

**District of Columbia  
Water and Sewer Authority**

**Board of Directors**

**Environmental Quality and  
Sewerage Services Committee**

*Thursday, July 15, 2010*

*9:30 a.m.*

**MEETING MINUTES**



**Committee Members Present**

David Lake, Vice-Chairperson  
Joseph Cotruvo  
Howard Gibbs  
James Patteson  
Brenda Richardson  
F. Alexis Roberson  
Paivi Spoon  
Beverly Warfield

**DC Water Staff Present**

George S. Hawkins, General Manager  
Leonard Benson, Chief Engineer  
Avis Marie Russell, General Counsel  
Linda Manley, Board Secretary

**Board Member**

David J. Bardin

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

David Lake, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:32 a.m. Mr. Lake stated that Bob Hoyt (Chair) regretted that he could not attend today's EQ&SS Committee meeting since he needed to attend a Montgomery County Council worksession on Stormwater Management regulations, Mr. Hoyt sent his apologies.

**II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES**

**1. BPAWTP Performance**

Mr. Walt Bailey, Assistant General Manager for Wastewater Treatment, reported that the plant achieved full compliance with all permit parameters for June. Precipitation, at 1.9 inches, was lower than the 3.1 inch historical average and consequently, flow for the month was low, at 294 MGD with a 12-month rolling average of 314 MGD. Biosolids production was 1150 wet tons per day, with a 12-month rolling average of 1144 wet tons per day. BNR performance was very good, at 5.3 mg/l with a 12-month average of 5.6 mg/l, much better than the annual average goal of 7.5 mg/l.

### III. STATUS UPDATES

#### 1. US EPA AWTP NPDES Permit

Ms. Russell, General Counsel, advised that there is no change in the status of the draft NPDES permit. EPA apparently has not resolved the National Marine Fisheries Service's issues within the time frame they had anticipated.

#### 2. US EPA LTCP/Water Quality Standards

Ms. Russell advised that there is no news to report on this issue.

#### 3. Trash TMDL

Ms. Russell advised that DDOE plans to send comments to EPA by the end of the month, but have not responded to our request to receive a "discussion" copy in advance.

#### 4. LTCP Consent Decree Modification

Ms. Russell advised that DC Water is reaching a crossroads on this issue and is proceeding with significant work based on oral affirmations from EPA.

It was recommended by a Board member that a memorandum or white paper be prepared that advises the Board of the efforts undertaken by DC Water to engage EPA and resolve the outstanding issues, and what oral assurances from EPA we are relying on. It was recommended that EPA receive a copy of this after Board notification.

Committee members also noted that storm water and TMDL related issues fit better within the jurisdiction of this Committee as environmental quality items rather than as items for the Water Quality and Water Services Committee. Ms. Russell noted that this is an agenda item for the Governance Committee and the EQ&SS Committee concurred that this transfer of responsibilities needed to be addressed by the Governance Committee. Mr. Lake solicited comments from Committee members. Board Chairs Hoyt and Albert may want to prepare a written agreement to that effect for approval by the Governance Committee.

The Committee discussed the recurring problem of EPA approvals and turnaround time and whether some communication could be developed to express concerns by D.C. Water. It was noted that this is a national issue, and Ms. Russell, who is on the legal committee for NACWA will raise the issue in that forum.

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

##### **1. Potomac Interceptor Sewer Odor Abatement Project**

Mr. David McLaughlin, Acting Director of Engineering and Technical Services, reported on construction progress for the DC and Maryland sites, in accordance with a previous Committee request. Park Service Permits for two of three Maryland sites have been obtained. In Fairfax County, site access issues remain for one site due to several homeowners denying access. If necessary, DC Water will investigate breaking up the Virginia sites into two contracts to allow the work in Loudoun County to proceed ahead of the Fairfax County sites.

##### **2. Potomac Sewage Pumping Station-Consent Decree Compliance: Update**

Mr. McLaughlin, briefly reviewed the history of the capacity certification issue, and the results achieved with the recommended inlet modification. Performance improvements attributable to the newly installed inlet vanes have been observed, but are not sufficient to certify the station's capacity. Additional inlet modifications, based on a newly constructed model of the inlet transition, are recommended to improve the pump suction characteristics and enable the station to operate at rated capacity.

