

# METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Summary

**Tukwila Community Center  
Banquet A&B  
Tukwila, WA**

**Wednesday, October 23, 2019**

**Start 10 a.m.  
Adjourned 12 p.m.**

### **1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – Maria Coe, Vice Chair**

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of August and September Meeting Summaries (action item)
- October Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)

Everyone introduced themselves.

Maria Coe, Vice Chair, provided the Chair's Report on behalf of Pam Carter.

A quorum was in attendance and the revised August meeting summary and the September meeting summary were approved as written.

Maria highlighted the items discussed at the October 2 RWQC meeting, which included the following briefings:

- Water Quality Benefits Evaluation Tool – Water and Land Resources Division
- Conveyance System Improvement Project-Status Update – Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD)
- WTD Resiliency and Recovery Planning in Preparation for Seismic or other Natural Disaster – this topic will also be included in MWWPAAC's December General meeting.

Maria also provided a preview of the November RWQC meeting, which will include a Clean Water Plan Workshop and WaterWorks presentation.

### **2. Subcommittee Reports**

October 3, 2019, Rates & Finance:

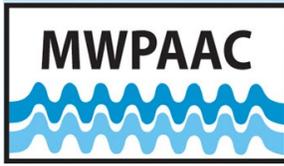
- Capacity Charge Rate Structure Recommendation

October 3, 2019, Engineering & Planning:

- Lakehaven I/I Reduction Program

At the November 7 Rates & Finance Subcommittee meeting, WTD staff should know what the Executive's recommendation will be on the Capacity Charge. MWWPAAC will then prepare a recommendation. Members are encouraged to attend the November 7 Rates & Finance Subcommittee meeting as there is a short turnaround time for the recommendation letter.

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

Mark Isaacson, Division Director, reported on the following items:

Comment letters were due on October 21 to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) on the General Permit for nutrient removal. WTD will make our letter available to MWWPAAC. Major themes included:

- Scientific uncertainty – need to have a better understanding about the science to clarify the investment of resources.
- Consider all the different technologies and allow for some flexibility – bubble permit (not exactly the same at all plants).
- Request a panel of stakeholders.
- Look at nonpoint sources and solutions as well.
- Consider costs and the resulting benefits.

WTD will keep MWWPAAC up to date on our role and our part in solving the nutrient problem. More to come on that topic as next steps are unknown at this point.

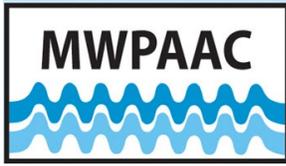
Mark shared information on the WEFTEC conference in Chicago, IL, that he attended in September. He attended in part to gain more information on nutrient removal. He learned about the complexity of plant capacity when systems are put in place for nutrient removal. Another topic of discussion was the Consent Decree - the issues on that topic are the same as he heard two years ago – affordability and that this is a nationwide issue. One of the newest issues at WEFTEC that all utilities are concerned about is PFOS (never ending, degrading chemicals). There also was discussion about how the entire industry is dealing with how our society and workforce is changing and the question of how we handle that with our customer base and workforce. Part of the discussion is how to articulate what inclusion looks like when you have never been excluded.

### 4. Clean Water Plan Update

Steve Tolzman, Clean Water Plan Project Manager, provided an update on the Clean Water Plan:

- Planning Process Overview.
- Clean Water Plan Existing Conditions –Steve asked for feedback on the draft report outline, which they hope to complete by the end of 2019. If members have questions, they can contact Steve.
- Actions and Program, Projects, and Policies.
- Clean Water Plan Core Questions – Preliminary Decision Areas.  
Example Actions – Treatment Plants.  
Example Actions – Asset Management, Resiliency, and Redundancy.
- Regional Engagement Activities.

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### 5. Clean Water Plan Advisory Committee Update

Leslie Webster, City of Seattle, provided an update on the October 9, 2019, Clean Water Plan Advisory Committee meeting.

Leslie reviewed the notes that were prepared by Jeff Clarke, Alderwood Water & Wastewater District, to include:

- Acceleration of the Clean Water Plan effort.
- Decision points that were presented at MWPAAC today.
  - Treatment Plants
  - Pollution control/product stewardship
  - Stormwater/CSOs
- Group members broke into teams and discussed questions on a specific topic.
- Comments made during the discussion groups.
- Conversation around incorporating equity into CSOs and stormwater management.

MWPAAC members requested to see materials in advance of the advisory committee meetings so they could potentially provide comment in advance of the meetings. Leslie shared that she is happy to share the materials that are usually received a week in advance and to carry comments from MWPAAC forward. Steve Tolzman shared that the charter is broad and allows members to attend and speak from their best professional opinion or for their members. Mark Isaacson added the group is broad and diverse, but that it is not the only opportunity to provide input. WTD will be briefing MWPAAC monthly and members have an opportunity to provide input at each meeting.

### 6. Regional Team Update

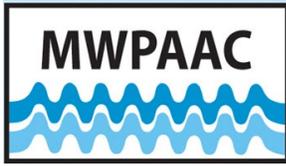
Sharman Herrin, WTD Government Relations Administrator, provided the update for the Regional Negotiations Team. The team met on October 4 and continued discussions on contract language. The electeds group met on October 14. There is continued discussion of a policy board on the Clean Water Plan made up of electeds. The role of this potential board is still under discussion, including how the board would engage with the development of the Clean Water Plan. This group is would be focused on policies and comprised of elected officials and would possibly be supported by a Clean Water Plan Technical Committee that would be made up of local utility technical staff. Sharman emphasized those things are under discussion and no decisions have been made.

### 7. WaterWorks

Elizabeth Loudon, WaterWorks Grant Program Manager, provided an update on the WaterWorks Program:

- Goal of the Program.
- Additional Benefits.
- 2015-2018 WaterWorks Project Awards – Competitive and Council Allocated Process.
- WaterWorks Competitive Round 4.

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- Examples of Projects – included both project that have not previously been funded through WaterWorks and those that have previously received WaterWorks funding.
- Shared a video on the Environmental Science Center – Salmon Heroes.
- Examples of Previously Funded Projects and Results.

MWWPAAC members asked if the WaterWorks Program looks at successful programs and how that information might be shared with others, such as the outreach program shared during the presentation. Elizabeth shared that part of the grant administration requires quarterly reports including results in relation to initial goals. There also is a final report due at the end of the project and information from all of these reports can be shared with MWWPAAC. Elizabeth also noted that some of projects are highlighted in [Blog stories](#) that are currently shared on the MWWPAAC webpage.

### 8. History of the Regional Sewer System

Stan Hummel, PE, Capital Projects Managing Supervisor, provided an overview on the history of the King County Regional System:

- Drivers for the formation of Metro.
- Site of West Point before it existed.
- Recognition of the passing of Jim Ellis, often referred to as the father of Metro.
- Establishment of Metro.
- Early Days of Metro.
- Early Metro Projects.
- Early Merger Efforts.
- Regional Water Quality Committee (one of three regional committees).
- Regional Wastewater Services Plan.
- Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Projects.
- WTD Today.
- WTD's Future.

### 9. General Announcements

Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, shared the new year is nearly upon us and a Nominating Committee is needed for the January elections. Gary Schimek, City of Redmond and Maria Coe, City of Seattle agreed to serve on the Nominating Committee. Interested members may contact either Gary or Maria if they want to participate on the Nominating Committee or if they are interested in either the MWWPAAC chair position or the position of Rates and Finance Subcommittee chair.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.

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