



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

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

Thursday, January 17, 2008, 9:30 a.m.
Room 407, COF, Blue Plains

SUMMARY MINUTES

Board Members

David W. Lake, Chairman
David J. Bardin
Joseph Cotruvo
Kenneth Davis
Howard Gibbs
Brenda Richardson
F. Alexis H. Roberson
Paivi Spoon
Dan Tangherlini
Beverly Warfield

Staff Members

Jerry Johnson, General Manager
Gregory Hope, Staff Counsel
Len Benson, Acting Chief Engineer
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

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

II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Mr. Bailey, Director of Wastewater Treatment, reported that December performance was excellent for all parameters, with complete compliance with permit limits. Flow for the month averaged 285 MGD, and a 12-month rolling average of 299 MGD. Rainfall for the month was 3.2 inches vs. the historical average of 2.1 inches. Biosolids production was 1127 wet tons per day. Effluent total nitrogen for the month was 4.53 mg/l, below the annual goal of 7.5 mg/l.

2. Status AWTP NPDES Permit

Mr. Bailey reported that there was no change in status from last month.

Committee discussion into the unrelated area of water pumped/sold ratios followed, along with a request for the results of the water audit. The General Manager was not specifically aware of any recent request for a water audit, but offered to pull together information that was available about pumped/sold water ratios, including meter issues which accounted for a significant portion of the discrepancy.

The General Manager shared a report by the EPA Inspector General with the Committee, entitled "Despite Progress, EPA needs to Improve Oversight of Wastewater Upgrades in the Chesapeake Bay Watershed". The Committee requested that a link to this report be established on the WASA website. The General Manager reported that this was underway.

The Committee also requested that the General Manager seek an explanation from EPA, in light of the recent addition of \$900M in the capital budget for nitrogen reduction, which explains what will be accomplished by this investment. The General Manager stated that he has no reservations about requesting such a statement, but would not expect anything to be forthcoming from EPA

As an update, regarding status of the LTCP, the General Manager noted that EPA has not sent a letter regarding the total nitrogen/wet weather plan that had been the subject of a prior e-mail from the USEPA. There is no change in status as there has been no formal action by EPA.

III. WATER SERVICES PROGRAM

1. Coliform Testing

Mr. Kiely, Assistant General Manager Consumer Services, reported on coliform results. There were four positive coliform results in December (1.8% of samples) and one in January. The December positives were discussed last month. The January result was investigated and is correlated to a possible cross connection which has been addressed.

2. LCR Compliance Testing: Report and Review Status

Mr. Kiely reported that WASA is waiting for certification by EPA of the 2007 second semester results. The second semester results marked the sixth straight monitoring period with results below the action level with respect to the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR).

3. A "chlorine burn" in Spring 2008

Mr. Kiely submitted a background paper to the Committee on the use of chlorine as a secondary disinfection treatment process (or "chlorine burn") in water systems that primarily use chloramine as a disinfectant. This included the historical use by WAD of such a practice since the implementation of chloramine disinfection. After reviewing highlights from the paper, Mr. Kiely stated that WASA would recommend that a burn be performed this year, to aid in gathering data on the future need and frequency for such action. The Committee noted that there are advantages and disadvantages to the various disinfection methods, and that it is a reasonable position to recommend a burn based on the known facts. Staff believes there were clear benefits to the burn last year, with the main problem being the distortion of data by the Environmental Working Group and subsequent negative publicity that was not anticipated. A proactive publicity approach to the burn this year is planned.

The Committee requested a survey of regional water utilities and their practices with respect to a chlorine burn. Survey should include at a minimum Baltimore, Anne Arundel County and Annapolis and should clearly describe which utilities use chloramines and whether a chlorine burn is utilized.

IV. WAD MOU DISCUSSION

Chairman Lake advised that he had asked the Committee for their review and comments on the MOU distributed last month. Mr. Bardin was requested to review his substantial comments and concerns on the MOU. The main contention remains the inequitable situation whereby WASA pays 75% of the costs of WAD (operations and

capital), although it has only 1/3 of the say in voting matters of the customer board (WASA being one of three boards, each with equal voting representation).

Four concerns were noted: 1) WASA should be able to force WAD to appeal with regard to regulatory issues, 2) WASA may want to require additions to the operating expenditures, 3) WASA may want to have input into operations that may be unnecessary but are not cost issues, and 4) the WAD should have on board experts available to address any issues that arise.

