

**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

Board of Directors

**Environmental Quality and
Sewerage Services Committee**

Thursday, June 17, 2010

9:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES



Committee Members Present

Robert Hoyt, Chairperson
Joseph Cotruvo
Howard Gibbs
David Lake
James Patteson
F. Alexis Roberson
Paivi Spoon
Beverly Warfield

WASA Staff Present

Leonard Benson, Chief Engineer
Avis Marie Russell, General Counsel
Debra Mathis, Executive Assistant to the
Board Secretary

Board Member via Conference Call

David J. Bardin

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Hoyt called the meeting to order at 9:33 a.m.

II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Mr. Walt Bailey, Director of Wastewater Treatment, reported that the plant achieved full compliance with all permit parameters for May. Precipitation, at 2.4 inches, was lower than the 3.8 inch historical average and consequently, flow was below average for the month, at 301 MGD with a 12-month rolling average of 320 MGD. Biosolids production was also lower than average, at 1020 wet tons per day, with a 12-month rolling average of 1154 wet tons per day. BNR performance was very good, at 6 mg/l with a 12-month average of 5.4 mg/l, much better than the annual average goal of 7.5 mg/l.

The Committee engaged in a brief discussion of pretreatment issues and a recent notice of violation issued to GSA. The Committee also discussed the efforts DCW is exerting to maintain our successful land application program. Recent article on large biosolids projects that have failed (financially) was mentioned, Mr. Benson indicated that he would report back to the committee information that relates to the due diligence WASA has engaged in that addresses these financial issues for DCW's planned biosolids management program.

III. STATUS UPDATES

1. US EPA AWTP NPDES Permit

Ms. Avis Russell, General Counsel advised that there is no change in the status of the permit. DCW has participated in a conference call with EPA and the National Marine Fisheries Service. EPA has expressed that they are optimistic that the issue with that agency will be resolved in two weeks. Ms. Russell recommends allowing EPA that time, and if nothing is resolved, pressing them again for action.

2. US EPA LTCP/Water Quality Standards

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

3. Trash TMDL

Ms. Russell advised that DDOE has not issued any further revisions to the draft they shared with DCW and we have had no further communication with them.

4. LTCP Consent Decree Modification

Ms. Russell advised that DCW sent EPA the proposed revisions to the Consent Decree several months ago. She is concerned with their recent response to the effect that they “will start their review soon.” Ms. Russell noted that DCW is proceeding with the LTCP and the nitrogen program as per our TN/WW plan, based upon EPA’s agreement with its technical merits, although they have not yet agreed to DCW’s requested consent decree modifications. EPA is aware we are moving forward, and we will keep them advised of our actions. Mr. Hoyt stated that the Board is willing to get involved if necessary to get EPA action.

IV. DCWASA COMMENTS ON MS4 PERMIT

Mr. Len Benson, Chief Engineer, gave an update on the MS4 status, as Mr. Hawkins was not able to attend this meeting. He noted that EPA has issued the MS4 permit to the District, not DCW. DDOE has been charged with managing the permit, and DCW is a responsible agency under the DC Act. DCW has been assigned the specific task of catch basin cleaning. There was a general discussion on current catch basin technology; it was noted that DDOE requires water-quality catch basins on all new construction work. It has also been pointed out that requiring them on combined sewer system catch basins is of questionable value. It was noted that DCW is reimbursed by DC for water-quality catch basin cleaning from the stormwater fee.

The Committee requested copies of the correspondence that DCW sent to EPA on the MS4 permit, and Ms. Russell agreed to provide.

V. STATUS UPDATES: POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR

1. Potomac Interceptor Sewer Odor Abatement Project

Mr. David McLaughlin, Acting Director of Engineering and Technical Services, reported that the issue at the Fairfax site between the county and the park authority has been resolved, and he thanked Committee member Patteson for his assistance in this matter. Permit and site access issues are being addressed on other sites. Construction has started on the DC site, and Mr. McLaughlin agreed to note construction milestones in the future.

VI. STATUS UPDATES ON MAJOR PROJECTS

In the interest of time, Mr. Hoyt deferred the updates and discussion of Major Projects (Enhanced Nitrogen Removal Project, LTCP-Blue Plains Tunnel and Anacostia River Projects, and Biosolids Management Project) until the next Committee meeting.

