

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

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

Wednesday, February 26, 2020

**Start 10 a.m.
Adjourned 11:50 a.m.**

1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – Pam Carter

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of January Meeting Summary (action item)
- March Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Preview
- Subcommittee Reports

Everyone introduced themselves.

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

Pam reported that RWQC would have their first meeting of the year on March 4. It is expected they will elect a vice chair and briefings will be provided on the following items:

- Proposed Ordinance No. 2020-0102 related to revising a financial policy of the Regional Wastewater Services Plan and amending Ordinance 13680, Section 16 address the Capacity Charge.
- Nutrients in the Puget Sound - Ecology will be discussing their approach and WTD will talk about what it means for them.
- RWQC Resolution No RWQC2020-01 – a resolution concerning the regional water quality work plan.

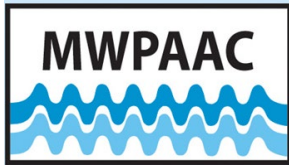
Pam also shared that the Council will be in recess for the first week in April and the RWQC meeting scheduled for April 1 may not happen.

Pam reported that Jeff Clarke has retired and that leaves a MWWPAAC representative vacancy on the Clean Water Advisory Group. An email will go out in the next couple of days that will provide more detail on the committee and members can respond by March 11, if they are interested in filling this opening. The Executive Board will make a decision after reviewing responses during a call on March 12.

Pam thanked members who applied to serve on the MWWPAAC Clean Water Plan Technical Advisory Task Force. Those selected will be notified soon.

Pam shared the Comprehensive Engineering & Planning Subcommittee February meeting summary was sent out. There was no meeting summary for the Rates & Finance Subcommittee as the items reported on in that meeting are also being reported on today.

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Pam shared the July field trip is being proposed for July 22 with a tour of the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station. More information will be shared in the coming months. Please feel free to share with others within your agency.

Pam announced a change to the agenda - the agenda item of Portfolio Management will not be presented today as the presenter is sick and not able to be at today's meeting.

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

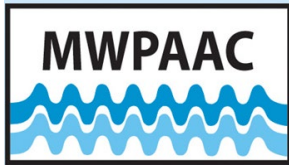
Mark Isaacson, WTD Division Director, began his report by talking about his reports to MWPAAC and how he tries to use his time in a way that is most informative for members and he shares what he understands is important to the group. He noted that later on the agenda, Hiedi Popochock, Finance & Administration Manager, will talk about the rate, a conversation we all take very seriously. He emphasized that we are not done with this and are still reviewing where we need to land. WTD has shared its goals in the past, which included improving aging infrastructure, reliability, resiliency, and reducing our environmental footprint. WTD went through an extensive process to determine what was urgent and required to be done. Some investments increase reliability and are also addressing a backlog. Hiedi will talk about a timeline in her report.

Mark responded to questions about how the system worked during the most recent big storm event. Mark reported that things went well with no emergencies and everything functioned as intended and facilities stayed online. No wind was associated with the recent storm event and operations performed excellent work. Last winter was a tough time for WTD, however we have since upgraded equipment, as well as revised some of the preventative maintenance practices and Mark feels that contributed to better performance. Mark shared that the wind affects WTD more than rain and water as wind affects power reliability. A recent Sunday morning windstorm particularly affected the Eastside and power reliability was difficult, and WTD found itself using backup generators for about five hours.

Mark reported on the North Beach Pump Station where WTD discovered a sinkhole and investigated to determine the cause, which was difficult to find. It turned out to be a crack in the force main that led to the leak. In searching for the leak, crews dug up 70 to 75 feet of the force main and completed an inspection. The leak was found four days later, identified, and repaired. The section of the force main was replaced while it was in full operation. Crews chose a period of time when things were running relatively slowly and there were two to three hours of storage time to conduct the repair, which involved cutting out and replacing five feet of the force main. It is uncertain if the crack may have occurred when the pump station was replaced as the crack was about five feet from sinkhole and 14 feet from pump station.

Mark talked about the kinds of things he is asked about or expected to deliver on from the perspectives of the DNR Director, the County Executive or his staff, the public, and MWPAAC. Expectations include reporting regularly on the delivery of capital projects in the budget, construction management, maintaining operations, and the power supply. Mark noted WTD has half of the physical assets for King County. WTD reports regularly to the Executive on West Point recovery and

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ensuring reliability of the facility, which relates to work with Seattle City Light. With respect to Council relations, WTD is expected to deliver legislative packages on time, keep in regulatory compliance, and report on how we are investing in our equipment. With respect to the public, there is an expectation for no overflows, protecting public health, and keeping the rate affordable. With respect to MWWPAAC there is a focus on staying on top of operations, weathering storms, staff recruiting, the changing nature of the workforce, asset management, and keeping rates low. These items highlight the major areas of focus and reporting obligation that Mark feels quite privileged to work under.

Mark talked about WTD's Operator in Training (OIT) Program and the trades program and how they are not quite the same. WTD looks for aptitude in the OIT Program. The trades program is looking at bringing people in who have gone through a formal training, but are just starting in the professional world.

3. Clean Water Plan Update, Steve Tolzman, Clean Water Plan Project Manager, WTD

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

- Planning Process Overview – there is a focus on the Actions. He also reviewed the last of the Decision Area. The team currently is working on an initial list of Actions, the Existing Conditions report, and defining process and evaluation.
- Preliminary Decision Areas
- Overview of Planned 2020 Clean Water Plan Tasks
- Example Actions – Resource Recovery – question what level of investment in areas including biosolids, recycled water, and energy. Reviewed example actions under each item.
- Finance - how will regional water quality investments be funded

Steve answered questions related to PFAS in biosolids and energy investments. WTD will continue to explore sewer heat recovery.

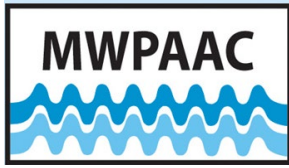
Steve also answered questions related to finance and available funding that may help, such as State Revolving Fund loans, etc. He noted that in areas such as funding nutrient removal, those funds would not have a significant impact.

4. Overview of Sewer Rate Schedule and Process, Hiedi Popochock, Financial Services Manager, WTD

Hiedi Popochock, Financial Services Manager, reviewed the schedule and activities for the sewer rate process. She provided a high-level overview and highlighted significant dates.

Maria Coe, City of Seattle, recommended members attend the March Rates & Finance Subcommittee meeting. It is a good time to raise questions and voice feedback and the work to draft the recommendation letter will happen there. The goal is not to edit the recommendation letter at the March general meeting. Pam Carter re-emphasized what Maria shared.

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5. Executive Board Proposal on Regional Contract Negotiations – Next Steps, MWWPAAC Executive Board

Pam Carter, MWWPAAC Chair, reviewed the proposal, each contract item, and remaining tasks. Pam asked if there were questions or items for discussion. None were raised. Maria added that there are three major outstanding items for the contract and noted the current contract language is not considered final. There still is an opportunity for discussion and this is setting a path forward to get a few more items completed in the contract. She shared that some aspects of Reclaimed Water are being worked on by another group that includes Cascade Water Alliance, the City of Seattle, and WTD. MWWPAAC will look at capital investments related to Reclaimed Water. On this topic there is a need to consider both interests of the group – water and wastewater. A voice vote was taken and the proposal was approved with one member abstaining.

6. General Announcements

The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) is going to hold their 50th Anniversary here in Seattle. NACWA was founded here in Seattle so they are coming home for the 50th. It is going to be a good conference. City of Seattle and WTD will share more information as it becomes available - would love to have a lot of regional participation.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.