



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

Board of Directors

**Water Quality and Water Services
Committee**

Thursday, October 20, 2011

11:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Dr. Joseph Cotruvo, Chair
Brenda Richardson, Vice Chair
Allen Lew

DC WATER Staff Participating

Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager
Randy Hayman, Office of General Counsel
Linda Manley, Board Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Joseph Cotruvo called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

II. WATER QUALITY MONITORING

1. Total Coliform Testing

Mr. Charles Kiely reported that there were two positive samples for coliform in September, both of which were negative in the repeat sampling. There were also two positives in October, one of which was at the same sampling site as one of the September positives. He noted that this site is near a large construction zone, which might explain the positive sample. The repeat samples for October were being taken on October 20th.

2. Lead and Copper Rule Monitoring

Mr. Kiely reported that 31 samples had been returned in the current monitoring period, with one sample exceeding the 15 ppb threshold on first draw. The one exceedance was at 16 ppb.

III. FIRE HYDRANT PROGRAM

Mr. David Wall of the Department of Water Services gave the monthly update on hydrant status, including a statistical fact sheet and map of out-of-service (OOS) hydrants. Mr. Wall reported that as of October 1 there were 60 Out of Service hydrants that were mechanically defective (i.e. not including those designated as OOS because of access issues). This amounts to 0.65% of total hydrants, compared with the target of 1%.

Mr. Wall clarified that the "Obstructed Hydrant" category in the monthly report refers mostly

to hydrants in which a permanent object has been installed since the hydrant's original installation that can interfere with appropriate access to the hydrant. These might be a utility pole, a fence or property wall. There are five such hydrants identified in the report, all of which are listed as greater than 120 days in the aging breakdown. These will be replaced when the new replacement contract is executed since Water Services is focusing on distribution system leaks to ensure the system is dry going into the winter season.

IV. SPLASH STATUS REPORT

Ms. Audrey Epperson of the Greater Washington Urban League (GWUL) was invited to provide an update on the SPLASH (Serving People by Lending a Supporting Hand) program, which it manages under contract from DC Water. She was accompanied by Janice Smith, COO, Elliott Clark and David Bardin. Funds for the program are donations from DC Water customers who choose to "round up" their bill payments for this designated purpose or make individual contributions. DC Water pays GWUL an administrative fee of 10%, which is funded separately. This is done to ensure that all monies donated to SPLASH are passed through to needy customers. Last year the program contributed approximately \$95,000 to needy families in the District. GWUL reported that a total of 295 clients were served, out of 384 that requested assistance. Many of the clients that were not served did not qualify under the program guidelines. A breakdown of the 88 cases in which service was not provided was given, along with other statistics on service demographics.

The upper limit of the assistance provided in a year to a client is \$350. There is also a minimum level of a \$200 bill balance, because below that level DC Water can work out extended payment plans to avoid shutoff.

The committee encouraged the Urban League to explore opportunities to increase the level of funding for the program. One such initiative is a three-month fundraiser until the end of December 2011 that was initiated by David Bardin, a former Board Member of DC Water. Mr Alan Heymann of DC Water also noted that there is a planning underway to seek additional donations to the assistance programs and that it would be provided to the BOD when the plan was complete.

The chairman asked the Urban League to plan on returning annually to update the committee on the annual results and plans for the SPLASH program.

V. EPA SAB REPORT ON PARTIAL LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

Mr. Kiely presented a summary of the findings of the recently released EPA Science Advisory Board (SAB) report on partial lead service line replacements. He noted that the report characterized the science that it had to review as inconclusive, but in general discouraged partial replacements. He noted some apparent inconsistencies in the report, and the WQWS committee noted that the recommendations did not clearly address some of the basic elements of the issue. Mr. Kiely's presentation also included a summary of the intensive outreach protocol that DC Water has adopted for continued and frequent

communication with customers prior, during and following the replacement process. Although DC Water has an exhaustive campaign encouraging customers to replace the private portion of a lead service line, most customers have not responded positively. The success rate is 28%, which is not good when considering the administrative costs associated with this program.

Mr. Kiely also presented comparative information on post lead service line replacement sampling that DC Water has done during periods prior to and after EPA agreed that we achieved “optimized corrosion control” (OCCT) in the water distribution system, that is prior to 2007, and during the period since 2007 when conditions are now considered to be stabilized. The comparative data shows that the lead level spikes observed post construction eventually return to normal levels, which is generally weeks to a few months. Mr. Kiely also commented that if EPA were to change guidelines for Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) compliance based on the SAB report, his belief was that other utilities may be required to adopt some of the practices that DC Water has already implemented.

Mr. Kiely briefly discussed the current LSR sampling regimen which is twice the regulatory requirement, and whether it was time to return to the regulated sampling regulation specification. The committee suggested that it was plausible to do so because of the success of the corrosion control program, and since the sampling is not only more frequent than legally required, but also more intensive because it also includes second draw samples. However, there should also be consideration of how it would be perceived if the samplings were reduced, so communications would be very important. The committee encouraged DCWater to provide its collected post replacement data and its followup with consumers programs to EPA in a concise report so that it will be easily understood. It was suggested that data from homes with galvanized piping should be segregated in the analysis so as to clearly distinguish it from the more typical results.

VI. ACTION ITEMS – NON-JOINT USE

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

- Toucan Printing and Promotional, for printing and special mass mailings (third option year), and
- Fasteners Rx Inc., for purchase of compound water meters.

VII. EMERGING ISSUES

Mr. Kiely advised the committee of the following:

- Mr. Rich Giani, the Manager of the Water Quality Office, has left the utility to take a similar position in Portland, Oregon. Mr. Kiely commended Mr. Giani’s service, and indicated that Ms. Maureen Schmelling has been named as acting manager while a search is conducted. DC Water will begin recruiting for a highly qualified replacement for this essential position. The committee agreed with Mr. Kiely’s comments about the service of Mr. Giani and wished him well in his new position.
- Mr. Tom Jacobus of the Washington Aqueduct has been invited to make two presentations to the committee, one on the Alternative Treatment Study, and the

other on the Aqueduct's Capital Budget. These presentations will be made at the November and December meetings. (Depending on the agenda and the length of the presentations, it may be possible for the two presentations to be made in the same meeting.)

- In January DC Water will be communicating with EPA Region III on its recommendations for future LCR compliance sampling. The alternatives would be to continue the current practice of two monitoring periods each year, or to change the schedule to one sampling period per year as required in the LCR. Mr. Kiely commented that DC Water was required to sample for two monitoring periods when we exceeded the action level and this requirement remained in force until OCCT was achieved. EPA certified OCCT in 2007 but remained reluctant to approve a change back in 2007. DC Water has not requested a change in its monitoring program since and has continued to monitor for two periods. He noted that most, if not all large water utilities sample once per year during the periods June through September unless they have exceeded the LCR action level.

Dr. Cotruvo also identified the following additional issues for future committee presentations and discussion:

- The process for DC Water issued permits (an issue Committee Member Gibbs has requested). An initial overview briefing on permits scope and practice was requested.
- Water loss accounting, and
- Water system vulnerability. Specifically, a review of what was recommended in the Vulnerability Assessments conducted about nine years ago, and what the utility has implemented and currently recommends for water system security.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:10 pm.