



*District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority*

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

Thursday January 18, 2007, 9:30 a.m.
Room 407, COF, Blue Plains

SUMMARY MINUTES

Board Members

James Caldwell, Chairman
David J. Bardin
Howard C. Gibbs
F. Alexis H. Roberson
Joseph Cotruvo
Brenda Richardson
David Lake
Kenneth Davis
Paivi Spoon

Staff Members

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

James Caldwell called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m.

II. STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Average flow at Blue Plains for the month of August was 293 MGD. All permit parameters were met. Excess flow of approximately 21 million gallons due to wet weather events was treated through primary treatment, disinfection, and dechlorination. Biosolids production was 1,388 tons per day, and effluent total nitrogen for the month was 5.93 mg/L vs. a permit annual goal of 7.5 mg/L.

The Committee asked why the biosolids tonnage was higher this month. Both a higher production of solids and a wetter cake contributed to this.

The Committee asked about a new chart on Greenhouse Gas Balance. This chart reflects the benefits of the WASA biosolids recycling program on avoided greenhouse gas emissions over the one-month period of the report. These are calculated by the industry standard method.

2. Status AWTP NPDES Permit

WASA staff and consultants have been in meetings with Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this week discussing the reopening of the NPDES permit to include nitrogen total nitrogen (TN) limits. WASA has developed and will file comments on the EPA draft permit proposal; we could not wait for the discussions to conclude because of legal deadlines. EPA wants to proceed with the draft permit as it is currently proposed while including an implementation schedule in a Consent Decree.

The Committee asked exactly what is involved in the wet-weather program. The wet-weather program includes the excess flows addressed in the Long Term Control Plan (LTCP). By taking a combined approach to wet weather and TN the cost could be reduced by much as 40%.

The Committee asked how the current permit addresses the LTCP. The current permit does not address the LTCP.

One Committee member stated that with the Supreme Court decision to not review the Appeals Court ruling on Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL), the existing tunnel based LTCP may ultimately prove to be not viable. Therefore, it was requested that the Committee ask the Board to direct the General Manager to:

1. Start discussion with the EPA on reopening the LTCP for further consideration. Since the TMDL issue may not be resolved timely to planning design, and construction of the current LTCP.
2. Prepare an analysis of the options for the Anacostia River portion of the LTCP, including separation of the storm collection system as opposed to the tunnel.
3. Stop or limit the spending of money for tunnel development until the TMDL issue is finally resolved.

Discussion on these points was suspended until the Committee was in Executive Session.

III. WATER SERVICE PROGRAM

1. Coliform Testing

WASA has had no positive samples in December, or to date in January.

2. Orthophosphate Addition/OCCT

Staff continues to monitor the program, and treatment is continuing with no problems.

3. LCR Compliance Testing: Results and Trends

WASA is completing the LCR compliance reporting for the second semester of 2006. WASA has not been over the action level for three consecutive semesters and is therefore eligible to approach the USEPA for approval of a reduced sampling program.. WASA is developing a sampling program for 2007, which will be sampling for one semester during the warmer months, and will request approval from the USEPA.

A general discussion on the types of bacteria ensued and it was indicated that a better definition be given in the future.

IV. CAPITAL BUDGET

It was pointed out to the Committee that in order to meet the Board of Director's budget approval schedule, the Committee needed to develop a recommendation for presentation to the Board at its February meeting.

Two items have been revised in the CIP: 1) A line item was added under Combined Sewer Overflow of \$30M, including \$2 million for preliminary design, for a WASA headquarters building. It was added to the CSO service Area because the building would be at the Main and O street pumping site. 2) Added \$20 million in spending authority; this does not effect the budget.

No questions have been received from the Committee other than two requests at the last meeting. A chart was distributed to the Committee that presented the lead service replacement program separated from other Water Service Area spending which showed federal spending for the LTCP separated from other CSO Service Area spending. A table was presented showing the effect of the 5% one-year market conditions adjustment on the 10-year plan.

The Committee requested that a footnote be added relative to the Anacostia LTCP that relative to the current events, this item is open to revisions as plans are further developed, and as IMA negotiations progress.

The Committee unanimously recommended approval by the Board with the added footnote.

