

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**WATER QUALITY AND WATER SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, JULY 16, 2015**

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

Rachna Butani, Chair (via Phone) Biju George, Chief Operating Officer

Bo Menkiti, Vice Chair (via Phone) Jason Hughes, Director, Utility Services

Brenda Robinson (via Phone) Meena Gowda, Principal Counsel

Matthew Brown, Board Chairman Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

Robert Mallett

Howard Gibbs

**I. Call to Order**

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

**II. Water Quality Monitoring**

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

Jason Hughes, Director, Utility Services, updated the Committee on TCR testing. For the month of June they were at 0.8 percent positive, as a result of two positive tests. One was at the EPA Headquarters Building and the other was a TCR hit at a fast food restaurant in the District. The second one was at a location that they had some trouble with in the past, particularly after extended holiday weekends on a Monday. This is a very unique situation and Mr. Hughes reported that they have been working with the business in an attempt to figure out what may be happening in their operation. He indicated that they will continue to investigate this situation.

**B. Lead and Copper Monitoring**

Mr. Hughes reported that the first semester’s results are in and are well below the level of concern. As reported last month, these are the lowest results D.C. Water has ever had. On first draw they were 2.4 micrograms per liter on 108 samples and on the second draw they were 4.1 on 103 samples. That report has been issued to EPA and the second semester’s monitoring will begin at the end of July.

**III. Fire Hydrant Upgrade Program**

Mr. Hughes also gave the report on fire hydrants. He stated that for the month of July there were approximately 9,457 public fire hydrants, of which 9,333 were in service. The out of service hydrants as a result of defective requiring repair or replacement were 48 at the time of the report, and out of service hydrants due to inaccessibility because of construction were 76. That was .51 percent.

Mr. Hughes stated that there was one action item that they wanted the Committee to recommend for Board approval. It was for a small diameter water main replacement contract. The prime is Fort Meyer and they have two subcontractors, Omni Excavators and Hybrid Construction Engineering that are minority business entrepreneurs (MBE) and women business entrepreneurs (WBE). This is in support of the ongoing efforts to replace one percent annually of the water distribution system.

Mr. Gibbs asked about the very narrow spread between the bidders. He thought that they were hungry for this contract. Ms. Butani noted that contractors were bidding very competitively.

Ms. Butani asked for other questions about the contract and if the Committee wanted to recommend it for approval by the Board. The Committee members indicated that they agreed it should be recommended.

Board Chairman Brown stated that he recently set down with the General Manager and the new Fire Department Chief who had some basic questions about the Fire Hydrant Program—how it was managed, how fire hydrants are replaced, what the performance metrics were, how the District receives information about fire hydrants that are out. He indicated that he thinks everything is fine on D.C. Water’s side. Mr. Hawkins stated that D.C. Water would begin to send the report to the Fire Chief on a regular basis. They were trying to work through some issues about the real-time reporting when fire hydrants go out. He thinks there was a technical glitch on the District side but everyone at the meeting pledged to work on that. The meeting went well and he will come back in the future if there are any other concerns. Ms. Butani stated that Mr. Wall was going to redesign the hydrant report, so next month in September they will see if the new reporting format is working.

There being no further questions or comments, Ms. Butani adjourned the meeting.