



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

Board of Directors

Retail Services Committee
Tuesday, April 28, 2009

11:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Joseph Cotruvo, Chairman
Howard Gibbs
David J. Bardin
Brenda Richardson

WASA Staff Present

Leonard Benson, Acting Chief Engineer
Avis Russell, General Counsel
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Cotruvo called the Retail Services Committee Meeting to order at 11:15 a.m.

II. WATER QUALITY MONITORING

1. Coliform Testing:

Mr. Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager, reported that zero (0) sites tested positive for coliform in April, as of April 28th.

2. LCR Compliance Testing:

Mr. Kiely provided an update on the status of the Lead and Copper Rule compliance testing activities. He reported that for the most recent reporting period, 74 samples have been analyzed to this point. As of April 28th, two (2) samples have exceeded the EPA Action Level of 15 ppb. The 1st draw results for these samples were reported to be 24 ppb and 22 ppb. The 90th percentile for samples analyzed to date is 5.7 ppb. Mr. Kiely noted that LCR activities are suspended during the temporary change in disinfectant because it may yield artificially lower results.

3. Pre-Stagnation Flushing:

In September of 2008, WASA updated its chain-of-custody for samples collected as part of LCR compliance testing to eliminate the 10-minute pre-stagnation flush, at the request of EPA Region III. Mr. Kiely presented a series of graphics that compared samples that were collected and analyzed in January through March of 2008 (utilized 10-minute pre-stagnation flush) with those that were collected and analyzed in January through March of 2009 (no 10-minute pre-stagnation flush). These graphics indicated that there is no material change in lead levels since the 10-minute pre-stagnation flush instruction was eliminated.

Dr. Cotruvo noted that the information presented had national implications and urged that the findings be published soon, perhaps in two papers. The first could cover the January to June data, and a later paper for the July to December data.

4. Temporary Change in Disinfectant:

Mr. Kiely and the Committee briefly discussed the temporary change in disinfectant process. Mr. Kiely reported that very few calls had been received by WASA related to the temporary change in disinfectant. Dr. Cotruvo said that the change in taste of the water was very noticeable and can contribute to negative connotations in the public's perception of the drinking water supply. Thus, it should be established that there are significant water quality reasons to undertake the temporary changes in disinfection. He asked that over the next several months, WASA put together a detailed report that focuses on: biological conditions that occur before and after the change in disinfectant, accumulations that may be occurring, biofilm monitoring, quantifiable benefits of changing, and biological risks of not changing. A detailed presentation on the issue should be prepared for committee consideration before the decision is made for implementing the next year's potential change in disinfectant.

III. FIRE HYDRANT STATUS

Mr. Kiely reported that the current "out-of-service" list for fire hydrants stands at 155. Thirty-one (31) of these are due to WASA construction or temporary outages. He also noted that WASA has gone through the FEMS inspection process for the entire District hydrant inventory twice; and the current round is the third time through the process. Upon enquiry by the committee, he also said that it is expected that about 75% of the hydrants will ultimately require replacement, and that about 55 million dollars will be required for the program, of which about 26 million has been authorized and expended.

The Committee discussed budget and contractual aspects associated with the fire hydrant replacement program, the number of fire hydrants that have been replaced or repaired to this point and the amount of time needed to complete the repair or replacement of the remaining fire hydrants. The Committee requested a detailed briefing on the fire hydrant program at the next meeting. The briefing should include the total cost of the program and components, the timing of the work, impact on rates, etc.

IV. GIS AND FIRE HYDRANTS

Mr. Louis Desjardins and Mr. Kevin Butturff gave a presentation to the Committee describing how data is captured in the Hydrant Assessment Program and how the data is transferred to WASA's asset management system.

Mr. Desjardins noted that the current system was designed to use a digital submittal and to take advantage of the GPS capability. He then worked through a real-time example using the hand-held monitoring device used by inspection crews. Mr. Butturff then showed a real-time example of how the inspection data gets entered into the Maximo database application (WASA's asset management system) after QA/QC review by WASA staff.

The Committee requested that next month's fire hydrant report include the number of hydrants "banded" to date, and the schedule for completing all flow testing.

The Committee felt that the GIS system was impressive, and that an abbreviated presentation should be made to the full Board.

V. ACTION ITEMS – NON-JOINT USE

1. **Contract No. 090020 – Nastos Construction, Inc.**

The Committee recommended approval of Contract No. 090020.

2. **Contract No. 090080 – Corinthian Contractors, Inc.**

The Committee recommended approval of Contract No. 090020.

VI. EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

The Committee briefly discussed WASA's relationship with the Washington Aqueduct (WAD), and specifically budget issues related to the purchase of water from the WAD. The Committee requested that the detailed WAD budget/financial report be provided to the RS and other interested committees and also be provided to the full Board.

The Committee also requested that staff propose how the Board of Directors can be kept abreast of the WAD operating and capital budgets and performance.

Dr. Cotruvo discussed water quality study information for unregulated contaminants recently received from WAD and stressed the importance of the Committee being among the first to see data/studies related to drinking water quality. It is imperative that WASA be made aware of any water quality work that WAD undertakes or is involved with.

The chairman mentioned that the letter transmitting the BOD approved low lead resolution for plumbing fixtures is being drafted by WASA staff. He requested the opportunity to review the draft before it is finalized with respect to possible text of attachments.

Dr. Cotruvo briefly mentioned that a 2007 CDC presentation to the APHA annual meeting relating water and blood lead levels in DC was brought to public attention in the last 10 days, although it was not previously provided to the BOD. The study has not been published, and his understanding was that it had been revised and was undergoing peer review and would possibly be published this summer.

Mr. Bardin commented on the document "Washington Aqueduct feedback to Retail Services Committee from March 24, 2009 meeting concerning financial liability". Mr. Bardin noted that he did not find the response satisfactory, and considered this to be the beginning of dialogue on the issue.

The environment of the 1996 formal agreement between WAD and WASA was very different than the current circumstances and certainly some modifications would be in order. Dr. Cotruvo asked that both WASA and WAD provided their recommendations or at least candidates for changes in the formal agreements between WASA and WAD, and also suggestions for alterations or optimization in the less formal interactions and coordination between the two organizations. These were part of discussions over the last 3 meetings and it is time for specifics to be considered.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:50 p.m.