

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

**Tukwila Community Center
Tukwila, WA**

Wednesday, February 27, 2019

**Start 10 a.m.
Adjourned 11:45 a.m.**

1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – Pam Carter

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of January Meeting Summary (action item)
- February Regional Water Quality (RWQC) Recap

Everyone introduced themselves.

A quorum was in attendance and the January meeting summary was approved as written.

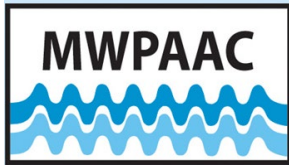
Pam provided recap of the items discussed at the February 6 Regional Water Quality Committee which included:

- RWQC Chair's Report – Councilmember Lambert announced there would be a delay in the selection of a vice chair and hopes it will be on the March agenda.
- MWWPAAC Chair's Report – Pam provided an update on the election of two officers, the ongoing communication with WTD regarding the Capacity Charge Affordability Study and the Regional Negotiations team.
- Wastewater Treatment Division Director's Report – Mark Isaacson provide an update on the Shoreline Pump Station, Industrial Waste Program, the Seattle Tunnel Project, and Construction contract.
- Briefings:
 - RWQC 2019 Draft Committee Work Plan
 - WTD Capacity Charge Affordability Project
 - WTD Capital Projects Briefing

Pam announced the Executive Board appointed two vice chairs – Gary Schimek, City of Redmond, to the Comprehensive Engineering and Planning Subcommittee and Gregg Cato, Alderwood Water & Wastewater District, to the Rates and Finance Subcommittee.

Pam shared a suggestion that had been brought forward to the Executive Board regarding meeting notifications. The suggestion was that the agenda included in the body of the email was duplicative of what was attached and suggested removing the agenda in the body of the email. Pam asked for input from members. The majority of members preferred having the agenda included in the email as well as an attachment. It was agreed there would be no change to meeting notifications.

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2. Wastewater Treatment Division Director's Report – Mark Isaacson, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD)

Mark Isaacson, Division Director, started by talking about the upcoming presentation from the High School intern and the importance of that program. Mark continued his report by talking about WTD and the snow - the 24/7 operations and how the snow affected WTD.

Loop and Pass Closures

Loop trucks were delayed in delivering to agricultural sites east of the mountains due to pass closures. Passes were closed, but WTD continued to produce Loop. WTD does have a storage site in Everett that can hold 70 truckloads with a five day capacity (12 truckloads produced per day). When necessary Loop production can be slowed down (8 truckloads), but it was not necessary during the recent snow storm events.

Power Outages

Twenty-four Pump Stations lost power, one Odor Control Facility, and a treatment plant. Backup generators worked and it was the local provider(s) that had the power problem.

Richmond Beach Pump Station

A project is underway to complete replacement of critical equipment. There was concern with how the pump station would react should there be a power outage. As a contingency plan, the pump station was staffed fulltime at night and during the day operators were on standby 10 minutes away.

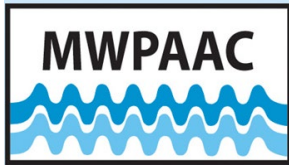
Swayolocken Pump Station Overflow

Details were provided on the overflow that resulted in a 610,000 gallon overflow into Lake Washington. The failure at the pump station was a result of an employee error. Equipment was turned in off mode and not turned back on. It was initially believed to be a coding error. WTD is in the middle of an after action review. In response to the overflow, WTD provided public notification, contacted local residents via a listserv - making special effort to contact the 26 residents within a half-mile of the overflow (in person/by phone), and contacted the City of Bellevue. WTD issued a 'no contact' recommendation. WTD conducted water quality testing, closed the area initially, and reopened by Saturday, as levels were below public health standards.

As part of the after action review, WTD completed a mechanical review. South Plant and West Point divided crews and completed an electrical inspection at pump stations. They tested five key components and had it done by Friday and prior to the next storm. They also looked at alarms and the prioritization process (scale of 1 to 5). They looked at 2200 alarms and made corrections as needed. Also, lockout/tagout procedures are being reviewed to determine what went wrong. Our goal is 100 percent reliability in operations but when humans operate we can't guarantee it.

WTD may end up with a fine from the Washington State Department of Ecology, but that is not known at this point.

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3. Subcommittee Reports

February 7, 2019, Rates & Finance:

- 2020 Sewer Rate

February 7, 2019, Engineering & Planning:

- I/I Program Status Update

4. Regional Negotiations Team Update and Overview of the Proposed Operating Board, Regional Negotiations Team Member

Sarah Ogier, City of Bellevue, presented on the proposed Mock Operating Board. She shared that Board representation is about voting, meetings are for all (to attend and participate in), and emphasized that MWWPAAC could have a lot more participation in this format. She talked about the role of the Operating Board – it is not a policy board, but rather an operations board. Next month (March) a Mock Operating Board exercise will be started. This will be a trial run with a designated caucus in March, topic discussion in April, and mock board exercise with a vote in May. The Regional Negotiations Team believes that members will best understand the process by doing it and going through the process.

