



**District of Columbia  
Water and Sewer Authority**

**Board of Directors**

**Water Quality and Water Services  
Committee**

*Thursday, February 17, 2011*

*11:30 a.m.*

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present**

Dr. Joseph Cotruvo, Vice Chair  
Brenda Richardson  
Howard Gibbs  
Alexis Roberson

**DC WATER Staff Participating**

George Hawkins, General Manager  
Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager  
Gregory Hope, Assistant General Counsel  
Linda Manley, Board Secretary

**Board Member Present**

David J. Bardin, Board Member

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Joseph Cotruvo at 11:30 a.m. Dr. Cotruvo noted that at present the Committee Chairmanship position is vacant, but he anticipates arrival of Mr. Allen Lew, the new City Administrator, in the coming month.

**II. WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

**1. Total Coliform Testing**

Mr. Kiely reported that there were no positive total coliform samples in the month of January; however, there have been three positive samples collected so far in February. He noted that the locations of the positive samples was scattered, and there was no evident explanation at this time.

**2. Lead and Copper Rule Monitoring**

The first semester sampling for LCR monitoring had begun, with the collection of 18 samples, but there were no results reported as yet.

**3. Hexavalent Chromium (VI)**

Pursuant to EPA request, additional monitoring for hexavalent chromium began using the same monitoring sites for the Disinfection Byproduct (DBP) monitoring. The results in the first round were very low (in the range of 0.05 ug/l to 0.09 ug/l, ug/l = parts per billion) and

were comparable to the results that the Washington Aqueduct reported at the previous meeting in its source, plant, and distributed water monitoring. There did not appear to be a significant increase during distribution. Factors such as lower current water temperatures might contribute to lower conversion values. It would also be interesting to check Cr VI concentrations during the chlorine burn, because Cr III could be more readily converted to Cr VI by free chlorine.

### **III. FIRE HYDRANT PROGRAM**

Ms. Ayodele McClenney provided a tabular and mapped report on the fire hydrant status, and reported that the current out of service (OOS) percentage at 0.79%, well below the 1% target. In response to Committee questions on how the OOS parameter had been successfully reduced so significantly, she responded that new streamlined business processes had been implemented, including incentivizing crew performance. She also noted that the new hydrant replacement contract had been initiated in December and was ramping up to the anticipated production level. She offered to provide the committee with a presentation at a future date on the work procedures of the hydrant repair crews.

Ms. McClenney reported that the private hydrant legislation had passed the city council and was now in review in Congress.

Board member Bardin noted the distribution of OOS hydrants as depicted in the report map, and noted there were a significantly larger number of OOS hydrants east of the Anacostia River compared with the area west of Rock Creek. He said that he was sure that the staff's efforts are appropriately not biased according to geographics or demographics, but requested sensitivity to possible perceptions on this issue.

### **IV. LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT (LSLR) STRATEGY**

Mr. Kiely opened the discussion reporting that he had received word that the Department of Housing and Community Development was renewing for the coming year its program of financial support on a need basis for private side lead service line replacements.

#### **1. LSLR Public Outreach**

Ms. Sarah Neiderer of the Public Affairs Office provided a presentation on the revised customer outreach and notification materials that have been prepared for conducting LSLRs in conjunction with water main replacement contracts. A review had been conducted of past outreach materials that have been used, and these were updated and consolidated with goals of clarifying the message on the shared responsibility of the utility and customer in lead mitigation, and how to minimize lead exposure post-LSLR. She summarized the steps in the outreach process starting with a general notification letter, the LSLR agreement package, 30 & 15 day reminders, 14-day and 48-hour notices, post-LSLR notification, water filter information and reminders, the lead test kit, and lead results follow-up.

Ms. Neiderer indicated that they had reviewed the materials with the lead program in the

Dept of the Environment and various health advocacy representatives. Several Committee members suggested that coordination on the messaging should also be reviewed with the Dept of Health and with Dr. Aktar specifically. In response to a Board member's question she confirmed that the household filter being distributed is certified for lead removal, and mentioned a recommendation for 10-minute flushing at the start of each day for a 30-day period following the LSLR, and other advisory statements.

Ms. Neiderer indicated that she would provide the committee members copies of the full outreach packets once they had been printed. Dr. Cotruvo indicated that the committee members would review the current version and provide comment. One issue for inclusion would be information on whether galvanized pipe was in use in association with a LSR, since that now seems to be more significant longer term for first draw lead than whether there was a LSR or partial replacement.

