



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

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

Thursday, June 21, 2007, 9:30 a.m.
Room 407, COF, Blue Plains

SUMMARY MINUTES

Board Members

David W. Lake, Chairman
David J. Bardin
Joseph Cotruvo
Kenneth Davis
Brenda Richardson
F. Alexis H. Roberson
Dan Tangherlini

Staff Members

Jerry Johnson, General Manager
Avis Russell, General Counsel
John Dunn, Chief Engineer
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

David Lake called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m.

II. AWTP STATUS UPDATE

1. **BPAWTP Performance**

Average flow at Blue Plains for the month of May was 298 MGD, with a 12-month average of 313 MGD. All permit parameters were met. Biosolids production was 1284 tons per day, with a 12-month average of 1261 tons per day. Effluent total nitrogen for the month was 6.6 mg/l vs. a permitted annual goal of 7.5 mg/l.

2. **Status AWTP NPDES Permit**

There have been no new developments since DCWASA filed an appeal of specific requirements of the Permit. None the less, WASA is proceeding with the planning work to achieve the nitrogen limits.

There followed a general discussion about the biosolids research information contained in the Dept. of Wastewater Treatment Monthly Report/May 2007, which included information on a thermal hydrolysis process being investigated for possible implementation at Blue Plains. The Committee was reminded that the recommendation to defer the egg-shaped digesters project also included a plan to look at other technologies. The Committee will get an update next month on the status and direction of the Biosolids Management Plan that is being developed to consider potential treatment processes and technologies as well as ultimate reuse and/or disposal scenarios.

III. NPDES PERMIT, REGULATORY ISSUES, AND THE LTCP

NPDES Permit: The NPDES Permit issued in April has been appealed by DCWASA, and by a few environmental groups. The appealed portions of the Permit are stayed pending resolution by the USEPA Environmental Appeals Board. A number of issues that were appealed could negatively impact our LTCP schedule.

Anacostia River TMDLs: The State of Maryland working under guidance of the USEPA is working with DC DOE to develop TMDLs for the Anacostia River. The TMDLs are being developed in accordance with USEPA TMDL policy guidance developed in response to the US Appeals Court TMDL ruling.

The TSS TMDL has been noticed for public comment and should be issued by the end of July. Appeals must be filed within 45 days after issuance. Thus, we will know by mid-September whether the TSS TMDL will be appealed, and the nature of and potential impact of the appeal on how USEPA has responded to the Courts ruling that “daily means daily.” Should there be appeals of the TMDL that go to the fundamental issue of the legal meaning of the word “daily” in “TMDL,” we will need to assess the risks associated with going forward with our LTCP implementation prior to resolution of the “daily means daily” issue.

The State of Maryland and the DC DOE, under USEPA guidance, are also working together on the Anacostia River BOD TMDL. They expect to complete their work next June. DCWASA has advised the USEPA that if they can not develop the BOD TMDL sooner than next summer, then DCWASA may need to initiate legal action to delay expenditures of large sums of money for implementation of the LTCP with the uncertainty of the ability of the current plan to meet new TMDLs.

The DC DOE, the State of Maryland, and the USEPA are approaching the TMDL development by accepting the LTCP TSS and BOD load reductions as predicted by the LTCP modeling work. They have indicated that they will allocate TSS and BOD loads to the Combined Sewer System Overflows consistent with our LTCP model predictions. Thus, the potential issues with the TMDL development seem to be not with regard to water quality science and computations, but instead with legal issues revolving around the US Court determination with regard to “daily means daily.”

The Committee raised a question as to whether DNA studies have been done to determine the origin of bacteria in the Anacostia River and the prognosis for achieving a goal of making the Anacostia swimmable. Work has been done in this regard in modeling, through COG and in developing the LTCP. It was clarified that implementation of the LTCP, without extensive efforts by others in the watershed particularly with regard to non-point source pollutants control, will not make the Anacostia swimmable.

The Committee asked to be briefed at its July meeting on generally what WASA, DC DOE, and the state of Maryland know about bacteria in the River and the state of knowledge concerning toxics in the Anacostia.

IV. WATER SERVICE PROGRAM

1. Coliform Testing

WASA has had no positive samples for the month of May, nor through June 16th.

2. LCR Compliance Testing: Report and Review Status

WASA has completed LCR compliance testing for the first semester, calendar 2007. The testing established that we are still well below the action level of 15 ppb. It was noted that the few exceedances found were generally in houses with galvanized pipe. WASA will be performing profiling of some houses before and after pipe is replaced to develop a history and to be able to make recommendations to customers.

Mr. Bardin pointed out that Clean Water Action (an advocacy group) has put out a critical document and that WASA would be well served to develop a written response that addresses each of the points that were made. Mr. Bardin requested that there be a discussion on next months agenda on what the LSR program has accomplished, what has been learned, health impacts, and the future program.

The Committee agreed to have an item put on the next meeting's agenda to discuss what the LSR program has accomplished, what has been learned, health impacts, and the future of the program. It was noted that a full discussion will take place at the July Retail Rates Committee.

