

**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

Board of Directors

**Environmental Quality and
Sewerage Services Committee**

Thursday, September 16, 2010

9:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES



Committee Members Present

Robert Hoyt, Chairperson
Joseph Cotruvo
Howard Gibbs
David Lake
James Patteson
Brenda Richardson
Paivi Spoon

DC Water Staff Present

Avis Marie Russell, General Counsel
David McLaughlin, Director of Engineering
and Technical Services
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

Board Member

David J. Bardin

I. CALL TO ORDER

David Lake, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m., with Mr. Hoyt expected to arrive shortly.

II. AWTP STATUS UPDATES

1. BPAWTP Performance

Mr. Aklile Tesfaye, Manager - Wastewater Treatment, reported that the plant achieved full compliance with all permit parameters for August. Flow for the month averaged 297 MGD with a 12-month rolling average of 313 MGD. Precipitation, measured at Reagan National, was 2.59 inches; lower than the historical average of 3.44 inches. Excess flow in the amount of 65 million gallons resulted from two rain events. Biosolids production averaged 1172 wet tons per day. BNR performance was exceptional at a TN (total nitrogen) average of 3.39 mg/l for August with a 12-month discharge of 4.96 million pounds of nitrogen.

Mr. Tesfaye attributed the low nitrogen level to the completion of recent process upgrades and the availability of the entire process tankage, the warm weather and lower flows. The Committee noted that the plant has achieved the NACWA Platinum Award for five years of exceptional performance. The status of current biosolids storage was clarified.

Based on the report on Significant Industrial Users (SIU's) several questions were asked regarding the number and extent of sampling and monitoring required. It was requested by a Board member that staff furnish information on the pretreatment program cost, trends in the cost, and how much of the program cost is covered by fees, for consideration when reviewing upcoming budget proposals.

III. STATUS UPDATES

1. US EPA AWTP NPDES Permit

Ms. Avis Marie Russell, General Counsel, noted that the Blue Plains NPDES permit has been issued and the 30-day comment period has commenced. Ms. Russell also noted that she is aware of a report, without any specifics, that "industry officials" were going to litigate the permit, presumably over the concern that our permit would become a national model. It was also clarified by Ms. Russell that the Authority does not intend to appeal the permit. A Board member asked if there were any additional financial risks imposed on DC Water by the new permit; Ms. Russell advised that the Board has been previously advised of all financial impacts that we know of, and than no additional unbudgeted costs are anticipated.

2. US EPA LTCP/Water Quality Standards

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

3. LTCP Consent Decree Modification

Ms. Russell advised that DC Water has heard back from EPA, and now that the permit is settled, DC Water will pursue the Consent Decree Modification. She has provided a letter to the Board with a point-in-time update on LTCP modification status.

4. Trash TMDL

Ms. Russell noted that there is no change in the Trash TMDL status.

IV. COST OF TRASH REDUCTION ACTIVITIES

Mr. McLaughlin introduced this topic which resulted from a prior Committee request. Mr. Hoyt noted that a basis of the original request was the cost that jurisdictions incur to pick up litter. Mr. Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager for Consumer Services, reviewed the information that had been forwarded to the Committee which included estimated costs for dealing with catch basin debris,

floatable debris and cleaning of inlet/outlet structures, for a total amount of \$2.97M per year. DC Water has six crews for cleaning catch basins and two skimmer boats that are constantly on the river. The Committee asked whether the new bag fee had resulted in less trash. Mr. Braveboy, Director of Sewer Services, believes that it has, but we do not have a baseline for comparison.

A Board member asked about the operational status of a trash collection device that had been installed some time ago, and whether it was a success and if the technology was being considered for other outfalls. Mr. McLaughlin noted that the device (from Fresh Creek Technologies) was still in service, but there are no plans to expand the use. Mr. Hoyt agreed that a review of the results of this installation would be beneficial.

