

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**WATER QUALITY AND WATER SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 18, 2015**

**Present Board Members Present D.C. Water Staff**

Rachna Butani, Chair George Hawkins, General Manager

Howard Gibbs Randy Hayman, General Counsel

Brenda Richardson (By Phone) Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager,

Matthew Brown Customer Care and Operations

Robert Mallett Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

**I. Call to Order**

Ms. Butani called the meeting to order.

**II. Water Quality Monitoring**

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

Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager for Customer Care and Operations, reported that for coliform testing, D.C. Water had zero positive samples for May. There was one positive a few days ago in June for total coliform and E. coli. He stated that they will do a presentation on emergency management response. The positive was at one of the TCR sites which are tested each month and reported on. It was at the EPA Headquarters. They did activate the emergency response planning mode. This was in the low pressure zone and everyone was prepared to act. Mr. Kiely said that if they had had a second positive on June 17, 2015, they would have been searching for 100,000 customers. They are still doing testing to determine whether it was a false positive and those results will not be ready for a few days. When the initial testing comes in and the bottle turns yellow, there is a total coliform hit. When they shine an ultra violet light against it and it turns a different color, then it is an indication of E. coli. At that point it is part of the rule that they have to go upstream and downstream and get a second result of testing and then get prepared in the event something goes wrong. They did find in their initial planning that parts of the EPA Headquarters building is not up to D.C. Code. Mr. Kiely stated that they will be issued a violation in the next few days. They also requested Region III to remove them as a TCR site which they agreed to do. D.C. Water will have to formally apply for removal until they bring their building up to code. He stated that they believe it was isolated to that building but they have to jump on it because it is a big event. This is the EPA Headquarters building at 1201 Constitution. It was a bathroom sink and isolated. Everyone was notified and everyone did a tremendous job on June 17. Ms. Butani asked if this was kept confidential. Mr. Kiely said that it was not because they report the results to the EPA and they publish it on their websites.

**B. Lead and Copper Rule Monitoring**

Mr. Kiely reported that they have 105 samples and 3 are waiting for testing. From a compliance aspect they are done since they only needed 100 samples. He stated that they have to test everything that is actually sampled. Regardless of what happens, D.C. Water will end up at the lowest level. Currently they are at 2.4 parts per billion, which could be 2 parts per billion when they report. The absolutely worst scenario will be 3 parts per billion and that is if all 3 samples waiting for testing fail. The second draw samples, which they are not required to do, are at a low, 2 parts per billion. The reporting period will come out excellent any way and they will be on to the next reporting period.

Mr. Gibbs asked if D.C. Water was doing the bi-annual reporting. Mr. Kiely replied that EPA is ready to publish a new rule and rather than change now and then maybe have to change again, they will wait until the new rule comes out to mirror it. Mr. Hawkins stated that D.C. Water does more extensive testing because of the lead hits they had more than a decade ago. They will make one change once the new scheme comes out.

**C. Fire Hydrant Update Program**

Mr. Wall, Manager of Distribution, reported that out of approximately 9,400 public fire hydrants, 152 are out of service, 70 due to some defect and 82 due to another issue. Of the hydrants needing repair investigation, he will focus on the 120. Five are questionable and they are not sure if they are really hydrants because they are in the Third Street Tunnel. They do not look like the standard hydrants but look like a wall mounted hydrant or like a wet stand pipe. Mr. Wall stated that they will meet with the District Department of Transportation (DDOT) to see about the maintenance of those. Mr. Gibbs asked how the Fire Department views the hydrants. Mr. Wall said that they have not pushed to have them fixed or replaced but they do know that they are there. He does not think that they want to get rid of them. The Fire Department wants them to be operational. They are not to D.C. Water’s standards and this gets very interesting. There is an air rights tunnel farther north where there are hydrants to D.C. Water’s standards and that they are maintaining. When it comes to the wall mounted hydrants in the Third Street Tunnel which are further south, D.C Water is not maintaining them. This was built as part of the tunnel and were discovered when the Fire Department inspections occurred. Mr. Walls has never known them to be operational. Mr. Walls reported that they became D.C. Water’s responsibility with the private hydrant legislation because they were in a District facility—the tunnel. Mr. Kiely stated that historically DDOT maintained all of the pipes that led into the water fixtures in the tunnels. This came up in 2007 when the Fire Department went out and looked at everything in the fire hydrant system. He indicated that D.C. Water would have to have a contractor do the work and they do not know what they are even connected to. That is like the extension of the highway. They cannot go in and put cones down and shut down Interstate 395 and the Third Street Tunnel. He reported that they will meet with DDOT and come up with some resolution.

Mr. Wall stated that there is an increase in construction activity that resulted in an increase of out of service hydrants. He indicated that there is some confusion on categorization. A couple of months ago he was asked about a particular number. The current fire hydrant report was set up for him to be able to look at and see who is responsible but it does not communicate to the Committee very clearly what is really going on. He will present next month a revised report that will indicate that certain hydrants are being replaced, these require valve replacement, to clarify how to better title the others. Construction can be a hydrant that is obstructed because of the construction project or construction activity that is going on. They have situations where there is no water on a hydrant because it is waiting to be commissioned or decommissioned. It can be confusing. Primarily the increase is due to the increase in construction.

Mr. Wall made one comment on the map. There is a big grouping green starred hydrants, this is the cleaning and lining project. The project will last over the next couple of months. They have identified target hydrants in case the Fire Department has to respond to that area.

D.C. General hydrant inspections which have been scheduled for the third time, now will be conducted on June 26. There were a lot of scheduling conflicts with the various parties there on the premise. It is not just one main that is being shut off but a lot of mains. D.C. Water does not own the system that the hydrants are connected to, so a lot of coordination is required. The coordination with the Jail, D.C. General and the different entities is moving ahead.

Mr. Kiely briefed on the action item to replace valves which is a large contract. There are some challenges because they are shutting off many, many, many blocks especially with the large transmission mains because valves do not operate. Under the contract, there are seven valves. Flippo is the selected contractor. There were four bidders.

Ms. Butani asked for objections about the contract. There being none, she indicated that it would be recommended for Board approval.

There being no other business, Ms. Butani adjourned the meeting.