Mr. McLaughlin noted that the vane installation recommendation was based on tests performed by a nationally renowned hydraulic lab, the pumps performed at capacity in factory tests, and an expert committee, using computational fluid dynamics modeling resulted in the recommendation for pump inlet vane installation. DC Water knows of two other large pumping stations that have experienced similar issues, although neither are under a consent decree requirement. Mr. McLaughlin stated that additional expert analysis will be developed and the results of this work will be reported to the Committee in a couple of months.

#### **V. STATUS UPDATES ON MAJOR PROJECTS**

##### **1. Enhanced Nitrogen Removal Project**

Mr. Benson reviewed the status of projects that comprise the Total Nitrogen Program (BTN) at Blue Plains. Projects are underway and on schedule and within budget at this time. The first large contract (reactor basins) is out for construction bids.

##### **2. LTCP-Blue Plains Tunnel and Anacostia River Projects**

Regarding the LTCP program, Mr. Benson noted that the Blue Plains Tunnel design-build contractor selection is proceeding, with shovels in the ground

expected next year. Final design for diversion and overflow structures at CSO-19 is in progress. For future components of the plan (Rock Creek and Potomac sewer sheds) green technologies will be examined to determine whether storage requirements can be reduced. Hard design for the LTCP in these two sewer sheds is not planned to start until 2018.

There was a discussion on the decision to select the design-build delivery method of procurement for components of these large projects. Mr. Benson noted that for the Blue Plains tunnel, the decision was based on the most favorable allocation of project risk, while for the biosolids program, the financial benefits of early completion was an important additional factor. Ms. Russell pointed out that the process was collaborative, involving legal, procurement, engineering, wastewater and sewer services. Experts were retained for the necessary expertise not available from in-house resources. The decision to proceed with design-build was made by the BOD after a presentation of the factors and options to the former EQ&Ops Committee.

### **3. Biosolids Management Project**

Mr. Benson reviewed (PowerPoint presentation) the four projects with various delivery methods and noted that they remain on the very aggressive schedule originally set, although there is no float time in the program schedule. The project remains within budget. The Committee noted that there have been news reports of large biosolids project failures in other jurisdictions and requested a discussion of these issues and their relevance to DC Water's Biosolids Management Plan at the next meeting. After the overview and discussion of technical and schedule aspects of the projects, Mr. Benson introduced Mr. Michael Loulakis, a renowned alternative delivery and procurement expert, who has been advising DC Water on how to proceed with the projects, particularly the aspect of Cambi™, the sole source contractor selected and patented thermal hydrolysis process which is central to this program. Various efforts have been made to assure fairness in pricing and mitigation of risk.

Mr. Lake noted that there was insufficient time left to entertain Committee questions, and he recommended further discussion at next meeting with Mr. Loulakis and Mr. Benson, with the Committee e-mailing any questions that they feel need to be addressed to Ms. Manley.

## **VI. RESEARCH UPDATE: ROLE OF ESTROGENIC ACTIVITY IN WATER QUALITY-FOLLOW UP**

With apologies from Mr. Lake, this follow-up discussion was deferred due to the need end this Committee meeting on schedule.

## VII. ACTION ITEMS –

### 1. Joint use

There were no Joint-Use action items this month.

### 2. Non-Joint Use

There was one non Joint-Use action item for Committee review. Mr. Benson presented the following item:

<b>Non Joint Use Contracts Considered and Approved</b>				
<b>No.</b>	<b>Type</b>	<b>Prime Contractor</b>	<b>Scope</b>	<b>Amount</b>
100070	Construction	Reveira Enterprises, Inc.	Contract	Confidential at this time

Mr. Benson noted that this item is a routine cleaning and inspection of a sewer line, and is a component of inspection program recommended in the sewer system assessment adopted last year. There were no objections to forwarding to the Board for approval.

## VIII. EMERGING ISSUES/OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion on the following items was again deferred until next month:

1. Cost of trash reduction activities
2. Differences in unit cost of land application contract work WSSC vs. DC water

A Committee member asked that these items be placed earlier in next months agenda so that they do not get deferred again.

## IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:02 a.m., with the recommendation that efforts be made to ensure that the deferred discussion and presentation items take place at the September meeting.