



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

Board of Directors

Retail Services Committee
Friday, December 19, 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
Linda Manley, Board Secretary

I. CALL TO ORDER

Dr. Cotruvo called the Retail Services Committee Meeting to order at 12:38 p.m.

II. WATER QUALITY MONITORING

1. Coliform Testing:

Mr. Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager, reported that in November, zero (0) sites tested positive; and one (1) site (as of December 19, 2008) tested positive in December. Repeat sample analysis at the site testing positive in December is yet to be completed.

2. LCR Compliance:

Mr. Kiely provided an update on the status of the Lead and Copper Rule compliance testing activities. He reported that 112 samples have been returned and analyzed. Of these, five (5) sample results (highest of which was 142 ppb) exceeded the EPA action level of 15 ppb. Mr. Kiely noted that WASA is continuing to investigate the possible source(s) for the high lead result (142 ppb) by attempting to have the internal plumbing at this premise tested through a lead profile.

Dr. Cotruvo requested that when exceedances are reported by WASA in the future, they should (when possible) list the probable reasons (e.g., galvanized pipe) for the elevated result. Mr. Kiely responded that WASA will report the potential causes in the future.

III. FIRE HYDRANT STATUS

Mr. Kiely reported that the current out-of-service list for the fire hydrants stands at 211, of which, 190 are being replaced (the remaining hydrants are not accessible to the Fire Department). Mr. Kiely also noted that the Fire Department has completed its second Assessment Program; and WASA will be addressing this list over the next two months. The current assumption is activities will resume again March 1, 2009. Mr Kiely was asked whether the list of 211 includes those that were non functional or that needed maintenance, and Mr. Kiely responded that not all of the 211 were non functional.

IV. LSR MITIGATION RECOMMENDATIONS

Mr. Dave McLaughlin presented the Committee with WASA's plan for extended mitigation efforts in conjunction with partial lead service line replacements. He stated that only under Element 1 (Water Main Replacements) are partial lead replacements likely. Mr. McLaughlin provided the Committee with a synopsis of each of the seven (7) mitigation measures evaluated; the status of each measure and whether or not it is currently being utilized within the LSR Program; and WASA's recommendation for each measure moving forward.

In summary, WASA recommends continuing with the current community outreach program via ANC/Civic Association presentations. WASA will also revise customer notification materials to emphasize the importance of having the private-side replacement done in conjunction with the public-side replacement. WASA will continue to review lead cutting procedures and recently completed studies (AwwaRF Report, Project 3018) to determine if specific cutting methods can significantly impact water quality. WASA believes the most effective means for reducing lead levels after a partial replacement is via flushing of the service lines. WASA will modify the current protocol by increasing the duration of the post partial replacement, forward flush to 60 minutes (from 15 minutes); and increase the customer flushing duration to 10 minutes for 30 days (from 10 minutes for seven (7) days).

WASA will continue the current procedure of not providing temporary filter devices for use after a post partial replacement because flushing is effective and WASA has concerns with customers installing and using the filters inappropriately. Also, there may be liability issues if the customer believes WASA is endorsing a certain product. It was mentioned that use of a filter might induce less reliance on flushing in the weeks after the partial replacement. There were hundreds or thousands of filters provided several years ago prior to the lead reductions. The current application would involve providing only one filter capable of particulate removal, on request, that would be sufficient for at least one month of use and then disposed of. It was recommended that at least WASA should provide information on the availability of properly certified particulate reduction filters if occupants wished to obtain one. WASA also does not recommend the use of field test kits to determine lead levels on the day of the replacement because they do not measure particulate lead.

Dr. Cotruvo questioned whether or not follow-up or personal contact practices are in place for several weeks after a partial replacement, and he recommended that there be instituted a procedure for follow up calls or other direct contact as reminders for the occupants to

continue recommended flushing, e.g., especially in homes with young children and women of childbearing age. Mr. McLaughlin responded that WASA does provide recommendations in the weeks leading up to the replacement and the day of the replacement, but there is no follow-up procedure currently in place. Mr. McLaughlin stated that WASA will look into matter more closely.

V. LSR PROGRAM COSTS

Mr. McLaughlin began by providing background information on the three elements (Element 1 – Water Main Replacements, Element 2 – Replacements in conjunction with DDOT, and Element 3 – Demand Replacements / Customer Request) adopted under Board Resolution # 08-75. Mr. McLaughlin presented the proposed number of replacements to be made under each element and the associated cost.

