. This will likely increase paving costs associated with those LSRs by approximately \$4 Million (as compared to cost if coordinated with DOT).

This money is approved in the current CIP. We expect that paving costs will increase each year into the future as more often we will have to perform LSR work in blocks beyond the DOT program, and thus pay for final paving.

2. Meter Replacement Program

A PowerPoint presentation was given on the Automated Meter Reading program, which included target installations, vs. actual in the three phases of the program, work left to be done, and some positive outcomes that have resulted from the program for WASA and its customers.

The AMR program is 98.3% complete, with a "Clean-up Project" underway (3,320 small meters; 446 large meters). Of the large meters remaining 34 are deferred indefinitely due to their location in schools, the Whitehouse, or on the Virginia side of the Key Bridge.

Though not discussed further at this meeting, previously it was noted that a problem with the large meter has come to light. AMCO continues to research the problem we identified with several large meters that were registering lower consumption on low flow. AMCO's field representative removed several problem meters in May and tested them at their facilities; however, they could not reproduce our findings in the laboratory.

AMCO requested the daily readings associated with these meters to determine under what conditions the meters began to register lower consumption. We complied with this data request and we expect the results of their findings in July. In the interim, AMCO has supplied us with parts to resolve any problems we may find in the field.

3. “Sinkholes”

A PowerPoint presentation was given on sinkholes, their causes, specific actions that WASA is taking to address them, when found and determined to be caused by WASA water or sewer lines. While water and sewer lines do cause many sinkholes, there are a number of other unrelated causes that would not be WASA responsibility. There are 13 sewer related sinkholes in five separate areas in Georgetown. Interim repairs have been made and the permanent fix, a \$2.8M construction contract for sewer rehabilitation, will begin in September. WASA is working with the ANC's and has assigned a liaison for this work.

VIII. EMERGING ISSUES

Information will be sent to the Board on federal legislation submitted by Eleanor Holmes Norton that would change the Lead and Copper Rule to require the replacement of lead piping in private space at public expense.

The Mirant plant in Alexandria has requested that WASA send a letter to the City of Alexandria in support of the continued operation of that electrical generating station. It is noted that Blue Plains is the largest single user in the city. Response is required by May 22nd.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee voiced a reminder of the request for WASA's plan for the use of renewable and alternative energy.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lake adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.