

**District of Columbia  
Water and Sewer Authority**

**Board of Directors**

**Environmental Quality and  
Sewerage Services Committee**

*Thursday, November 17, 2011*

*9:30 a.m.*

**MEETING MINUTES**



**Committee Members Present**

Robert Hoyt, Chairperson  
Joseph Cotruvo  
David Lake  
Howard Gibbs  
Brenda Richardson  
Dawn Hawkins-Nixon

**DC Water Staff Present**

Leonard Benson, Chief Engineer  
Christopher Carew, Chief of Staff  
Katherine Cahill, Principal Counsel  
Linda Manley, Board Secretary

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Robert Hoyt, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:30 AM.

**II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES**

**1. BPAWTP Performance**

Mr. Walt Bailey, Assistant General Manager for Wastewater Treatment, reported that October saw an average amount of precipitation at 3.9 inches. Flow was considered normal at 301 MGD with a 12-month average of 293 MGD. Biosolids production was 1015 wet tons per day for a 12-month average of 1149 wet tons per day. One permit parameter was exceeded on October 24, 2011; a noncompliance for chlorine residual that was attributed to operator error. Steps have been taken to ensure that a similar event does not occur in the future. Nitrogen compliance was 2.2mg/l for the month, the lowest ever recorded for Blue Plains.

Mr. David Lake asked for information on the surcharge event that occurred in the Potomac Interceptor in Montgomery County. Mr. Leonard Benson said that he had asked Engineering staff to review the cause of the incident. Mr. Hoyt drew attention to the consistently excellent pretreatment performance and asked whether the draft pretreatment regulations approved for publication at the last Board Meeting were sent out for public comment. Mr. Bailey thanked the Chairman for his comment and stated that the proposed pretreatment regulations were recently published in the DC Register and are in the 30-day public comment period. In response to a question on electrical power usage, Mr. Bailey stated that power monitors are currently being installed at Blue

Plains. These monitors will assist staff in managing electrical loads. Mr. Bailey noted that the conversion to fine bubble diffusers resulted in the largest reduction in power use.

### **III. STATUS UPDATES**

#### **1. LTCP Easements Permits**

Mr. Carlton Ray, Director of the DC Clean Rivers program, reported that a draft Construction License has been received from Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (JBAB). He noted that JBAB has requested that D.C. Water ensure that no odors are generated post-construction. Mr. Ray is confident that D.C. Water will be able to finalize the license. He also stated that his staff continues to work with DDOT and DCRA, who remain committed to issuing permits. Discussion continues between DC Water, DDOT, and FHWA. Both the Director of DDOT and its Chief Engineer support the hybrid approach (first obtaining permits, then easements.) Mr. Howard Gibbs requested clarification of the acronyms in Mr. Ray's report. The requested information was provided with a commitment to include this information in future reports. Mr. Robert Hoyt made note of the article in the November 17<sup>th</sup> Washington Post Metro Section, highlighting DC Water's efforts in green infrastructure for the Clean Rivers Projects.

### **IV. STATUS UPDATES: POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR**

#### **1. Potomac Pump Station**

Mr. David McLaughlin, Director of Engineering, reported that DC Water continues to make progress on the new impeller design. Construction of the one-quarter scale model will be completed in February 2012, with fabrication of the first impeller to follow. A planned meeting with EPA last week to discuss DC Water's proposal to suspend work at the pump station while proceeding with post construction monitoring did not occur due to scheduling difficulties. DC Water will continue to press EPA for a discussion on this proposal. Mr. McLaughlin confirmed that DC Water remains under legal mandate to continue work on the new impeller design pending an agreement with EPA and Earthjustice on the alternate approach. A question was asked as to whether DC Water could proceed with the post-construction monitoring without EPA approval. Mr. McLaughlin explained that the monitoring is a lengthy process, requiring sampling over the course of twelve months, and D.C. Water does not want to begin doing so unless D.C. Water has secured agreement from the EPA.