VII. PROPOSED LOCAL LIMIT PROVISIONS

Mr. Bailey reported on the need to update wastewater discharge standards for industrial users resulting from a periodic review as required under our NPDES permit. The limits for cadmium, mercury, molybdenum, silver and PCB's are proposed for revision. Due to a need to complete this change by September 25th, this Committee was asked to consider and recommend this for action by the full Board. The Committee requested additional information regarding why each parameter change is necessary and the fate of these substances in the treatment process (i.e. in the wastewater or biosolids). This information should be available before BOD action on the proposed new standards.

VIII. RESEARCH UPDATE: ROLE OF ESTROGENIC ACTIVITY IN WATER QUALITY (CONTINUED FROM APRIL 15, 2010 COMMITTEE MEETING)

Sudhir Murthy, PhD, Director of Research and Laboratory, continued with his presentation from last month's meeting. He reviewed the particular types of estrogenic compounds that are found in receiving waters, wastewater and tap water. It was noted that synthetic compounds are much less potent than natural estrogenic compounds. It was noted that recent research indicates that Blue Plains is not a source of chemicals causing the intersexed fish in the Potomac River. Blue Plains removes incoming estrogenic compounds down to the non-detect levels. The Committee requested a summary sheet of the issues of estrogenic compounds with respect to Blue Plains, the fate of these compounds

following removal from wastewater. It was also noted that since it has been shown that the plant is removing most of these compounds prior to discharge, this information is a positive that should be reported. Mr. Hoyt noted that the Committee will have a discussion with staff on the next steps with this issue.

IX. ACTION ITEMS – JOINT USE

Prior to discussing the individual items, there were two related issues that were discussed. Ms. Russell noted that the subject of contract confidentiality had come up in another committee meeting. Consequently, it was decided that certain information on negotiated procurements should not be shared in an open committee environment, and all procurement fact sheets should be considered confidential until such time as the full Board of Directors has approved the procurement. If the full BOD does not approve the procurement the information contained in the Fact Sheet should remain confidential. Ms. Teresa Scott, Acting Director of Procurement also responded to a Committee question from last month, regarding the procedures and indices used in the performance of price analyses or market surveys on contract renewals via option years. Mr. Benson then presented the following joint use contract items to the Committee for consideration to forward to the full Board for approval:

Joint Use Contracts Considered and Approved				
No.	Type	Prime Contractor	Scope	Amount
WAS-07-034-AA-JW	Goods and Services	Reading Crane	Option Year 3	\$434,420.00
WAS-09-009-AB-MS	Goods and Services	Polydyne	Option Year 1	\$2,499,200.00
WAS-09-012-AA-GA	Goods and Services	M&M Electric Motor Repair, Inc.	Option Year 1	\$610,000.00
100050	Construction	Biscayne Contractors, Inc.	Contract	\$3,556,521.00
DCFA #431-WSA	Architectural Services	Samaha Associates PC	Agreement	\$3,500,000.00
WAS-07-024-AA-JW	Goods and Services	Ideal Electrical Supply Corporation	Option Year 3	\$1,035,080.00
WAS-07-012-AA-JS	Goods and Services	M.C. Dean, Inc.	Option Year 3	\$2,534,800.00

The Committee generated a great deal of discussion and some expressed concerns regarding how contract option years were awarded. They expressed a desire that DCW secure the best possible pricing for option years.. Committee members also inquired as to the impact on Authority operations of rejecting an action item. It was stated that DCW should be taking advantage of the current economic environment, although Ms. Russell pointed out that the suggestion that option years be canceled and contracts re-procured stood the risk that the new contract could cost more. Mr. Hoyt requested that if Committee members wished to see any specific information regarding any action item, they should e-mail him. He requested that in the future each contract item include a brief summary of what actions were taken to ensure a fair or best-value price. It was agreed that

the action items could be recommended to the full Board for further discussion pending the provision of additional information regarding the architectural services contract and the measures taken to assure the best-value on the contract option years.

X. EMERGING ISSUES/OTHER BUSINESS

Discussion on the following items was deferred until next month:

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

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m., with Chairman Hoyt's apologies to the following committee for the time overrun.

Follow-up Items

1. The Committee requested copies of DCW correspondence to EPA regarding MS4 permit..
2. Reschedule the Status Update on Major Projects.
3. Provide additional information on the proposed Local Limits revisions.
4. Provide an explanation of measures taken to assure best-value on contract option year renewals.
5. Provide details on the architectural services action item regarding competing teams and rationale behind a single contract.
6. Reschedule discussion on Emerging Issues/Other Business items.