Also, in response to a request from Mr. Bardin at the May Committee Meeting, the GM provided information illustrating that even though to date only approximately one-quarter of customers in the LSR program have elected to have their private side lines replaced, collectively 89% of the entire length of lead services has been replaced at all of the residences where DCWASA has replaced the lead water service line. This information will be distributed to the full BOD.

3. Fire Hydrant Update

WASA continues to work with the Fire Department to determine the operational status of all hydrants. Approximately 350 hydrants are inspected by the Fire Department daily. 178 were reported as out-of-service as of June 19. It was noted that the number out of service changes daily. The hydrant assessment program is still anticipated to be completed by the end of the summer. WASA received some red water complaints related to hydrant testing induced high volume flows, and has met with the Fire Department to modify the flushing procedure.

There was general discussion on the standards being used to test hydrants, and also on the need for WASA to do some image building and public relations regarding the hydrant situation.

DCWASA has begun such an effort, including District Cablevision Channel 16, and the DCWASA Website. The GM will brief the BOD on these efforts in the near future. It was reported that cooperation between the Fire Department and DCWASA is going very well.

V. STRENGTH OF WASTE

A PowerPoint presentation was given on the work being done to quantify the strength of wastewater in the various flowstreams to Blue Plains. Data from the last 6 years has been evaluated and it shows an upward trend in strength. This seems consistent with what other jurisdictions are seeing, and will directly effect the development of the upgrade projects that are necessary at Blue Plains. Further investigative work will be done over the next 10 months including 6 months of sampling. Follow-up work could be performed to include longer duration sampling and to investigate the causes of the increased strength and strength differences in different sewersheds.

VI. LSDBE/MBE/WBE FY 2006 REPORT

A PowerPoint presentation was given on the extent that DCWASA contracting is complying with the LSDBE/MBE/WBE goals stated in the DCWASA Business Development Plan. Contracts were reviewed to ascertain the percentage of contract dollars that went to entities in the various categories, in the various user jurisdictions, and also whether the contracts were of a discretionary or nondiscretionary nature. LSDBE/MBE/WBE participation was \$101.5M, or 50.3% of the total \$201.6M in discretionary and nondiscretionary awards in FY 2006. The outreach efforts undertaken were listed and discussed. The Committee was advised that revisions to the program are being looked at, and they will be briefed on any proposed changes in the future. The Committee asked that management survey other local Water and Sewer agencies to ascertain their LSDBE/M/WBE goals and performance against these goals.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

The following contracts were submitted for Committee action:

Contracts Considered and Approved				
No.	Type	Prime Contractor	Scope	Amount
Joint Use				
060030	Construction	Sagres Construction Corp.	Contract	\$1,442,700.00
Non-Joint Use				
DCFA #392-WSA	Engineering Services	Bryant Associates	Supplemental Agreement	\$2,754,000.00
DCFA #404-WSA	Engineering Services	Black & Veatch Corp.	Agreement	\$4,000,000.00
060060	Construction	Civil Construction, LLC	Contract	\$12,193,496.40
060070	Construction	Fort Myer Construction Corp.	Contract	\$19,078,470.80
070100	Construction	Anchor Construction Corp.	Contract	\$3,984,400.00

All action items were approved. It was requested that the WASA estimate for each contract be indicated on fact sheets, although it was pointed out that the action items would not have been put forward if the contract price did not comport with said estimates.

There was discussion on the Bryant Associates action item which is for construction management services, due to some confusion over the scope and cost. It was clarified that the additional services are necessitated under this contract by additional construction contracts within the general water infrastructure scope, which had not been identified in the original contract. Specifically this includes the Fire Hydrant Replacement construction project, and the Anacostia 2nd High Service Area 30" and Smaller Water Main construction project contracts that are part of this month's action items.

The Committee asked to be briefed in the future on DCWASA's use of outsourced Construction Management.

VIII. EMERGING ISSUES

1. Anacostia 108 inch Force Main

The Committee was advised of recent concern over the condition of the 108 inch force main that delivers the majority of WSSC's flow to Blue Plains. This is a reinforced concrete cylinder pipe; pipe of this type have had a history of failure and this specific pipe did have some corrective work done prior to its being placed in service. WASA is meeting with WSSC in the near future to discuss this further and determine what they know about the pipe condition and to develop a plan for remedial action as is necessary.

IX. OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee requested an update on the relocation of WASA facilities from "O" Street near the stadium site. The General Manager advised that WASA is working with the D.C. Deputy Director of Economic Development regarding temporary and permanent sites to relocate to. The relocation(s) should result in no cost to WASA rate payers.

The Committee was advised of a fire that occurred 5:30 a.m. this morning at the Potomac Pumping Station, which has rendered a pump inoperable. No overflow occurred, and the pump may be returned to service with parts that had been removed during the current rehabilitation work.

X. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Lake adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.