



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

Board of Directors

Retail Services Committee

Thursday, March 18, 2010

11:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Joseph Cotruvo, Chairperson
Howard Gibbs
David J. Bardin
Alexis Roberson
Brenda Richardson

WASA Staff Present

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

Board Member Present

Alethia Nancoo

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Cotruvo called the Retail Services Committee Meeting to order at 11:40 a.m.

II. WATER QUALITY MONITORING

1. Coliform Testing:

Mr. Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager, reported that zero (0) samples had tested positive for coliform in the month of February. Also, no samples have tested positive this month through March 17th.

2. LCR Compliance Testing:

Mr. Kiely provided an update on the status of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) compliance testing activities. He reported that 26 samples (25 percent of the total) have been analyzed to this point for the first semester. One (1) 1st draw sample has exceeded the EPA Action Level of 15 ppb. The 1st draw result for this sample was 25 ppb. Also, one (1) 2nd draw sample exceeded 15 ppb. The 2nd draw result for this sample was 17 ppb.

3. Nitrification Issue Status:

Mr. Kiely reported to the Committee that the change in secondary disinfectant to free chlorine appears to be working. He cited the example of Sheriff Road NE that has shown an increase in chlorine residuals and a decrease in iron measurements. Mr. Rich Giani, Water Quality Manager, reported that WASA will provide the data from the water sample analyses to the Technical Expert Working Group (TEWG); and WASA will work with them to help frame future decisions (e.g., will the free chlorine disinfectant change be necessary next year?). Dr. Cotruvo commented that it may not be desirable to use free chlorine next year; and other options/alternatives that could be effective if the issue arises again should be evaluated before the issue is returned to the BOD for consideration.

III. FIRE HYDRANT PROGRAM

1. Service Status:

Mr. Kiely informed the Committee that the Fire Department began their inspection process on March 9, 2010; and that they will be evaluating every hydrant in the District. Mr. Kiely also provided the Committee with a handout outlining the status of the fire hydrants in the District. The current number of public "out-of-service" (OOS) fire hydrants stands at 131. Of these, 12 are categorized "temporarily out-of-service", 14 are categorized as "new construction", 31 are considered "obstructed", and 74 are considered "defective". He also provided the Committee with a map illustrating the location of the current OOS hydrants. This breakdown of categories is very informative and gives a good indication of the progress made on managing the condition of hydrants that are within WASA's control. However, it was also noted about 14% of non public hydrants were identified as out of service. That is an area where corrective action should be addressed by responsible authorities.

The Committee briefly discussed flow-testing, and specifically the testing that was performed earlier this month on Connecticut Avenue, NW. WASA Staff will look into the issue and will evaluate the logistics, notification process, etc. associated with the flow-testing performed by WASA contractors.

IV. GREEN BUILDING INITIATIVES – WATER/WASTEWATER

Mr. Paul Schwartz of Clean Water Action gave a presentation to the Committee concerning "green" building initiatives and working toward a sustainable water future in the Washington DC Region. He began his presentation by summarizing community concerns, including WASA's Long term Control Plan (LTCP) for combined sewer overflow and drinking water quality. Mr. Schwartz outlined his future vision in terms of water and wastewater which included integrated water resource management. He also reported that several cities, including New York City and Seattle, are currently utilizing integrated resources management practices; and he provided examples of these practices.

Dr. Cotruvo noted that the issues related to water resource management are very

challenging, and that DC is in a relatively water rich area. Water systems are infrastructure intensive. Conservation and reduced consumption are very desirable and are occurring here, but they would also tend lead to higher unit water rates to cover the cost of service. He agreed that we should be forward looking and prepared to evaluate all plausible approaches/alternatives for sustainable provision of drinking water in the future. Mr. George Hawkins, WASA General Manager, stated that he appreciated Mr. Schwartz taking the time to give his presentation; and that there are many good ideas that can be mined from it, including (among others) reducing stormwater runoff and utilizing the wastewater that has been treated by WASA for purposes other than discharging it into the river. Mr. Hawkins noted the challenge faced by WASA in maintaining existing infrastructure platforms, and also noted the District of Columbia's commitment of 100% of Clean Water Act stimulus funds to projects that met the "Green Reserve" requirement. The District was the only community in the country to do so.

The presentation concluded by both Mr. Schwartz and WASA agreeing that they need to work hand-in-hand to ensure community concerns are addressed; and they need to work jointly to ensure future water sustainability for the District.

V. ACTION ITEMS – NON-JOINT USE

1. Contract No. 030220, W.M. Schlosser Company, Inc.

A discussion was held as to whether this action should be considered Joint Use. The recently conducted Joint –Use Facilities Capital Cost Allocation Study (a draft of this study report was provided to Committee members at the earlier Environmental Quality and Operations Committee meeting) indicated that under normal operating conditions the Main Pump Station pumps some suburban sewage. However, since the draft report has not been reviewed by suburban customers, staff presented this action item to the Retail Services Committee for review, as has been the case of prior contract action items on this project. After consideration, the Committee agreed to recommend conditional approval.

2. Contract No. WAS-09-026-AA-SM, Flippo Construction Company

The Committee agreed to recommend approval.

3. Contract No. WAS-9087-AA-AB, Orcom Solutions LLC

Following a discussion as to which committee should review the contract and whether it should be termed "joint use" or "non-joint-use", the Committee agreed to recommend conditional approval with the expectation that that any issues will be resolved before the next Board meeting in April.

VI. EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

1. Prioritization of water main replacements - discussion

The Committee agreed to postpone the discussion until next month's meeting.

2. April's Retail Service Committee Meeting

The Committee discussed an appropriate time to invite Mr. Jacobus of Washington Aqueduct (WAD) to give an update on the Future Treatment Alternative Study. .

The Committee also agreed to discuss the current status of the opportunities for improving the communications and decision-making processes between WASA and WAD during next month's Committee Meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 01:29 p.m.

Follow Up Items

1. WASA Staff will look into the flow-testing issue associated with Connecticut Ave. NW earlier this month; and will evaluate the logistics, notification process, etc. associated with the flow-testing performed by WASA contractors.
2. For next month's meeting, WASA Staff will prepare an overview of the process and methodologies used to determine which water mains are given the highest priority for repair and replacement. This presentation will also include a discussion of the current techniques that are being utilized to determine small leaks before the turn into larger, more costly repairs.
3. Schedule at a date TBD Mr. Jacobus of Washington Aqueduct (WAD) to give an update on the Future Treatment Alternative Study. Presentation will include a list of the water quality issues that are to be considered as part of WAD's Future Treatment Alternative Study (Requested at February 18, 2010 meeting).
4. The Committee will schedule status of the opportunities for improving the interactions and decision-making processes between WASA and WAD during next month's Committee Meeting.