Mr. Bardin questioned, in light of how WASA is being affected by current global economic factors, what actions would be necessary to remove the cost related to the DDOT element portion (\$6 to 7.2 million per year in FY09 and FY10) out of the proposed budget. The GM's original LSR revision proposal estimated 5 million per year; the BOD's modification in September that included about 500 additional replacements and test pitting raised the estimated cost to 11.1 million. The budget estimate for 2009 was 14.3 million (including 3 million for carry over commitments) and 11.0 million for 2010. The committee agreed that the current Board Resolution (Resolution # 08-75) would need to be modified to allow a significant reduction in the LSR budget. WASA staff was asked to prepare an analysis on how removing these costs would affect the overall proposed budget; and it was suggested that the Committee should be prepared to present voting recommendations to the full Board of Directors for their January meeting.

Dr. Cotruvo requested clarification on the presentation slide showing reduction in the current estimated cost for Element 2 versus the estimate prepared in September 2008. Mr. McLaughlin responded that the lower cost was due to a reduction in the number of currently proposed DDOT projects for 2009.

The Committee went on to discuss the number of replacements that have been made to this point; to what extent the proposed Federal Economic Stimulus Package would affect the DDOT paving schedule (and in turn, affect the number of replacements performed under Element 2); and whether or not an amended resolution for Element 2 should include simply a dollar limit or a dollar limit plus a discretionary-based policy (i.e., non-discriminatory – based on circumstances and not on individual households).

It was agreed that the revision would include costs of service line replacements in conjunction with Element 1, water main replacements, the essential carry over commitments into 2009, which would not exist in 2010, a reduction in the street paving related replacements to a minimum, and an overall ceiling that would allow WASA some discretion in selecting economically viable replacements. Test pitting was also discretionary.

Mr. Johnson agreed that the next step should be for WASA staff to provide

recommendations on modifications to the program for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 in light of the current economic situation, and draft language for amending BOD Resolution # 08-75 accordingly. In order to provide a recommendation at the Board of Directors January meeting, it was agreed that the WASA staff will provide a draft resolution for review by the Committee members prior to the January BOD meeting.

VI. PRETREATMENT STATUTE UPDATE

Mr. Walter Bailey gave a presentation to the Committee on proposed revisions to the statutes and their effect on WASA's pretreatment program. He provided background on the program and summarized that WASA's role under the Clean Water Act (CWA) with respect to pretreatment is to issue permits, perform inspections, collect and analyze samples, and provide enforcement, when necessary. Mr. Bailey provided the Committee with a timeline and summary of the statutory review process, as well as the next steps to be undertaken in the process, including – BOD approval of final statute language, presentation to DC Council, etc.

Mr. Bailey concluded his presentation by providing a detailed description of each of the four (4) statute revisions – 1.) required revisions per the Streamlining Rule, 2.) optional revisions per the Streamlining Rule, 3.) revisions based on EPA review, and 4.) revisions recommended to improve statute language.

Dr. Cotruvo asked Mr. Bailey whether or not outside entities (WSSC, Fairfax County, etc.) will fall under WASA's jurisdiction when the pending statute revisions are implemented. Mr. Bailey responded that the other agencies are responsible for their own discharges, but WASA must make sure that these agencies have updated their regulations to incorporate the Streamlining Rule.

Dr. Cotruvo also asked Mr. Bailey if there had historically ever been a chemical or compound that caused WASA to exceed a discharge requirement. Mr. Bailey responded that to his knowledge that has never happened. He also stated that the worst incidents were probably fuel spills; however, nothing was serious enough to have caused any major issues.

VII. ACTION ITEMS – NON-JOINT USE

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

Mr. Bardin requested that text be added to the fact sheet indicating that future analysis of how flows are directed may require that this contract be amended from "Non-Joint Use" to "Joint Use". The Committee then agreed to recommend approval to the full Board.

VIII. EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

Dr. Cotruvo requested that at the next Committee meeting there be a presentation of the interactive relationship between the Army Corps of Engineers Washington Aqueduct Division (WAD) and WASA. The discussion should include: decision-making processes, communication processes, release of information concerning contamination (both intake and drinking water) within the District, etc.

Dr. Cotruvo also requested that the Committee may want to examine more closely the possibility of the District utilizing porous pavements/surfaces to help reduce run-off. DDOT is beginning to look more closely into the matter; and perhaps someone from DDOT can brief the Committee on the topic during an upcoming meeting. Dr. Cotruvo noted that this subject ties-in nicely with the impervious surface issue raised during the earlier Retail Rates Committee Meeting.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:00 p.m.