## **2. Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Study**

Mr. Hawkins reported on DC Water's participation in the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) study to assess various issues related to lead contamination in water. He indicated that one aspect of the project is a \$50,000 grant that DC Water is giving to the organization Parents for Nontoxic Alternatives (PNA). The PNA will be conducting interviews with DC Water customers before and after their receipt of the new LSLR outreach materials and report back on the effectiveness of the outreach materials in conveying the information. The overall project is being lead by Dr. Marc Edwards of the V PI. DC Water's additional role in the project will be as a reviewer. The other utility participants were identified as Providence, RI, and Blacksburg, VA, which is a limited group. The committee expressed interest in having more details on how many and how interviews would be conducted, and on the construct of the questionnaire, and whether professional survey providers will be involved in the writing of survey instrument questions to improve the validity of the results.

## **V. CUSTOMER SERVICES UPDATE**

Mr. Kiely gave a briefing on two discount programs for DC Water customers: the CAP program and the SPLASH program. He noted that voluntary contributions to the SPLASH fund are down. Committee member Richardson expressed concern over the availability of SPLASH funds and requested that more detailed information be prepared for the Board. Committee member Gibbs also requested that a briefing report be prepared on the previous contracted managers of the SPLASH program, specifically the Urban League and the Salvation Army, and the quality of their program management and on developing contributions to the fund.

Board member Bardin raised a question regarding the CAP program and whether it was available to assist customers on the impervious area fees. Mr. Kiely responded that the CAP discount does not apply to the impervious area charge; however, if the Board wants to expand the credit we can examine this during our rate review.

## VI. ACTION ITEMS – NON-JOINT USE ITEMS

Ms. McClenney gave a briefing on three contracts:

- Tricon of Washington, DC, on provision of hydrants and hydrant parts,
- Fort Myer Construction on sewer and water main construction in the Rock Creek sewershed, and
- Flippo Construction, for a change order to its contract for rehabilitation of the Fort Stanton Reservoir. (Mr. Kiely noted that this change order is largely to address the need for the abatement of unanticipated asbestos in the mastic joint material being replaced.)

The committee voted to recommend the contracts for full Board approval.

## VII. EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

### 1. LCR Sampling Sites – Galvanized Pipe

Mr. Kiely gave a briefing to the committee on the issue of galvanized pipe and its effect on LCR compliance monitoring. He noted that although there is concern that the phenomenon of galvanized pipe interior scale trapping and subsequently releasing lead can potentially seriously compromise the validity of LCR monitoring, the utility has only limited options under the LCR for restricting the inclusion of homes with galvanized pipe in the compliance monitoring pool. At this time, DC Water has decided not to attempt to exclude such households from the monitoring sites. Dr. Cotruvo commented that in fact the LCR monitoring was intended as a feedback process for optimizing corrosivity treatment, not as a measure of public health exposure, so the compliance monitoring issue should be explicitly addressed. He encouraged staff to ask for EPA for guidance. Mr. Rich Giani, the Water Quality Manager, responded that an article on the galvanized pipe effect is now scheduled for publication in the April issue of the AWWA Journal. This could be a very significant study by providing a more precise understanding among water suppliers and regulatory officials on major lead sources, as well as a better understanding for proper interpretation of the recent CDC report results.

### 2. Chlorine Burn Update

Mr. Giani gave an update on the temporary switch to free chlorine as the secondary disinfectant. This is scheduled for a shorter period this year (from March 21 to May 6) in an effort to more narrowly target the microbial populations without undue disturbance to pipe scales. He noted that in 2010 there were modestly higher water temperatures, with elevated and sustained heterotrophic plate count (HPC) bacterial readings in numerous samples. He also reported on San Francisco's experience in using booster chlorination in remote parts of the distribution system as a method of sustaining residuals throughout the system without having to use exceptionally high dosing at the central treatment plant. Dr. Cotruvo commented on the desirability of avoidance of taste and odor issues associated with high chlorine concentrations. This is particularly important now due to the General Manager's recent request to congress to stop purchasing bottled water. It might be important for them to have carbon filters on water fountains to assure good non chlorine taste so that there would not be a setback. Mr. Giani noted that this year they intend to try

dosing at 3.0 mg/l rather than 3.5 mg/l to address this.

### **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

Dr. Cotruvo summarized some of the issues that had been identified for future discussion with the Committee, including:

- the Urban League management of the SPLASH program,
- comparison of historical main break occurrence in DC Water compared with other comparable utilities,
- continuing efforts to mitigate “forced” partial LSLRs associated with water main construction,
- continue to pursue galvanized pipe in private plumbing as a confounding issue in lead monitoring with the EPA as they continue to review potential changes to the Lead and Copper Rule, and
- availability of the CAP program for mitigation of the impervious area fee charge.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 pm.