



*District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority*

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

Wednesday, January 26, 2005, 9:30 a.m.
Room 407, COF, Blue Plains

SUMMARY MINUTES

Board Members

James Caldwell, Chairman
David Bardin
Alexis Roberson
Brenda Richardson
Stephanie Nash

Staff Members

Jerry Johnson, General Manager
John Dunn, Chief Engineer
Avis Russell, General Counsel

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman James Caldwell called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

II. STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Average flow at Blue Plains for the month of December was 326 MGD. All permit parameters were met, and the total nitrogen was at 3.7 mg/L. Biosolid production was 1,296 tons per day.

WASA has been conducting research on Biological Nutrient Removal by using alternative chemicals as the source of carbon. This research is being conducted in conjunction with a professor and a research assistant from the George Washington University. Normally, WASA uses methanol for this treatment, which is the most often used chemical in the industry. The chemicals being considered as alternates to methanol are as varied as ethanol to corn syrup. All of the chemicals being researched are at least as safe as the methanol currently being used.

2. Status AWTP NPDES Permit

The permit was modified by EPA to incorporate the Long Term Control Plan on December 16, 2004, and will expire on February 25, 2008. Two appeals have been filed: one by WASA and another by the Sierra Club and Friends of the Earth.

All permit requirements remain in effect other than those under appeal. WASA and Sierra Club/Friends of the Earth will negotiate with EPA to try to come to a mutual agreement on the permitting issues.

The Committee requested that the WASA staff provide a summary of the effects of the results of a worst-case result from the appeals; i.e. WASA losing all appeals, and Sierra Club/Friends of the Earth winning all appeals.

3. WAD / Residual EIS

The Corps of Engineers has modified their proposed approach to residual disposal. Rather than propose pumping of residuals to Blue Plains for dewatering or dewatering at the Dalecarlia WTP site, they are now looking at the area behind Sibley Hospital as a dewatering site. This area would provide better truck access, and not require truck traffic through residential neighborhoods. Because of this, the Corps is delaying the filing of a draft Environmental Impact Statement until April.

4. Digester Project Approvals

WASA has been pursuing approval of the egg shaped digesters at the AWTP thru both a PUD process and a variance for height at the DC Zoning Commission (ZC). Additionally, approval of the project is required from the US Commission on Fine Arts (CFA) and the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC).

The NCPC has formally approved the project and written approval has been received.

Both the ZC and the CFA have verbally approved the height variance. However, a formal written approval has not been received from either. The architectural treatment of the project has not yet been approved by either of these Commissions and in fact WASA has received conflicting direction from these two bodies as to the architectural treatment that would be approvable. The interest in and passion for the project is very high within both Commissions. WASA staff will work closely with the Zoning Commission and the CFA on both a formal and informal basis to reach a consensus on the design issues. The delay in receiving these approvals does not have direct quantifiable impact on project time and costs unless they remain unresolved past April, 2005.

A presentation was made on the current status of the aesthetic approvals for the project, e.g. the cladding for the eggs and towers, and the architectural treatment of the bridges. The architectural design concept as previously presented to the BOD was presented to both the CFA and the ZC

The CFA met prior to the ZC. They raised some concerns, indicating that they would prefer the design appear less Victorian, and more 1930's art deco/industrial. They also indicated a preference for eliminating the "circles" on the bridges, the "petals" pattern on the eggs, and the brickwork on the towers. The CFA required that WASA make changes to the design and resubmit for approval.

Subsequently the Zoning Commission met and verbally approved the digester design, but granted WASA the flexibility to make changes to the architectural treatment of the project as determined necessary by the CFA.

WASA's consultants modified the design to reflect the desires of the CFA. When this was presented to the CFA, the CFA Chairman made further modifications to the design of the bridges at the meeting. However, when the modified design, including the CFA Chairman's bridge modifications was presented to the Zoning Commission, the Zoning Commission took exception to the modifications of the original design and stated that they want the design to remain closer to that that was originally presented.

As previously noted, WASA staff will work closely with the Zoning Commission and the CFA on both a formal and informal basis to reach a consensus in the design issues raised.

The Committee questioned the requirement for an approval by the CFA, indicating an understanding that the CFA was (only) an advisory agency. The Committee requested that the WASA General Counsel confirm the legal authority of the CFA relative to the ZC with regard to our project.

III. WATER SERVICE PROGRAM - STATUS

1. Coliform Testing

For the month of December, there has been one positive sample within the month.

2. LSR Program

The first quarterly report for the year on the LSR program was presented to the Committee. The report is contained in the "Capital Improvement Program Report, FY-2005 1st Quarter". The first tab in the report contains a summary of the program. A general discussion of the program will be held at the next meeting.

There was a discussion of a January 22 Washington Post article. WASA staff pointed out that the information presented was historical in nature. The program is currently proceeding well. The discussion included reference to the statistical method that was used to present the data. WASA staff indicated that the method used was chosen to address the audience; while the EPA method of measurement is appropriate for the scientific community, the general public more easily understands the percentage method. WASA staff revealed that 33% of the most recent regulatory samples still exceeded EPA's 15 ppb action level, more than three times EPA's standard of 10%.

