



**District of Columbia  
Water and Sewer Authority**

**Board of Directors**

**Retail Services Committee**  
*Tuesday, January 27, 2009*

*11:00 a.m.*

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present**

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

**WASA Staff Present**

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

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Cotruvo called the Retail Services Committee Meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

**II. WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

**1. Coliform Testing:**

Mr. Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager, reported that in January, zero (0) sites tested positive for coliform.

**2. LCR Compliance:**

Mr. Kiely provided an update on the status of the Lead and Copper Rule compliance testing activities. He reported that WASA is in its preliminary stages of collecting samples for the first round (January through June) of annual compliance testing. Results should be available next month.

Mr. Kiely briefed the Committee that for the past two years Washington Aqueduct (WAD) has changed its treatment process by adding free chlorine as the secondary disinfectant to the water supply each April for a period of six weeks ('chlorine burn'). WASA staff has been studying the effects (if any) of the change in treatment. No definitive conclusions can be drawn at this time; however, staff notes that, so far, there is no reason to recommend

against this practice. WASA's recommendation is to continue the process for another two years in anticipation that more conclusive results can be obtained after that time.

Dr. Cotruvo asked whether the condition of the barrier layer of phosphate is being evaluated. Mr. Kiely stated that both the chlorine levels and phosphate levels have remained constant during the time frame that the free chlorine has been added. Mr. Rich Giani, WASA Water Quality Manager, noted that WASA is participating in a study with the University of Cincinnati which is showing, to date, that the phosphate scales continue to form and grow unaffected by the temporary switch to free chlorine.

The Committee briefly discussed the recent minor Tier II Turbidity regulation exceedance of 14 minutes that occurred at the Washington Aquaduct last month, due to a control valve malfunction on filters. WASA sent a required notification letter to each District ratepayer to inform them of the violation (per EPA regulation). Responses to data have been directed mostly to Mr. Jacobus, General Manager of WAD, and he reported that for the most part, public reaction was positive. He noted that several persons asked what was the purpose of the written notice for an event that had passed. The Committee discussed the merits of petitioning EPA to redefine its mandatory public reporting practice for Tier II non emergency violations, and the requirement that a special notice be sent outside of normal mailings, instead of perhaps public or electronic media reporting.

### **III. FIRE HYDRANT STATUS**

Mr. Kiely reported that the current out-of-service list for the fire hydrants stands at 157. Dr. Cotruvo asked when the entire fire hydrant inventory will be evaluated and updated and what would be the annual maintenance requirement after that had been achieved. Mr. Kiely responded that the entire inventory has been assessed over the past year and a half. Mr. Kiely also noted that WASA's goal is to have less than 1% of hydrants out-of-service at any time.

Mr. Johnson briefed the Committee on the considerable increase in the number of water main breaks that have occurred recently due to the cold weather. Mr. Johnson noted there were 104 water main breaks in January, and that there are currently 36 mains that still require repair. Mr. Johnson briefly described how the repair work is prioritized; and he commended the efforts of WASA staff and WASA contractors. Mr. Bardin, Dr. Cotruvo, and Mr. Gibbs all commended Mr. Johnson and his staff for the work being performed to repair the water main breaks and suggested that the public be made aware of this effort.

### **IV. WASHINGTON AQUEDUCT RELATIONSHIP**

Mr. Tom Jacobus, General Manager of Washington Aqueduct (WAD), had been invited by the committee to begin a discussion, along with WASA staff, the formal and informal operating relationships between the two organizations, including decision and communication procedures. There is a Water Sales Agreement between the Corps and WASA dating from July 1997 which deals with financial issues, but does not deal very much with water quality and other duties and responsibilities. Mr. Jacobus began with a brief history of WAD's role in supplying drinking water to District residents, the long-

standing relationship with WASA, and WAD's role as a utility dedicated to serving WASA. WASA pays all of the costs for operation of WAD through water purchase and funding of capital expenditures. Mr Jacobus indicated that both WAD and WASA are subject to regulation by USEPA. The Committee discussed the roles and responsibilities of WAD; and the consequences of a water quality violation by WAD, and ,for example, whether or not WASA has legal recourse if WAD is found solely responsible for a future negligent action that causes WASA to incur a cost. Mr. Jacobus said that he would pursue that question with Corps legal staff and provide their response at the next meeting. Due to time constraints, Mr. Jacobus did not have an opportunity to complete his presentation. He agreed to finish the presentation during future meetings and would be available on February 24, 2009 for additional discussions.

## **V. POROUS PAVEMENT SURFACES**

Representatives from DDOT were unable to attend the meeting and give their presentation because of their responsibilities associated with the winter-weather conditions. It is anticipated that their presentation will be moved to the next Retail Services Committee Meeting scheduled for February 24, 2009.

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

### **1. LSR Resolution**

After a discussion concerning the latest version of the draft Board Resolution and the language used in items 3 and 4 (shown below) of the document, the Committee agreed to recommend approval to the full Board.

“3 With discretionary funds expressly allocated in the annual budget of the Authority for that budget year for the two purposes stated in this paragraph, and at locations to be determined by the authority, lead service lines will be replaced (1) where the owner agrees to participate and pay for private side replacement, and /or (2) in coordination with paving undertaken by the District Department of Transportation.

“4. The total expenditures for DDOT-related and other discretionary lead service line replacements not associated with water main replacements shall not exceed \$2,000,000 in a budget year without the approval of the Board of Directors.”

### **2. Contract No. WAS-08-01-AA-TS, Business Promotion Consultants**

The Committee agreed to recommend approval to the full Board.

### **3. Contract No. WAS-07-043-AA-RE, Business Promotion Consultants**

The Committee agreed to recommend approval to the full Board.

## **VII. EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS**

Mr. Gibbs brought-up the article (“High Lead Levels Found in D.C. Kids”) that appeared on the front page of the Washington Post on January 27, 2009. Mr. Johnson noted that the report mentioned in the story was not yet available for review. Mr. Johnson noted that WASA is actively attempting to acquire the report; and as soon as they receive a copy of it, WASA will evaluate the report and data. Mr. Bardin requested that the report be made available to the District Department of the Environment (DOE) for their evaluation. Dr. Cotruvo requested that: 1.) the report should be disseminated as soon as possible to the Committee members, and 2.) Dr. Tee Guidotti (of George Washington University, WASA’s health advisors) be requested to evaluate of the report’s data concerning blood lead levels in children and report to the committee or BOD as soon as possible.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:00 p.m.