V. ACTION ITEMS

The following contracts were submitted for Committee action:

Contracts Considered and Approved				
No.	Type	Prime Contractor	Scope	Amount
Joint Use				
FCWA-05-01(E)	Goods & Services	Kuehne Chemical Company, Inc.	2 nd Option Year	\$3,970,000
WAS-06-008-AA-ND	Goods & Services	Carter & Carter Enterprises, Inc.	1 st Option Year	\$4,200,000
FCWA-05-01(C)	Goods & Services	Colonial Chemical Solutions, Inc.	2 nd Option Year	\$6,429,600
FCWA-05-01(G)	Goods & Services	J & K Distributors, Inc.	2 nd Option Year	\$714,138
FCWA-05-01(F)	Goods & Services	J & K Distributors, Inc.	2 nd Option Year	\$2,400,000
FCWA-05-01(K)	Goods & Services	J & K Distributors, Inc.	2 nd Option Year	\$720,000
FCWA-05-01(L)	Goods & Services	J & K Distributors, Inc.	2 nd Option Year	\$330,000
FCWA-05-01(I)	Goods & Services	Hardy & Sons Trucking, Inc.	2 nd Option Year	\$360,000
FCWA-05-01(B)	Goods & Services	Tricon of Washington, D.C.	2 nd Option Year	\$2,328,000
FCWA-05-01(J)	Goods & Services	PVS Chemical Solutions, Inc.	2 nd Option Year	\$504,000
FCWA-05-01	Goods & Services	Allegiance Chemicals, LLC	2 nd Option Year	\$780,000
Non-Joint Use				

The Committee requested that unit cost and quantities as well as percentage of unit price increase included in each of the Goods and Services Option Year be shown on the Fact Sheets.

The Committee asked whether WASA had considered on-site generation of chlorine. The staff responded that this had been studied in the past, but WASA is interested in looking at the topic again in light of new technical advances.

The Committee inquired as to who does the procurement for the Council of Governments (COG) contracts. One of the COG member jurisdictions prepares a proposal package, advertises, and receives proposals – in this case, Fairfax County. WASA does an economic analysis of the proposals received, and writes and signs its own contract with the vendor. WASA also maintains its own quality monitoring program for the products received.

VI. EMERGING ISSUES

Bids were received for the Nitrification-De-nitrification project with the low bid being \$20 million over the approved budget, and \$14 million over the currently requested adjusted budget (5% one year additional cost escalation added for current construction market conditions). WASA staff is currently analyzing the bid, and will make a recommendation to the Committee at the next meeting on how to proceed.

The Committee asked that the analysis and recommendation also compare this bid to other recent bids received by WASA that were over the budget or engineer's estimate.

The Virginia General Assembly currently has seven bills proposed that deal with disposal of biosolids within the Commonwealth. One bill would transfer the oversight of the program from the Department of Health to the Department of Environmental Quality. Several propose to give local authority (counties) the right to review and reject sites, some dealing with application sites, and others dealing with storage sites. One proposes a Commonwealth study of the health effects of biosolids land application (WASA tends to support this bill, as no study has found health hazards from land application).

The Committee asked what were the immediate and long-term effects of these bills on WASA's land application program. The current bills would have no immediate impact on WASA's program, as all are presently addressing new permits. At the worst case, these would place a greater burden on WASA primarily for the need to go further distances to available sites for land application.

The Committee requested that WASA look into the possibility of disposal in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Maryland. WASA has already investigated these possibilities, has permits and is prepared to implement programs in those localities if appropriate.

Approximately 4-years ago, the Commonwealth Supreme Court ruled on a case relating to local control over land application that it was in conflict with Commonwealth laws. Some of these bills are directed at modifying the laws so that this could not be the basis of future court rulings.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

Casey Trees Foundation is currently developing a study to look at the effect on storm water pollutant loadings of three activities: 1) planting trees, 2) creating tree boxes, and 3) developing green roofs. The Committee requested that a presentation on the results of the study be made to the Committee next month.

WSSC currently has a program that they are expounding titled "Can the Grease." This is to educate residents on how to handle grease to keep it out of the sewers, and the problems and expenses that grease causes in the sewers. The Committee recommended that WASA look into this program and see if this, or something similar would be beneficial to WASA, and whether there may be synergy in WASA jointly working with other organizations on such a program.

The General Manager indicated that WASA was already investigating programs similar to this throughout the country, and would have information available to present to the Committee within approximately 45-days.

The Committee went into Executive Session at 10:57, and returned at 11:47. A Committee member reiterated that while the Executive Session was devoted to the legal aspects of the LTCP, the Committee still wanted a feasibility study of technical alternatives to the Anacostia Tunnel.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Caldwell adjourned the meeting at 11:48 a.m.