



**District of Columbia  
Water and Sewer Authority**

**Board of Directors**

**Water Quality and Water Services  
Committee**

*Thursday, September 15, 2011*

*11:30 a.m.*

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present**

Dr. Joseph Cotruvo, Vice Chair  
Howard Gibbs  
Brenda Richardson  
Alan Roth (via phone)

**DC WATER Staff Participating**

Richard Giani, Manager Water Quality  
David Wall, Manager Hydrants-LSLRP  
George Hawkins, General Manager  
Randy Hayman, General Counsel  
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Vice Chair Dr. Joseph Cotruvo called the meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

**II. WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

**1. Total Coliform Testing**

Richard Giani of the Water Quality Office reported that there had been two positive total coliform samples since the last report. One positive sample in August was thought to have been associated with rerouting because of construction, and one positive in September was taken at a fire house that was being put back in service and was probably not adequately flushed ahead of recommissioning. Follow-up samples were negative in both cases.

**2. Lead and Copper Rule Monitoring**

Mr. Giani reported that 31 samples had been returned in the current semester, with one sample exceeding the 15 ppb threshold on first draw, and two second draw samples exceeding. Overall, the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile statistic of first draw samples thus far in the test period is 11 ppb, and 10 ppb for second draw samples. Some samples were collected immediately after for comparative purposes.

**3. Research lead analyses – post earthquake**

Mr. Giani reported on 14 samples that had been taken under the LCR program coincident with the earthquake (5.8 Richter) on August 23. When the samples were received, DC Water staff consulted with EPA as to whether they should be analyzed. EPA agreed that they may be atypical. EPA requested that they be analyzed, but not included in LCR

compliance reporting. Mr. Giani reported that in fact the results were unexpectedly somewhat lower than the results from the previous month's sampling in July.

#### **4. FIRE HYDRANT PROGRAM**

Mr. David Wall of the Department of Water Services gave the monthly update on hydrant status, including statistical fact sheet and map of out-of-service (OOS) hydrants. As of September 1 there were 66 OOS hydrants that were mechanically defective (i.e. not including those designated as OOS because of access issues). This amounts to 0.72% of total hydrants, compared with the target of 1%.

Mr. Wall noted that the annual city-funded contract for hydrant work has expired due to budget authorization limit; however, DC Water is addressing critical hydrant outages with in-house staff.

Board member Croft reported on a hydrant that he said has been leaking for several weeks located near Ketcham Elementary School, near 15<sup>th</sup> and U Sts. SE. Mr. Wall responded that he in the last couple days seen that this hydrant had been reported was being responded to, but he would check whether there had been earlier reports in the system. Board member Richardson inquired whether it was DC Water practice to notify neighborhoods of hydrants that had been flagged for "low pressure/flow." Mr. Hawkins responded that the Fire Dept. was notified of such conditions, and that it then made alternate plans for serving the area, using tanker trucks if necessary.

Member Gibbs commended the staff on aging statistic for initial investigation. The handout report listed 0 hydrants requiring investigation beyond 0-7 days.

### **III. CROSS TOWN WATER MAIN BRIEFING**

Mr. Wall and Mr. Hawkins briefed the committee on the upcoming construction contract for repair of a leaking section of the Cross-town Water Main, with a handout supporting document. This main provides critical transmission capacity in the 1<sup>st</sup> High Zone across Rock Creek, running at depths between 70 feet and 200 feet below the ground surface. Evidence of leakage had been initially detected in December, 2008. Since then assessments have been done to prepare for the repair, which will consist of insertion of an internal liner in the section of the main where the leaks are. It has been determined that this is a critical main, and that the repair should be accomplished during a low demand period (Oct – May). The planned work has been coordinated with the Washington Aqueduct, and plans have been made to avoid shutdown of other critical facilities (most importantly the McMillan WTP) during construction. Alternative operational plans for contingent operations have been prepared and trained for.

### **V. ACTION ITEMS – NON-JOINT USE**

The Committee agreed to recommend for full Board approval two contracts:

- Capitol Paving of DC for fire hydrant replacement, and
- Fort Myer Construction for small diameter water main rehabilitation/replacement.

## **VI. EMERGING ISSUES**

There was a general discussion on conducting some type of assessment on current public attitudes towards DC Water, what would be the appropriate timing, what would be the defined purpose,, how it would be conducted, and how it should be used. No decision was made, but it was agreed that such an assessment would be appropriate and to revisit the topic at a later meeting.

## **VII. AGENDA FOR UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Dr. Cotruvo led the discussion of future meeting topics. These included:

- Permit operations and system as-built records (requested by Mr. Gibbs).
- Washington Aqueduct Division external advisory committee report
- Washington Aqueduct Division annual report (summary briefing)
- SPLASH program update
- Vulnerability Assessment / Emergency Response Plan (developed pursuant to the 2002 Bioterrorism Act) and current status (requested by Dr. Cotruvo).

It was agreed that there would be a discussion to prioritize these topics for future meetings, as they could not all be accommodated in one meeting.

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:07 pm.