Additional concerns were noted by Dr. Cotruvo, that WAD should not be allowed to change water quality without WASA agreement, they should be required to furnish water that meets all standards, including secondary standards for taste and odor, that the water they provide does not cause WASA to violate any standards, and that they be prepared to deal with any events that occur.

The General Manager reviewed the history of the MOU and the reasons behind it. It was stated that WASA's ability to compel the federal government to change such an agreement was questionable. It was also pointed out that the Board has in the past developed a position on the merger of WAD operations and WASA. The Board Secretary was requested to find any resolution of the Board's on this matter.

Chairman Lake agreed that due to the concern of Committee members over the perception of inequitable WASA representation on the WAD customer board, he will coordinate with Mr. Martin to move this discussion to the attention of the full Board.

V. FIRE HYDRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

Mr. Kiely provided a status report on D. C. Act 17-437, "Fire Hydrant Inspection, Repair, and Maintenance Act of 2008." The bill is in the promulgation process and will replace the current emergency act. The permanent act is considerably less prescriptive than was the emergency act. This change was a result of a considerable education effort by DCWASA staff and is reflective of the on-going cooperative work of DCWASA with DCFEMS.

Mr. Kiely reported that 35 public hydrants are known out of service. WASA and FEMS continue to work together to implement the MOU. The large committee last met in December and subcommittees have been meeting frequently since then to resolve issues. All WASA contracts are in place to move forward with our commitments.

The issue of operability of hydrants on private property was raised, i.e., who tracks out-of-service hydrants and insures that they are fixed. Mr. Tangherlini stated that there is now a law requiring inspection. He will work with the General Manager to follow-up on this issue.

VI. LSR PROGRAM OUTREACH MATERIALS

Ms. Quander-Phillips distributed information to the Committee that is being used to develop the outreach materials. Fact sheets are being developed. It was generally agreed by the Committee that staff has been responsive to previous requests; although a member thought that the previous requests from the Board should be reconsidered.

The General Manager reiterated that the intention of this effort is to advise the public that the Board is considering modifying the program, and we will gauge the feedback and report back to the Board.

A Committee member requested a map showing locations of lead services replaced under this program, locations of private side services replaced, locations of known lead services, and locations of services of unknown material.

Concerns were expressed over the lack of financial impact data in the background information. Another concern expressed was whether any meaningful feedback would be forthcoming from the public and stakeholder meetings. It was noted that the Customer Service Committee has vetted this material.

VII. UPDATES LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT ADVOCACY

The General Manager reviewed the concepts of a program being put together that would award grants to both private citizens and businesses for LID projects in the combined sewer areas, and distributed a draft plan. There are some threshold legal issues that remain to be answered, such as the ability of WASA to award grants directly to businesses, or whether a third party is required. The Committee reminded staff to obtain buy-in from all appropriate D.C. government entities.

VIII. ACTION ITEMS

The following contract items were submitted for Committee action:

Contracts Considered and Approved				
No.	Type	Prime Contractor	Scope	Amount
Joint Use				
WAS-05-014-AA-JS	Goods and Services	Hardy and Son Trucking, Inc.	Option Year 3 & Cont. Mod 3	\$720,400.00
WAS-06-035-AB-ND	Goods and Services	Recyc Systems, Inc.	Option Year 1	\$2,448,967.50
WAS-06-035-AA-ND	Goods and Services	Urban Service Systems Corporation	Option Year 1	\$10,380,600.00
WAS-04-001-AA-MB	Goods and Services	M&M Electric Motor Repair, Inc.	Option Year 4	\$650,000.00
Non-Joint Use				
070140	Construction	Anchor Construction Co., Inc	Contract	\$5,858,000.00
050040	Construction	Sagres Construction Corp.	Contract	\$4,935,860.00

The action items were submitted as a group, without going through discussion on each particular item, but the Committee members were encouraged to raise any specific questions that they had. A concern was raised whether a market survey had been done to confirm that option year contracts being proposed were good deals with respect to current pricing. Mr. Christodoulakis, Director of Procurement confirmed that surveys were done, and summarized some findings. In essence the surveys confirmed favorable pricing under the option year contracts. The survey information was offered to the Committee.

All action items were recommended for forwarding to the full Board for approval.

IX. EMERGING ISSUES

No emerging issues were raised.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

No other business issues were raised.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lake adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.