



**District of Columbia  
Water and Sewer Authority**

**Board of Directors**

**Water Quality and Water Services  
Committee**

*Thursday, July 15, 2010*

*11:00 a.m.*

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present**

Joseph Cotruvo, Vice Chair  
Howard Croft  
Howard Gibbs  
Brenda Richardson  
F. Alexis Roberson  
Alan Roth

**WASA Staff Participating**

George Hawkins, General Manager  
Avis Russell, General Counsel  
Linda Manley, Board Secretary  
Ayodele McClenney, Manager Technical Support

**Board Members Present**

David J. Bardin

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Joseph Cotruvo at 11:10 a.m.

**II. WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

**1. Coliform testing:**

Mr. Giani reported that there were no positive coliform samples collected so far in 2010.

**2. Lead and Copper Rule compliance testing:**

Mr. Giani reported the first semester LCR sampling had been completed, with a resultant 7 ppb as the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile statistic, as compared to a 15 ppb regulatory Action Level. This compared to a 90<sup>th</sup> percentile level for first semester 2009 of 6 ppb, and that the 2010 90<sup>th</sup> percentile value for second draw samples, which could be considered representative of water that had been in contact with the lead service line, was also 7 ppb.

**III. FIRE HYDRANT PROGRAM**

Mr. Wall reported on fire hydrant status as of July 14, providing a statistical fact sheet and a map showing the location of out-of-service hydrants. He reported that there were 171 out-of-service hydrants, of which 125 were classified as defective. This is a defective rate of

1.4% of the total 9,110 hydrants, higher than the established target of 1.0%. In response to questions from committee members it was noted that the elevated percentage is considered to be attributable to the accelerated inspection program, which is scheduled to be completed in September rather than mid-November. Committee members requested that the monthly fact sheet of hydrant status include more detailed information on hydrant repair activity. They suggested that the report include information on the number of repairs accomplished in the month, and aging statistics on the defective hydrants (e.g., number of defective hydrants with age <10 days, < 30 days, < 60 days, and > 60 days.)

181 of 1,403 privately owned hydrants were reported to be out of service. Committee members inquired about the status of the pending city council legislation on privately owned hydrant maintenance, but updated information on this legislation was not available.

#### **IV. DC WATER AND WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT COORDINATION PROTOCOLS**

Mr. Sweeney gave an overview description of the water distribution system, with emphasis on how responsibilities for distribution facilities are shared between DC Water and the Washington Aqueduct Division (WAD), highlighting the need for close daily coordination between the two agencies. He noted that WAD produces the water, but that the two agencies coordinate its distribution. DC Water operates four pump stations and six storage facilities (with an aggregate storage capacity of 61 million gallons). WAD operates one pump station and three storage facilities (aggregate storage of 49 million gallons). In response to a committee question about cybersecurity, Mr. Sweeney outlined the technologies used in sharing operational data between the two agencies, and noted that these communication and control channels are highly secured network systems.

#### **V. FUTURE WATER TREATMENT STUDY**

Mr. Tom Jacobus, the WAD General Manager, provided an update on a cooperative study of potential future water supply issues and strategies. He provided an outline and noted that the issues could be broadly categorized under four groups:

- public health,
- aesthetic quality,
- environmental and community impacts, and
- effects on wholesale and retail rates.

He noted that the study is now at an approximate mid-point, and scheduled to be completed in mid to late October.

There was a discussion of the methodology that was being followed in the assessment and whether or not objective criteria could be developed so that the recommendations would follow the logic of the criteria. It was suggested that although there would be review criteria, of necessity, the decision criteria would probably be qualitative and subjective, because it was unlikely that major risk issues would be identified. However, taste and odor issues from algal blooms were specific concerns and are among the issues likely to be addressed.

## **VI. PUBLIC AFFAIRS UPDATE**

Mr. Heymann reported on the positive press coverage that DC Water has received. Specifically he noted inquiries about water main breaks and federal agency payment of impervious area charges. Furthermore he informed the Committee on rebranding initiatives; public outreach activities; the newly created construction outreach coordinator position; and the planning for the upcoming public taste testing.

## **VII. ACTION ITEMS – NON-JOINT USE**

Contract No. 100060 – Corinthian Contractors, Inc.

Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend approval.

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

1. Dr. Cotruvo noted that General Manager had distributed to the Committee an updated draft of the “Get the Lead Out” initiative. He indicated that this would be a subject of more detailed examination at the next committee meeting in September. He encouraged committee members to review the briefing outline and to send questions in advance to himself and the General Manager.
2. Ms. McClenney noted that the issue of the appropriate committee assignment of storm water and ground water has been referred to the Governance Committee. Dr. Cotruvo suggested that a cover memo to that committee be prepared for joint transmittal from the chairs of the WQWA and Environmental Quality and Sewerage Services Committees.
3. Mr. Bardin requested that at a future committee meeting a presentation be made on “Irrigation Only” accounts; that is accounts which are charged only for water use and without sewerage charges. He noted that this may be an operational issue as well as a rate issue, as it may affect “load factor” considerations.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:39 pm.