



***District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority***

Board of Directors

***Retail Services Committee
Monday, November 17, 2008***

12:00 p.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Joseph Cotruvo, Chairman
Howard Gibbs
David J. Bardin

WASA Staff Present

Jerry Johnson, General Manager
Leonard Benson, Acting Chief Engineer
Avis Russell, General Counsel
Linda Manley, Board Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Cotruvo called the Retail Services Committee Meeting to order at 12:08 p.m.

II. WATER QUALITY MONITORING

1. Coliform Testing:

Mr. Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager, reported that in October, one site tested positive, and no sites (as of November 14, 2008) tested positive in November. Repeat samples at the site testing positive in October were negative.

2. LCR Compliance:

Mr. Kiely provided an update on the status of the Lead and Copper Rule compliance testing activities. Mr. Kiely noted that 199 sample kits have been distributed and 87 samples have been returned and analyzed. Of these, 3 sample results (21 ppb, 23 ppb, and 142 ppb) exceeded the EPA action level of 15 ppb. Mr. Kiely noted that the result of 142 ppb is most likely due to particulate matter; and WASA is scheduling an appointment to visit the customer and further evaluate the result.

Mr. Johnson noted that WASA has received written clarification from EPA Headquarters concerning the stagnation time for samples collected for LCR analyses, and how WASA is to report on data collected using the different sampling instructions for stagnation time.

Dr. Cotruvo reported on the continuing discussions with the DC Dept of Environment and other parties concerning the proposed Independent Water Quality Study. He suggested that it might be an option for consideration for the Independent Water Quality Study to “piggy-back” on the samples that are collected as part of WASA’s LCR compliance monitoring efforts. The thought was that by providing additional quality control (QC) to the same samples that are collected and analyzed by WASA for LCR compliance, any doubt as to the validity and accuracy of the LCR compliance monitoring efforts would be removed. Mr. Kiely stated that as long as the samples were from the “original” list of approved premises and it did not result in an increase in the number of samples taken, then it would be appropriate; otherwise, there may be some risk as WASA would have to notify the appropriate parties concerning the ownership of these additional samples and analyses and is liable under the Lead and Copper Rule to report on all samples taken.

A brief discussion ensued concerning:

- 1) The automatic meter reading conversion program and whether oversight should fall under the Retail Services Committee or the Customer and Community Services Committee. The Committee agreed that a decision on this issue should be deferred until the new Board Chairman has been confirmed; and
- 2) The current status of the replacement of the large, commercial meters. Mr. Kiely reported that he was looking at a plan to replace the internal parts of these large meters to overcome problems associated with modifying the piping in these installations, which would be required if the entire meter was replaced.

III. DISCUSSION ON LSR MITIGATION EXTENDED OPTIONS

Mr. Dave McLaughlin briefed the Committee on the status of various LSR mitigation options being considered. Staff has received comments from the General Counsel’s Office concerning the draft recommendations, but is still awaiting a response from WASA’s health and risk communication advisors. Mr. McLaughlin informed the Committee that WASA staff believes the most effective solution for reducing the temporary spike in lead levels after a partial replacement is proper flushing. WASA is currently evaluating procedures in other communities for flushing after a partial replacement, as well as a recent EPA study, to determine if there are more effective means (e.g., extend the flushing duration) to reduce the temporary spike in lead levels. Other options were then briefly discussed, including back-flushing and the use of a device (e.g., filter) for the customer to use temporarily after a partial replacement. A complete presentation on this subject will be scheduled for the next scheduled Committee meeting.

IV. ACTION ITEMS – NON-JOINT USE

1. Contract No. 080040, Insituform Technologies, Inc.

The Committee agreed to recommend approval to the full Board.

2. Contract No. 04-047-AA-DW, Rodger Brothers Custodial Services, Inc.

The Committee agreed to recommend approval to the full Board.

V. EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Bardin requested that the Committee recommend to the Board at its next meeting that WASA minimize expenditures for the LSR Program for the current fiscal year and the next. Mr. Bardin stated his reasoning is based on the current “global financial crisis” and that these funds could be better used for other WASA infrastructure work. Mr. Bardin stressed that he feels that the LSR Program budget (\$16 million in commitments in FY 09) is not the best use of rate-payer dollars; and that he would like to get something before the Board so that action can be taken at next month’s meeting. Mr. Johnson responded that WASA has substantially reduced spending on the program, and in fact has made no new commitments for specific work since last spring, although there are some current ongoing obligations to customers who previously agreed to participate in the program. The Committee requested that staff provide a briefing at the December Committee meeting on current and projected spending for the next two fiscal years. The purpose is to identify ‘must do’ versus discretionary replacements and to determine whether it might be appropriate for the BOD to consider any revised resolutions to provide WASA additional direction or discretion in the replacement program.

Mr. Gibbs asked for clarification concerning the colors of rings used on hydrants to indicate the current status of the hydrant. Mr. Johnson stated that the ring color has been a source of confusion for the general public. He also noted that WASA is in the process of changing the rings so that it is very apparent which hydrants need maintenance, but remain available for service (by FEMS and others) versus those that are out of service. The Committee asked Mr. Johnson how many hydrants were out of service as of today. Mr. Johnson advised the Committee that 246 hydrants were out of service as of Friday, November 14th, and that this number changes daily based on a number of circumstances. A discussion ensued whether or not a map could be generated to illustrate the hydrant status and see if any patterns are apparent. Mr. Johnson recommended utilization of the application (Google Earth) on WASA’s website because it will show more “real time” hydrant data since it is updated on a daily basis.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:46 p.m.