



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

Board of Directors

**Water Quality and Water Services
Committee**

Thursday, June 16, 2011

11:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Dr. Joseph Cotruvo, Vice Chair
Howard Gibbs
Alexis Roberson
David J. Bardin

DC WATER Staff Participating

George Hawkins, General Manager
Charles Kiely, Asst. General Manager
Randy Hayman, Office of General Counsel
Debra Mathis, Executive Assistant
to the Board Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Dr. Joseph Cotruvo called the meeting to order at 11:32 a.m.

II. WATER QUALITY MONITORING

1. Total Coliform Testing

Mr. Kiely reported that there were two positive coliform samples taken so far in June, but that follow-up sampling was negative.

2. Lead and Copper Rule Monitoring

Mr. Kiely reported that the current semester's LCR report has been drafted and is being reviewed prior to submission. The 90th percentile value was at 5 ppb, the lowest since he has been with the Authority. There was one sample taken above the "action level" and it was determined to be at a home with galvanized pipe in the plumbing.

Dr. Cotruvo noted that EPA is currently reviewing the LCR, with anticipation of promulgating a revised rule within a year. Dr. Cotruvo encouraged staff to be assertive in commenting on the proposed rule making, based on the extensive experience of the authority.

III. 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. Mr. Wall reported that as of May 2 there were 38 OOS hydrants that were mechanically defective (i.e. not including those designated as OOS because of access issues). This amounts to 0.41% of total hydrants, compared with the target of 1%.

There was some discussion on the numbers of hydrants classified as defective or obstructed for periods greater than 60 days. It was noted that in many cases, although the hydrant is physically obstructed by construction fencing, in the event of an emergency the Fire Department or DC Water would be able to gain access fairly quickly by removing the obstruction. There was also discussion of procedures for permitted use of private hydrants by contractors, noting that such use is permitted under prescribed conditions, including the use of a meter and backflow prevention assembly.

IV. SECURITY UPDATE

Mr. Caldwell, Director of the Department of Facilities and Security was prepared to give a presentation on the security study that is being undertaken, but Committee members noted that they had received his presentation during the prior Environmental Quality and Sewer Services Committee. It was noted that this study is focused on physical security protection of DC Water facilities. Dr. Cotruvo requested that a presentation be prepared on the issue of water system vulnerability to intentional contamination, and procedures for detection and response to such an incident. It was suggested that it would be appropriate to invite representatives of the EPA Water Security Division to brief the committee on this issue nationally as background to a discussion of the Authority's procedures.

V. CUSTOMER SERVICE UPDATE

Mr. Kiely gave a presentation on the Authority's current initiative to upgrade the components of its AMI system, which is already considered one of the most advanced in the nation.

VI. ACTION ITEMS – NON-JOINT USE

1. The Committee recommended Change Order No. 1 for Contract 090170 (Fort Myer Construction) for repaving operations. It was noted that there had been an increase in paving expenses due to some very large main break repair operations.
2. The Committee recommended Contract 110030 (Corman Construction) for repairs to the Crosstown Water Main.

VII. EMERGING ISSUES / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Committee members requested a presentation on DC Water permit fees. It was noted that this is also of interest to the Retail Rates Committee.
- Dr. Cotruvo noted his request made earlier in the meeting for a presentation on Vulnerability Assessment from the perspective of intentional water distribution contamination.
- Status of DC City Council legislation on privately owned fire hydrants.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 12:38 pm.