IV. CAPITAL PROGRAM REPORT – 1ST QUARTER FY '05

Copies of the first quarterly report were provided to the Committee members. A general discussion of the document will be held at the next Committee Meeting.

Section I contains two new items: Lead Services Replacement Program Quarterly Report, and the Combined Sewer System Projects (NMC & LTCP) Quarterly Report. The Committee questioned the project for the Poplar Point Pumping Station. Staff noted that this is not a Consent Decree project, and that although the LTCP calls for this station to be decommissioned in approximately 11 years, the proposed project work is necessary to improve the maintainability and reliability of the station through its remaining life.

V. ACTION ITEMS

The following contracts were submitted for Committee action:

Contracts Considered and Approved				
No.	Type	Prime Contractor	Scope	Amount
030220	Construction (Non-Joint Use)	W. M. Schlosser Company, Inc.	Construction Contract	\$42,722,000
030070	Construction (Non-Joint Use)	O'Donnell Construction Co.	Construction Contract	\$1,858,275
010050	Construction (Non-Joint Use)	Whiting-Turner Contracting Co.	Change Order	\$12,796
FCWA-05-01	Goods (Joint Use)	Chemicals Unlimited (Allegiance)	Goods Contract	\$1,422,700
FCWA-05-01	Goods (Joint Use)	Colonial Chemicals	Goods Contract	\$4,078,264.39
FCWA-05-01	Goods (Joint Use)	Kuehne Chemicals	Goods Contract	\$3,015,635.85
FCWA-05-01	Goods (Joint Use)	J & K Distributors	Goods Contract	\$1,128,799.80
FCWA-05-01	Goods (Joint Use)	Tricon of Washington	Goods Contract	\$1,692,474.04

WASA staff presented additional information on the five chemical procurement contracts. The presentation pointed out the projected change in chemical usages from last year to this year, some reduced and some increased. The changes are attributable to modifications in operation procedures.

All action items were approved unanimously.

The Committee pointed out the positive reductions in overflows to the Anacostia River as a result of the rehabilitation of the Main and O Street Pumping Station contract. This work will reduce CSOs into the Anacostia River by 10%. It also achieved very high MBE/WBE utilization (42.6%), and will be funded 50% by Congress. WASA staff was encouraged to publicize this project to the maximum extent possible.

VI. CSO/STORMWATER MANAGEMENT SUBCOMMITTEE

1. Anacostia Tunnel System: progress since previous meeting

WASA is currently in the process of selection of a consultant for the Anacostia Tunnel Project for facilities planning. A Short List of three has been selected. Proposals were received on January 5, presentations made on January 12 and 13, and the selection committee met on January 14. Currently, references are being checked, The A/E Evaluation Committee will meet subsequent to completion of the reference checks and will then make a recommendation to the GM. The selection process is about three weeks behind schedule. The GM restated his commitment to bring his contract recommendation to the Board in March.

The Committee asked about the status of a WASA Project Manager. The Chief Engineer and DETS are currently working on development of an organizational structure that will adequately support the LTCP project. The Chief Engineer will submit the proposed plan to the GM in the near future.

2. Status MS4 Permit Appeal

The permit disagreements have not yet been resolved and EPA will schedule a hearing for negotiations with all parties.

3. Anacostia River TMDL Appeal

The EPA Board of Appeals has sided with EPA on the disputed issues. The issues are currently in the US Court of Appeals.

4. Quarterly Report on CSO NMC/LTCP Projects

The Capital Improvements Quarterly Report provided to the Committee contains the current status of the CSO and LTCP projects.

5. The Tidal Basin

The Tidal Basin gates are currently non-operational and have been so for a long time. They are stuck in a partially-open position, and silted in. Staff is currently attempting to determine if the National Park Service (the authority responsible for the Tidal Basin) will repair the gates.

6. Advocacy for LID – progress since previous meeting

WASA received approval from EPA for the Supplemental Environmental Projects (Low Impact Development) on January 24, 2005.

As part of WASA's advocacy program for Low Impact Development, an LID program has been proposed to the DC Government for several of their projects, including the new baseball stadium. An incentive program has been proposed, and is in review by WASA's General Counsel and other agencies. This would be accomplished using funds from storm water management fees.

VII. EMERGING ISSUES

1. Baseball in DC

A kick-off meeting between the DC CFO's agent (hired to determine costs of the stadium) and WASA is scheduled for February 1.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

Information sheets from the Blue Plains Regional Committee were provided to the Committee. Next month a presentation on the operations of the BPRC will be made. The Blue Plains CAOs have accepted an annotated IMA prepared and presented to them by the BPRC. The jurisdictions that signed the original IMA will soon be starting renegotiation of the IMA. The renegotiation is necessary to address issues that remain from the original negotiations as well as issues that have developed since the IMA was signed in 1986.

The Committee requested information on the District's flows to Blue Plains, since the signing of the IMA: flow values to be provided for periods of high, low, and average rainfall.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Caldwell adjourned the meeting at 11:56 a.m.