## 2. Odor Abatement Project

Mr. David McLaughlin reported that the construction for the DC and MD sites continues on schedule. How power is to be provided to the DC site remains the subject of discussions between DC Water, PEPCO, and the National Park Service. Notice to Proceed is expected for the Virginia sites in January 2012. NVRPA has expressed a willingness to adjust the easement at the Fairfax County location to match the designed location for the building. A Title Attorney has been consulted through DC Water's Office of General Counsel to assist in establishing the necessary easement. The Committee requested that the status report include anticipated completion dates.

### V. ACTION ITEMS – JOINT USE

Ms. Rosalind Inge, Director of Procurement, presented Action Item 1 for Committee action, while Mr. Benson presented the second action item.

Joint Use:

1. Contract No. WAS-10-047-AA-JH, Alpine Trading Company

Non-Joint Use

2. Contract No. 110090, Corinthian Contractors, Inc.

Ms. Inge discussed the Alpine Trading Company contract, which provides uniforms and other work clothing to DC Water employees on an as needed basis. This contract is needed for compliance with labor agreements.

Mr. Benson discussed the construction contract with Corinthian Contractors for sanitary sewer lateral replacements for the period FY2012-2014. Mr. Benson noted the wide variance between high and low bids. He explained that this contract was bid using the "open market with preference" option, where local and small firms can receive preference points. In this case, preference points were not a factor, given the significant difference between the low bid amount and second low bid amount.

The Committee agreed to forward both Action Items to the full Board for approval.

### VI. ASSET MANAGEMENT

Mr. Christopher Carew, Chief of Staff, made a presentation on DC Water's proposed Asset Management Plan, a three phase \$12M+ effort that is intended to optimize lifecycle costs and the overall sustainability of DC Water's infrastructure. Mr. Carew noted that while DC Water was implementing many of the features of asset

management, the more comprehensive approach recommended has the potential to produce significant cost savings. Mr. David Lake noted that WSSC has been implementing Asset Management for some time and recommended that DC Water tap into their experience. Mr. Lake also recommended future discussions with DC Water Board Members to provide a greater understanding of what is proposed, and how the financial savings will be realized. In response to a question from Mr. Hoyt, Mr. Carew stated that he anticipated a request for funding in FY13 for Phase I of the Asset Management Plan.

## **VII. QUARTERLY CIP REPORT**

Mr. David McLaughlin reported on the CIP for FY2011 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter. The actual spending on capital projects was consistent with the approved budget, dispersing \$285M compared to the budgeted amount of \$294M or 97% of the approved budget. With the exception of the Potomac Pump Station, all Priority I projects are on schedule. He also presented a list of large contracts (>\$5M) anticipated to come before the BOD in the several months. Seven of nine Key Performance Indicators were met in Quarter 4. The exceptions were both in the Potomac Interceptor projects, and revised starts have been given for FY12-13. Mr. McLaughlin noted that the measures used to track the ramp up of the water and sewer programs are not particularly effective, He will propose alternate measures for FY12. Mr. McLaughlin also noted that this report includes the detailed list of key indicators that will be used to track FY12 performance.

## **VIII. CAPITAL BUDGET**

Mr. Leonard Benson presented the proposed Capital Budget, a continuation from the October 27, 2011 Joint Committee meeting. Questions were raised on the prioritization of projects at that meeting, and Mr. Benson provided additional details on priority categories in this presentation. In addition, Mr. Benson briefed the Committee on the significant project variances in the wastewater treatment and sewer service areas, and discussed in more detail the \$1 Billion in projects not included in the proposed CIP.

Committee members were told that if they think of any new questions on the proposed capital budget they can submit those questions by email directly to Ms. Linda Manley.

## **IX. OTHER BUSINESS/EMERGING ISSUES**

### **1. 2012 Committee Meeting Dates and Times**

The Committee discussed the topic and confirmed that meetings will continue to be held on the third Thursday of the month and will commence at 9:30AM.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

Mr. Hoyt adjourned the Committee at 11:30AM.

### **Follow-up Items**

1. Provide a report on the surcharge event on the Potomac Interceptor
2. Spell out acronyms used in the Clean Rivers' monthly update
3. Include anticipated completion dates on the Odor Abatement Project
4. Contact WSSC for lessons learned on Asset Management