

# METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Summary

Skype Meeting

Wednesday, May 27, 2020

Start 10 a.m.  
Adjourned 11:30 a.m.

### 1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – Pam Carter

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

Pam Carter, Chair, reviewed the meeting guidelines.

Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, took a roll call for attendance. A quorum was in attendance and the April meeting summary was approved as written.

Beth Mountsier, City of Bellevue, shared the sad news that Mike Huddleston, who many have worked with during his time as central staff for the King County Council, passed away from COVID-19.

Pam provided an update on the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) noting that there was no May meeting and there will not be a June meeting.

Pam also shared that the June 4 subcommittee meetings will begin at 8:30 a.m., so that there can be a discussion on rates. She asked that members think about what kind of information they'd like to see on the rates and when they'd like to see it. As there will be additional discussion about the rates next year, it is important to have this conversation now. Pam reported the MWWPAAC field trip in July is canceled and staff is exploring if we can do a virtual tour of the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station. If not, we'll be hold the July date and potentially have an asset management workshop. An update will be provided once we have a better idea.

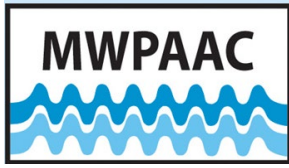
Lisa Tobin, Comprehensive Engineering & Planning (E&P) Subcommittee Chair, reviewed the joint Rates & Finance and E&P subcommittee report which included information on:

- Options for Future Asset Management Discussion (joint topic)
- Treatment Plant Flows and Loadings Study (E&P topic)
- Kenmore Interceptor Proviso Response (E&P topic)

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

Mark Isaacson, Division Director, reported that he would share the WTD Director's Report with Bruce Kessler, Deputy Division Director, who will provide an update on the Seattle City Light (SCL) power reliability project. Mark thanked Beth Mountsier for recognizing Mike Huddleston.

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Mark provided an update on the sewer rate and King County Council action. He appreciated the candor from MWWPAAC and their input into the rate process. The King County Council adopted a 4.5 percent increase for 2021 and zero percent increase for 2022. There was a robust policy discussion, including discussion of maintenance, repair, replacement of equipment, and the challenges communities are facing with COVID-19. It is important to acknowledge those impacts. WTD also wants to be mindful of the work of MWWPAAC. It was great to hear Lisa Tobin, City of Auburn, talk about using subcommittee meetings to dig deeper into Asset Management.

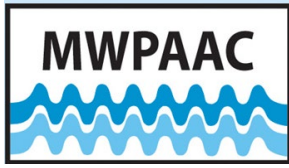
Bruce Kessler, Deputy Division Director, provided background on the SCL project. He described the voltage sags that have occurred at West Point Treatment Plant, the process to restart the system, and the potential for a secondary bypass. This seems to be an ongoing problem, which WTD is working on with SCL to resolve. WTD and SCL entered into a memorandum of understanding that included hiring a consultant to look at the issue and characterize the voltage sags that affect power reliability and recommend measures that would reduce bypass events caused by voltage sags. The study evaluated power reliability both internal to the West Point Treatment Plant and SCL's connected feeds. Bruce noted voltage sags are not uncommon for the level of power and the nature of the system that sends power to the plants. The objective is to reduce the potential of a bypass or "ride through", which are very short in duration, like a blip. WTD can change some settings to critical controls at the plant right now. WTD can also coordinate monitors at West Point and SCL to ensure we are looking at the same thing. The study recommended modifications to West Point's cogen system and to run other parts of the system off utility power and to add voltage regulation and power conditioning at West Point, which will enable some ride through. Another recommendation is to study if the construction of a new SCL substation might improve the power quality feed. This could be cost prohibitive for SCL. WTD will be reviewing the recommendations and determining which ones are feasible and contribute to improving electrical reliability or mitigate voltage sags.

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

Steve Tolzman provided an update on the Clean Water Plan that included the following:

- Clean Water Plan Activities and Briefing Topics
  - SEPA Scoping
  - Regional Engagement
  - Action Development
  - MWWPAAC Technical Taskforce Activities
- Clean Water Plan SEPA Review
  - SEPA scoping is underway (should have results in July)
- Recent and Upcoming Regional Engagement Activities
  - Steve encouraged everyone to look at the webinar and open house.
- Decision Areas and Key Questions
  - Reviewed previously and what the Clean Water Plan will look like with respect to investments
- Action Development

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- Includes bulk of technical planning work
- Reviewed action description sheets – completing for each 35 actions – feeds into analysis
- MWPAAC Clean Water Plan Technical Advisory Taskforce
  - Gary Schimek, City of Redmond, provided a summary of the May 21 meeting.

Susan Saffery, City of Seattle, asked if MWPAAC will be jointly providing SEPA comments. Pam Carter, Chair, doesn't believe there has been a discussion to jointly combine comments. Susan requested that MWPAAC consider submitting a joint letter. Pam feels it may be a challenge given the time that scoping is open and the frequency of MWPAAC meetings. Susan spoke to her request, noting Seattle just had an internal discussion about it. She appreciates the collective input MWPAAC provides and thinks there is an advantage to that collective comment. Susan recognizes it may be a challenge given the timeframe. Mary Shustov, Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District, expressed interest in pursuing an extension to the SEPA comment deadline. Pam clarified the timing with respect to how to prepare a joint MWPAAC response with initial discussion at the June subcommittee meeting and approval of a letter at the June 24 meeting.

