



**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

*Governance Committee
July 22, 2009*

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Keith Stone, Chairman
David J. Bardin
Kathleen Boucher
Anthony Griffin

WASA Staff

Avis Marie Russell, Interim General Manager
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

Keith Stone, Chairman, called the Governance Committee (the Committee) to order at 9:14 a.m.

Chairman Stone turned the Committee's attention to Item # 2 on the Agenda - Board Travel and Training Policies: Update. The Interim General Manager discussed travel and training procedures and accompanying forms that were drafted pursuant to the Board's Travel and Training Policies adopted by Board Resolution Nos. 09-45 and 09-46 respectively. The Committee approved these documents for travel and training and recommended that they be forwarded to all the Board members for their review. The Interim General Manager indicated that formal action by the Board regarding the documents would not be necessary. The Interim General Manager was asked if there was a cap for reimbursement of board travel and training costs. The Committee was informed that there was not. This prompted a discussion regarding the status of a budget for Board travel and training. The Interim General Manager informed the Committee that the Board Secretary's budget for FY 2009 contained sufficient funds to cover any board travel and training requests that would arise prior to the end of the fiscal year. The Board Secretary informed the Committee that the amount of \$10,000.00 had been recommended to be budgeted for FY 2010. The Committee came to a consensus that the recommendation of staff should be the guide for the amount of funds to be allocated for travel and training for FY 2010. The Chairman requested, and staff agreed, that the Board would be provided with copies of the Authority's quarterly training resource guide.

The Chairman then turned the Committee's attention to Item # 3 on the Agenda - Board of Directors Strategic Plan Measures and Targets: Update. Ranjit Thomas, the Director of Performance Management and Process Improvement, gave the Committee an interactive demonstration showing how the strategic plan's objectives and measures can be utilized online. The demonstration gave an overview of the use of color coding in determining if the

Authority's thresholds for targeted activities are being met. Mr. Thomas informed the Committee that a quarterly update of the Strategic Plan data in the format presented would be more informative than a monthly update as trending is more difficult to observe monthly. The Committee asked Mr. Thomas if he was reviewing measures that are being utilized by other water and sewer utilities in the region. Mr. Thomas responded that, while other measures had been looked at, only those measures that best fit the Authority were selected. The Committee also discussed the need to measure outcome rather than only output. The Interim General Manager stated that outcome is being measured, and will continue to be measured, through the use of surveys.

Chairman Stone then turned to Item # 4 – Government Affairs: Update. Gordon Fry, Director Governmental Relations reported to the Committee that Mayor Adrian Fenty had requested that the following persons be appointed to the Authority's Board: David Bardin and Joseph Cotruvo as Principals and Maureen McGowan, Maurice Bossiere and Howard Croft as Alternates. He stated that a public hearing date had not been set for these nominations. Mr. Fry informed the Committee that the public hearing scheduled in July for the Wastewater System Regulations Amendments of 2009 had been postponed to September 29, 2009. Mr. Fry reported that on Friday July 17th, the Mayor had submitted a revised fiscal year 2009 gap closing budget. Mr. Fry further reported that the Budget Support Act included language regarding the expenditure of funds to ensure a water supply for fire protection for the residents of Klinge Road. The Act also included language transferring the monies in the Utility Discount Fund to the General Fund.

Mr. Fry informed the Committee that the Authority's finance staff had concerns with language in the Budget Request Act. Specifically, there is a concern that the \$20 million dollars appropriated for the Combined Sewer Overflow Program may be transferred to the District's General Fund. Mr. Fry stated that he is seeking an interpretation of this language from the Budget Office, the Mayor's Office and the Hill. He also told the Committee that the Budget Request Act included language recommending that Congress not approve the Authority's proposed rate increases until the Authority provides clear evidence justifying such increases. This prompted a discussion of possible steps that should be taken to address Council's action. Mr. Fry concluded that he is organizing a coalition to look for increased federal funding for Blue Plains in the next budget cycle.

The Chairman then turned to Item # 5 on the Agenda and polled the Committee members for any emerging issues; however, no issues were raised.

Chairman Stone adjourned the meeting at 10:49 a.m.