



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

Board of Directors

**Water Quality and Water Services
Committee**

Thursday, November 17, 2011

11:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Dr. Joseph Cotruvo, Chair
Brenda Richardson, Vice Chair
Howard Gibbs
Adam Clampitt
Alan Roth (by telephone)

DC WATER Staff Participating

Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager
Katherine Cahill, Office of General Counsel
Linda Manley, Board Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 11:43 a.m.

II. WATER QUALITY MONITORING

1. Total Coliform Testing

Mr. Kiely reported that there were four positive samples for total coliform in October, and two positives so far in November. There were no *E coli* positives during follow up testing. He attributed the four positives in October to construction activity near the sample sites. He identified three valves in the area that were closed due to ongoing main replacement work that restricted the flow of water. The situation was corrected by operating the valves and flushing the system.

Lead and Copper Rule Monitoring

Mr. Kiely reported that thus far 72 samples had been returned during the current monitoring period, with one first draw sample exceeding the 15 ppb Action Level (with a value of 16 ppb). At this time, the calculated 90th percentile value is 5 ppb. Mr. Kiely noted that it continues to be a challenge for DC Water to get returns from the customers on the distributed sample kits, even with repeat contacts to encourage participation. He noted a return rate of only 28% from a population that had expressed an interest in the program and had volunteered to participate. Current sampling is twice the regulatory requirement. The issue of whether to seek return to the regulatory required sampling rate is under discussion.

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. As of November 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%.

IV. WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT CAPITAL BUDGET OVERVIEW

Mr. Tom Jacobus, the General Manager of the Washington Aqueduct, gave a briefing on the Aqueduct's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). He noted the completion of two major projects:

- Residuals Treatment Facility, which is undergoing startup testing and will be fully operational in the spring. He noted that this project cost \$100 million, and was constructed pursuant to an EPA consent order.
- Chlorine replacement projects, in which chlorine gas is being replaced as the disinfectant with sodium hypochlorite at both the Dalecarlia and McMillan WTPs. These facilities achieved full operational capability at the end of fiscal year 2011, and cost \$18 million. Mr. Jacobus noted that these facilities currently utilize trucked in hypochlorite deliveries, but were designed to accommodate on-site hypochlorite manufacture should that technology be deemed advantageous in the future.

Mr. Jacobus summarized the highlights of the planned 2012 and 2013 capital programs, including funding by project and categorization of projects by priority objectives.

Dr. Cotruvo inquired about the "Future Treatment Alternatives Study" and it was agreed that a presentation on the draft report of this project would be made at the December committee meeting. The draft will be given a week earlier to the Aqueduct's Technical Committee comprised of senior leaders of the three wholesale customers.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Committee member Brenda Richardson noted two items that she wanted to bring to Mr. Kiely's attention.

1. She reported on some comments that were made to her at a recent meeting in Southwest. Some participants of that group were under the misimpression of there being a continuing water quality problem, with some believing that they needed to boil the water before use. Ms. Richardson said that she told them that this was not the case; however, she asked if staff could attend an ANC meeting in Ward 8 to discuss water quality. Mr. Kiely agreed to assist.
2. She also reported on an apparent anomaly on her water bill, specifically, an unexplained sudden and continuing increase in consumption. She reported that she was concerned that others could be experiencing a similar issue and she was using her experience as a test case to evaluate how DC Water responds. Mr. Kiely

agreed to investigate the problem.

V. PERMITTING PROCESS OVERVIEW

Brian McDermott gave an overview presentation on DC Water's role in the overall process for construction permitting. He noted that the other agencies involved in the process are the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs (DCRA), the Department of the Environment (DDOE), and the Department of Transportation (DDOT). He noted that DC Water's role is to regulate the connections to or modifications of its water and sewer infrastructure, and that the document that it provides to a successful applicant is a "Certificate of Availability."

He noted that the DC Water permitting staff will soon be relocating to join the other agencies in a "one-stop shop" arrangement at Waterfront Station (1100 4th Street, SW). He reviewed the recently modified fee structure used for DC Water, which is intended to recover actual costs incurred, and was based on Cost-of-Service study reports completed in 2009 and 2011. He also reviewed the budgeted staffing for the operation.

Board members raised comments on the following related issues:

- Mr. Clampitt inquired regarding the differences in the fees charged for residential house connections compared to small non residential service connections. Mr. Kiely responded that he wanted to review the cost of service data on these items and he would report back to committee. Mr. Clampitt requested that if possible the report back be made in the following week, in time for the Retail Rates Committee meeting.
- Dr. Cotruvo requested a summary of all permitting activities and fees by DC Water.
- Mr. Gibbs inquired about information on targets for the time it takes to conduct a permit review and respond to the applicant, and whether these targets are used in staff performance review.
- Mr. Gibbs inquired about how long the as-built documentation process takes. It was discussed that the as-built process is different for documenting DC Water system construction vs. customer connections, and that there is currently an initiative for converting the process to a GIS application. Mr. Gibbs noted that the cost incurred for the customer connection as-built process should be documented and included in the costs to be recovered in the permit fee structure.

VI. EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

There was discussion and committee consensus that in the next year the committee would hold its meetings on the same 3rd Thursday 11:30 AM schedule.

Mr. Kiely advised the committee that the system would temporarily convert to free chlorine for the secondary disinfectant (rather than chloramines) for the period of March 26 through May 7. The lower chlorine dosage was successful last year resulting in few customer complaints associated with the taste of water, although there were anomalies in the water quality results. Since there was no apparent impact to the distribution system as a result of this lower dosage it would be repeated in 2012. Mr. Kiely emphasized staff's reluctance to experiment any further with water chemistry changes because of the significant infrastructure challenges that we are managing. The Crosstown main is out of service for the next seven months and Fort Stanton Reservoir continues to be out-of-service due to

ongoing repairs.

VII. AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING

The following two items were identified to be addressed at the next meeting.

- Supplemental information on permit fees (see item V above), and
- The draft “Future Treatment Alternatives Study” report by the Washington Aqueduct (see item IV above).

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:13 pm.