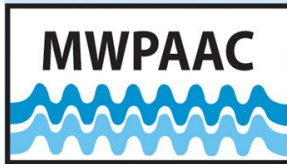
Sharman Herrin, WTD Government Relations Administrator, shared June 4 is the next scheduled subcommittee meeting and agenda items could be moved around to allow time for discussion of development of MWPAAC letter. Sharman reviewed the process to approve a letter. A letter requesting an extension to the comment period could be sent to Division Director Mark Isaacson and WTD SEPA Lead, Katherine Fischer. A motion was made for the MWPAAC Executive Board to request an extension to the SEPA comment period. Pam asked for a voice vote. The motion carried. Pam reminded members they need to participate in the subcommittee meeting to provide input into the comment letter.

#### **4. MWPAAC Clean Water Plan Technical Taskforce Update, Taskforce Member**

Gary Schimek, City of Redmond, provided the update on the MWPAAC Clean Water Plan Technical Taskforce meeting that included the following:

1. Agenda Overview
  - SEPA Scoping Process and Schedule
  - Review of our priority Decision Areas (Treatment Plants, Stormwater & CSOs, WW Conveyance, Asset Management, and Finance)
  - Deep Dive into Draft Actions for Treatment Plans and Asset Management
2. Draft Action Items Overview
  - Asset Management actions
  - Treatment Plan actions
3. Consistent worksheets being developed for all Action Items to help with reviewing process
  - Short description
  - Drivers
  - Potentially Pollutant Pathways

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## Meeting Summary

- Partnerships
- Duration and Timeline
- 4. Next Meeting
  - Review and discuss our collective comments on draft AM and WW Treatment Options
  - Deep dive into actions for Stormwater & CSOs, WW conveyance system and/or Finance
- 5. How best to keep you informed beyond these monthly summaries? Please get back to any of us with your ideas (Kyle Wong, Josh Pantzke, Jack Broyles, Leslie Webster, Mike Johnson, or Gary Schimek).

Gary also shared there was a lot of good dialogue and hearty discussion amongst taskforce members. He finds that very pleasing and thinks that is what the intent is for this group. He also noted materials were excellent for the meetings. He will continue to give monthly updates along with Steve Tolzman.

### **5. Asset Management – Overview and Portfolio Management, Bruce Kessler, Deputy Division Director, WTD**

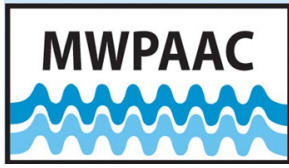
Bruce Kessler, Deputy Division Director, provided a report on Asset Management that included the following:

- Asset Management Program Maturity
  - Background on formal program
  - Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) – updated about every 5 years
  - Asset Management Work Plan – updated every year
- Project Portfolio Management Recap
  - WTD Capital Categories
  - Investment in Asset Management
- Portfolio Prioritization Processes
  - Portfolio Prioritization – Plants
  - Portfolio Prioritization – Conveyance
  - Example: Asset Management Sub-Category, Asset Condition
- Portfolio Management Tool
  - Maintain project inventory
  - Rank individual projects
  - Collate and assess all project rankings
    - Within a category and across the entire portfolio
  - Tool informs decisions – final decisions are made by the oversight process

Bruce answered questions related to the following:

- Safety considerations – incorporated into the criteria.
- Software platform – which was developed by a consultant, VMS, and Bruce is uncertain of the platform.
- How decisions are made - the tool informs decisions and subcommittees make the decisions with final ranking reviewed by the WTD Director's Office and DNRP Director's Office.

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## **Meeting Summary**

- Project prioritization - projects are reassessed annually and biennially when WTD is setting the rate and budget, and unfunded projects are kept in the queue.
- Category allocations - the tool provides assistance. Each manager then ranks the projects and the tool develops an average score. Considerations are made for things that must be done because of regulatory requirements.
- Categories used to be referred to as buckets – the categories are an industry standard
- 6-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) – 6-year CIP's are required by the County, but WTD is often looking 10-years out.

Mark Isaacson, Division Director, talked about why Asset Management is considered such a large driver in the rate increase, which has a lot to do with the Asset Management list and backlog. When WTD reviewed, we saw there was an opportunity to address asset management issues now before there is a potential rate increase for new regulations (e.g., nutrient removal). WTD has taken care of most of the high priority items and we are now looking at medium priority projects. Bruce added the consequences of failure are also considered and the disruption to a community (repair of a pipeline or sinkhole). All of these factors are built into the prioritization criteria.

### **6. General Announcements**

Pam Carter, Chair, reminded members they committed to attend the June 4 subcommittee meeting and the general meeting on June 24 to provide input to the SEPA scoping comment letter. Sharman Herrin, WTD Government Relations Administrator, reminded members that next Thursday's Rates & Finance Subcommittee meeting will also include a discussion about lessons learned on the rate cycle and what can we do better going into fall and spring of next year.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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