Sara shared that the Regional Negotiations Team invited Patrick Sorenson, General Manager, Woodinville Water District and Abdoul Gafour, Water Utility Engineering Manager, City of Renton, to today's meeting to talk about their experience on the Seattle Water Supply Board as the board is similar to what is being proposed with MWWPAAC. She introduced and welcomed Patrick and Abdoul.

5. Discussion/Question and Answer about the Seattle Water Supply Operating Board, Patrick Sorensen, General Manager, Woodinville Water District, and Abdoul Gafour, Water Utility Engineering Manager, City of Renton

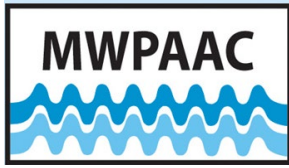
Patrick Sorensen, General Manager, Woodinville Water District shared his experience serving on the Seattle Water Supply Operating Board and highlighted:

- Most people feel like they are heard. They don't always get what they want, but they are heard.
- The Board has a good flow of information.
- There is a provision to deal with change.
- Items come out in advance – the Board reflects on the issues and shares with the larger group.
- He hasn't heard any complaints.
- Input is heard on both sides of the table on an issue.
- Opportunity is there to participate – no complaints from elected officials.
- A detailed agenda identifies what items require a vote.

Abdoul Gafour, Water Utility Engineer Manager, City of Renton shared his experience serving on the Seattle Water Supply Operating Board and highlighted:

- The quality of staff on the Board is exceptional, especially Seattle Public Utility staff.

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- The role of the Board is to guide – sometimes a consultant comes in to provide an overview to new members and generally remind the Board what their role is.
- Staff are very knowledgeable – the Board learns a lot from staff.
- Provided an example of outreach to member agencies regarding a Seismic Study – staff went out to each district to discuss and made a point to listen.
- A conflict resolution section is included in the contract.

The following questions and answers were shared:

Q: What is the board composition of the SPU Water Operating Board?

A: There are 7 members – (3) representing City of Seattle; (3) representing large, medium and small cities, and (1) independent. Composition is similar to what MWWPAAC would be.

Q: Does the agreement specify staff or is it described in the bylaws? Are there permanent staff?

A: Yes, permanent staff oversee the Board and other experts are brought in, as needed. There is also a contract manager assigned that prepares the agenda and minutes.

Q: Do the utilities decide on who represents them on the Board? Does it have to be elected officials or staff?

A: It's a combination of folks that allows or flexibility.

Q: Do we (proposed MWWPAAC Operating Board) have a written mission statement?

A: We have guiding principles but no mission statement developed – it will be developed as part of the bylaws and not through the contract process. The intent of the Operating Board is for members to feel they have a more meaningful role and more rewarding venue.

Q: How do voting and non-voting members participate?

A: Others may attend meetings and all have an opportunity to speak. On other matters, they are instructed on the process to provide input and all are responded to in a timely manner.

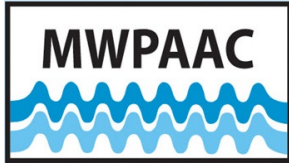
Q: How do you arrive at a decision when you're on opposite sides – the city has one vote and component agencies have one?

A: The independent member can break a tie, but has not had to.

6. Clean Water Ambassador: WTD's High School Internship Program, Risa Suho, WTD High School Intern

Kristen Covey, WTD Water Quality Planner/Education Specialist, provided background on the High School (HS) Internship Program. She shared that ten HS youth participate in the 6-week summer program and they expose them to all different kinds of career opportunities. The name of the program is Clean Water Ambassadors and King County partners with Greenways a non-profit to support the program. The main themes are education and engagement. Kristin shared that students are motivated to learn.

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Risa, WTD HS Intern, shared that the teachers are great and that the program provides for a great learning environment. Students are inspired by the content to seek more on their own. Risa provided a presentation on the program, sharing her experience, and correlated it to the growth of a salmon. The presentation included:

- Information about her.
- Where the program begins - the experience.
- The transition - first steps/first field trips.
- The “Caretakers” - teachers who feed them knowledge.
- Growing (2-3 weeks) – learning but not quite there yet.
- Construction (3-4 weeks) - interns show their own colors/start to see big picture.
- Almost there (4-5 weeks) – getting ready to utilize the knowledge given.
- Where were we – near the end of the internship, interns are like adult salmon and have gone into the ocean and at this point are showing people what they know.
- Where are we going – interns go into the world to share what they have learned and they come back to what they have learned and continue to share their knowledge.
- Takeaways – Change doesn’t always begin from the top; taking action begins with education; conservation, restoration, environment, etc. don’t not have a face; and thinking of the future.

Risa emphasized the industry is not forgotten with the end of this program and the students learn a lot about careers.

MWWPAAC members commended Risa for the great presentation she provided on the program.

7. General Announcements

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45.