V. STATUS UPDATES: POTOMAC INTERCEPTOR

1. Potomac Interceptor Sewer Odor Abatement Project

Mr. David McLaughlin reported on construction progress for the DC and Maryland sites. Foundation issues have slowed construction on two sites, and the Park Service issue with Pepco's details has been resolved for site 17 (located close to the Beltway), although the permit has not yet been issued. The access issue with the Fairfax site remains to be resolved; however this site is on the October 20th Fairfax County Planning Commission meeting for approval.

2. Potomac Sewage Pumping Station-Consent Decree Compliance: Update

Mr. McLaughlin noted that discussions on this topic would be held in Executive Session.

VI. QUARTERLY CIP REPORT

Mr. McLaughlin, reviewed the information contained in the report, explained the major events that caused the variances from the CIP baseline projections, and entertained questions. He noted that capital spending was expected to be at 90% of projections, and cited certain project milestones that had slipped from original schedules. All critical (Priority 1) projects remain on schedule.

VII. RESEARCH UPDATE: ROLE OF ESTROGENIC ACTIVITY IN WATER QUALITY – FOLLOW UP

Sudhir Murthy, PhD, Manager of Research and Laboratory, continued a presentation on this topic with a discussion on the groups of estrogenic compounds that are found in wastewater, including that from the Blue Plains Advanced Wastewater Treatment Plant. Discussion included the status and

potential regulations, methodology for testing for these compounds, results of studies, and the need to develop a testing program to address unknowns.

VIII. DIFFERENCES IN UNIT COST OF LAND APPLICATION CONTRACT WORK WSSC VS. DC WATER

Mr. Chris Peot, Biosolids Manager discussed a three page paper that had been distributed to the Committee which addressed the differences in contract terms and costs between DC Water and WSSC biosolids contracts. It was stated that there are several contracting issues that attribute costs to DC Water that are not present in the WSSC contracts. It was noted that the DC Water contracts need to have contingencies in the contracts to protect Blue Plains from unforeseen circumstances, while WSSC contracts do not contain these conditions, allowing WSSC to receive lower bids. Since all costs are shared by the Blue Plains users, this approach seems to benefit all. The costs were also compared to costs from other major utilities. Mr. Peot noted that when DC Water is producing a Class A product we can expect our costs to decline significantly, noting the cost to dispose of the Alexandria Class A product.

IX. ACTION ITEMS – JOINT USE

Mr. McLaughlin presented the following action items for Committee review:

Joint Use:

1. Contract No. DCFA #409-WSA; PEER Consultants
2. Contract No. 100010; Pizzagalli Construction Company
3. Contract No. WAS-08-035-AA-GA; EMH Environmental
4. Contract No. WAS-09-032-AA-GA; C&E Services of Washington
5. Contract No. WAS-06-012-AA-JW; First Vehicle Services
6. Contract No. WAS-06-030-AA-ND; Allied Barton Security Services

Non-Joint Use

1. Contract No. DCFA #433-WSA; Camp Dresser & McKee
2. Contract No. 0100100; Goel Services, Inc.

Committee requests and comments included identification on a fact sheet that PEER is a WBE as well as an MBE; correction of cumulative spending amounts to include contract modifications; an option year should not be deemed a time extension; provide clarification why first option year costs are higher than the original contract; clarify on a non-joint use item why a structure that connects to a joint use facility is not considered joint use. With fact sheets corrected accordingly, the Committee agreed to forward to the full Board for approval.

X. EMERGING ISSUES/OTHER BUSINESS

1. **Responses to Questions asked at August 26th Joint Committee Meeting**

No discussion took place on this topic.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:15 a.m. to an Executive Session.

After the Executive Session, the Committee reconvened and Other Business was discussed. In particular, Mr. McLaughlin briefed the Committee on an ongoing emergency procurement for a construction contractor to rehabilitate a section of the east influent sewer that had partially collapsed. Bids will be received September 24th. The Committee agreed that this proposed contract could go straight to the full Board at the October meeting.

Follow-up Items

1. Provide information in upcoming budget materials on pretreatment program costs, trend in costs, and the amount of program costs covered by fees.
2. Provide information on the results of the outfall trash collection technology (Fresh Creek) installed off of M Street SE.