



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

Board of Directors

**Water Quality and Water Services
Committee**

Wednesday, October 27, 2010

9:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Neil Albert, Chair
Alan Roth
Brenda Richardson
Dr. Joseph Cotruvo (via telephone)

WASA Staff Participating

George Hawkins, General Manager
Gregory Hope, Office of General Counsel
Debra Mathis, Executive Assistant to Board
Secretary
Ayodele McClenney, Dept of Water Services

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Chair Neil Albert at 9:40 a.m.

II. FUTURE TREATMENT ALTERNATIVES STUDY UPDATE

Mr. Thomas Jacobus, General Manager of the Washington Aqueduct, provided a summary of the activities of the study. The third of three technical workshops had been held. Future activities include preparation of a report by the consultant in January, review of the report with the Wholesale Customer Board in February, public outreach in March through May, and then later in 2011 in conjunction with the Technical Committee of the Wholesale Customer Board work to develop an implementation plan that lays out a concept, a schedule, and resource requirements for the preferred treatment solution.

Mr. Jacobus and Mr. Hawkins agreed that local members of the community especially active advocates for local issues and special health and environmental groups should be engaged.

III. WATER QUALITY MONITORING

1. Coliform testing:

Mr. Richard Giani, Manager of Water Quality, reported that there have been no positive coliform samples collected in 2010.

2. Lead and Copper Rule compliance testing:

Mr. Giani reported that the second semester sampling is halfway completed. So far there has been only one first-draw sample exceeding the EPA Action Level, and only four second-draw samples exceeding. Calculated 90th percentile values so far would be 8 ppb on first-draw, and 9 ppb on second-draw. The presence of galvanized premise pipe was found in half of the homes with high sample values.

IV. FIRE HYDRANT PROGRAM

Ms. McClenney reported on status of fire hydrants. The format for the committee report had been substantially revised per committee request, and the members commented that they found the new format to be very informative and commended the staff. The members requested more detail on the strategy for eliminating the backlog of defective fire hydrants and clarity was requested on the meaning of the 1% target for out of service hydrants.

Ms. McClenney reported that the private fire hydrant bill (18-0557) before the District of Columbia Committee for Public Safety and the Judiciary has not progressed during the current session. Updates will continue to be provided to the committee.

IV. CUSTOMER SERVICE UPDATE

The Committee Chair deferred discussion on the bill comparison with local jurisdictions.

Ms. Lauren Preston, Director of Customer Services, gave an update on the DC WATER impervious area charge. She informed the Committee that the new rate and multi-tier structure was implemented October 1 for DC Water, and comparable changes for the DC Government stormwater fee would be implemented November 1. A discussion was held regarding the recent opinion letters from the Federal Government about the Federal Government's payment of stormwater fees and handling of existing funds already collected.

Mr. Hawkins commented that a final decision from the Department of Justice is not yet issued, so there remains a chance the decision to not pay stormwater fees might change. Last spring, DC Water began putting payments related to impervious area into a separate account, effectively an escrow account, to make reconciliation of these revenues easier in the event it was determined that the Federal Government would not pay one or both of these charges. It was decided that staff would meet with the CFO's office and the General Counsel's office to determine whether or not to forward funds to DDOE that are in the escrow account. DC WATER is holding a portion of the DDOE funds in escrow until there is resolution of the fees charged to federal agencies. For now, DC Water will continue to escrow the funds until the issue is resolved.

Ms. Preston also reported on irrigation only accounts. She indicated that there are only 466 such accounts, and it is considered not substantial enough to warrant specific rate making for these accounts.

VI. ACTION ITEMS – CONTRACT REVIEWS

1. Joint Use

The Committee approved three joint use basic ordering agreement contracts. These contracts were recommended for approval by the Environmental Quality and Sewerage Services Committee, which reviewed the contracts because of the possibility that joint use tasks may be assigned under these contracts. However, because the accompanying fact sheets assigned 100 percent of the costs to the District of Columbia, the Chair of the Environmental Quality and Sewerage Services Committee recommended that the Water Quality and Water Services Committee also review the documents. The Committee recommended approval of the three contracts with the understanding that the suburban jurisdictions will be billed an appropriate share for any joint use work under these contracts.

- DCFA #437, Hazen & Sawyer
- DCFA #435, RK&K
- DCFA #436, Brown & Caldwell

2. Non-Joint Use

The Committee also approved a non-joint use construction contract, No. 09-0010, Anchor Construction Company..

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:55 am.