

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**WATER QUALITY AND WATER SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015**

**(via conference call)**

**Members Present DC Water Staff**

Rachna Butani, Chair George Hawkins, General Manager

Howard Gibbs (in person) Randy Hayman, General Counsel

Alan Roth Linda Manley, Board Secretary

Brenda Richardson

Robert Mallett

Obiora “Bo” Menkiti

1. **Call to Order**

Ms. Butani called the meeting to order at approximately 11:00 a.m.

**II. Water Quality Monitoring**

**A. Total Coliform Rule (TCR) Testing**

Jason Hughes, Manager of Distribution, stated that the TCR data was at .8 percent and that there were zero positives in January and so far in February.

**B. Lead and Copper Monitoring**

Mr. Hughes reported that so far they have distributed 50 kits, 28 of which have been returned. Data has not been received from the laboratory. This is the new compliance testing period.

**III. Fire Hydrant Upgrade Program**

David Wall, Manager, reported that there were 59 fire hydrants out of service due to defect. Repair and replacement was slightly less than last month at .62 percent of inventory. There were 45 out of service due to construction or temporary condition, which is down from 61 from last month.

The Committee asked for a breakdown on the out of service hydrants due to defect in last month’s report. Mr. Wall indicated that there were 17 hydrants listed as needing repair and/or investigation, of which 3 have been subsequently investigated and determined to need replacement. They are doing valve investigations to determine what it takes to get the water off. Four have been placed back in service and 2 were identified as part of a construction job and re-categorized to the construction and temporary status. Three are still needing investigation due to resources currently being focused on water main breaks and frozen pipes. Those will be addressed as soon as possible. Also, one hydrant is on White House grounds and coordination to get into those facilities is difficult. Action on one hydrant is being coordinated with the Fire Department to relocate. A couple are in tunnels that are old. Mr. Walls stated that they are working with Safety to do a traffic control plan to get access to them and address them in a safe manner. These are wall mounted hydrants in the 3rd Street Tunnel.

Ms. Butani asked about the change from 61 to 45 in the construction bucket and if it was just construction wrapping up. Mr. Walls stated that it was a combination of things but some of it is construction wrapping up and some of it is reevaluating the locations. They had an opportunity in early January to go and assess those and make sure the sites were cleared.

Mr. Mallett asked about the hydrants that they could not get to because they are on White House grounds. He wanted to know if there were secondary plans about that because obviously if anything happens and there are any problem with the fire hydrants, D.C. Water would hear no end of it. Does GSA do the inspection or is there someone in the superintendent’s office of the White House. He said that he was very concerned about it. Mr. Wall stated that there are multiple hydrants on the White House grounds and this is one hydrant that has been identified. GSA, the Park Service, and other federal agencies use multiple hydrants over there and the Fire Department is aware of this one particular location. The ability to get water at the time of an incident should not be impeded. Everyone is familiar with that location. Mr. Gibbs asked if it was the District’s hydrant and Mr. Walls replied that technically it is and they have been trying to coordinate to get replacement. They have projects going on as well within the grounds. It is a secured location, so D.C. Water cannot just go in and do work. The Federal Government has been doing work on the grounds and D.C. Water is trying to coordinate with them to get the hydrants addressed during that construction. Mr. Gibbs asked if it was an issue of turning off the water or just getting access to the site. Mr. Wall reported that it was access along with coordination during construction, them not getting in D.C. Water’s way and D.C. Water not getting in their way because of where it is. Mr. Mallett stated that D.C. Water should paper this very well and that D.C. Water can have no slip ups. Mr. Walls indicated that they coordinate with the White House and Secret Service every year to conduct inspections of all of the hydrants that D.C. Water maintains to make sure they are all in working order. Ms. Butani asked if he thought they were well documented about this. Mr. Walls replied that they are because of the coordination they have done with them through permitting and through the interactions on the inspections, there has been ongoing conversations about this specific hydrant. Mr. Gibbs asked if the legal staff had agreed with his assessment because they are the ones who would have to carry this if there was a problem. Mr. Walls stated that they can do that. General Counsel Hayman agreed that his office would look into it.

**V. Executive Session**

Mr. Hayman asked for a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss legal, confidential and privileged matters under D.C. Official Code Section 2-575 (b)(4). It was moved and seconded. Ms. Manley conducted a roll call and the motion was approved. The Committee went into Executive Session.

After reconvening the open session, the Committee recommended the Capitol Paving contract for full Board approval. Ms. Butani adjourned the meeting.