

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Skype Meeting

Wednesday, August 26, 2020

Start 10 a.m.
Adjourned 12:02 p.m.

1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – Pam Carter

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of June Meeting Summary (action item)
- Regional Water Quality Committee Update

Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, took attendance by roll call.

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

Pam Carter, Chair, reviewed the meeting guidelines and shared that she had learned during the Executive Board meeting that WTD would be moving to Microsoft Teams in the near future. More information to be shared once available. Pam noted the summary for the Asset Management Informational Session is still being worked on and will be shared with MWWPAAC soon.

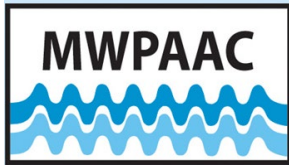
Pam reported on the July Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) meeting. The main topic was the Clean Water Plan. She reminded members that MWWPAAC receives regular updates on the Clean Water Plan. An update was also provided on the Capacity Charge legislation, which has already been shared at MWWPAAC. The only likely remaining 2020 meetings for RWQC will be in September and December. Pam reported that the planned RWQC work plan had to be cut back significantly due to fewer meetings being held. The September 2 RWQC meeting will include briefings on nutrients, updates on Council-requested reports on Biosolids and the Kenmore Interceptor, and an overview of Asset Management. She reminded members that MWWPAAC had heard about the Kenmore Interceptor report earlier in the year. The Biosolids report will be shared at the September subcommittee meetings.

Pam addressed recent requests for MWWPAAC meetings to be recorded. She shared that state law would require agreement from all parties - we would need consent from every member to record and post. Therefore, the Executive Board felt it would be too burdensome for each meeting. She clarified that the state law requirement would include members or others that join late, etc. As of now, we will not be recording MWWPAAC meetings.

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

Mark Isaacson, Division Director, acknowledged Pam Carter and others for their leadership in the community, in protecting public health, and in maintaining facilities. It is a big job and every day he learns and recognizes the work that everyone does. MWWPAAC's work is greatly appreciated and he thanked all members for their contributions.

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Mark reported on summer construction and maintenance projects at the treatment plants. He noted it is the most vulnerable time of year since certain areas of the plants are occasionally shutdown at different points.

South Plant

- Major odor reduction refurbishment, which should be good for the next ten years. This ensures we are good neighbors.
- Raw sewer pump overhaul – WTD did the work on our own. Found some wear in the rings in the impeller, which had not been torn down or replaced since 1985. Should be good for another 50 years.
- Employee safety is our number one concern at plants and we completed an adjustment to safety ladders.

Brightwater

- Testing different chemicals for efficiencies. Magnesium Hydroxide Alkalinity Additions – this project is a chemical-addition test facility and was designed in-house. This new test facility is being used to test different sources of alkalinity and sodium hydroxide.
- Improving secondary aeration basin to save energy and chemicals.
- Made some improvements in digestive sludge storage tank so that it doesn't clog.

West Point

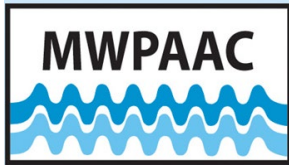
Mark shared the interesting fact that West Point is the 13th largest treatment plant in the world (by volume).

- Upgraded the control system for redundancy and security.
- Completed the installation of a new variable frequency drive (VFD) and vibration monitoring equipment for intermediate pump station pump #3, which will close out a two-year process that replaced all 7 drives within the intermediate and effluent pumping stations. This work will reduce vibration.
- Completed an overhaul on Digester 6.

Mark shared that he also made onsite visits to each plant to inspect the work, at a safe distance, throughout the summer. He noted that WTD's operations and maintenance staff have been doing a fantastic job of maintaining COVID safety measures. No one has gotten sick. He does remind staff that we are not through this and we may be going through a tough fall season. He reported that unscheduled sick leave is still very low. It is quite inspiring to see how people are working on this and how people are complying and using PPE. Mark reported WTD has been able to stay ahead of key performance measures.

Mark also talked about the Operator in Training (OIT) Program. By the end of this year WTD will have placed 43 participants into our Operations program. About 12 participants dropped out. Many participants have expressed appreciation for the training they received. It is a major success story.

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3. Subcommittee Reports

August 6, 2020, Rates & Finance:

- Capital Funding Analysis

August 6, 2020, Engineering & Planning:

- SEPA Scoping Comments Update
- Biosolids Proviso Response

4. Clean Water Plan Update, Steve Tolzman, Program Manager and Planning Project Manager, WTD; Tiffany Knapp, Planning Project Manager and Alt Program Manager, WTD; Sonia-Lynn Abenojar, Regional Engagement Project Manager, WTD

Steve Tolzman, Program Manager and Planning Project Manager; Tiffany Knapp, Planning Project Manager and Alt Program Manager; and Sonia-Lynn Abenojar, Regional Engagement Project Manager jointly provided an update on the Clean Water Plan. Steve noted the team would be taking a little more time to go through the Clean Water Plan this month and provide more detail. Steve introduced Tiffany and Sonia-Lynn and provided a summary of their roles and what they will be talking about today.

- CWP Approach and Complexity – Steve Tolzman
- Planning Process – Tiffany Knapp
- Regional Engagement – Sonia-Lynn

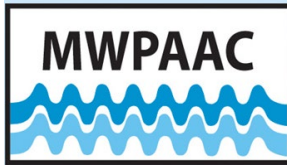
Steve reviewed the Approach to the Clean Water Plan to include:

- Core planning question - *What is the most appropriate path to ensure we direct the right public investments to the right actions at the right time for the best water quality outcomes?*
- Using an Exploratory approach to address the question – not a preferred path
- Clean Water Plan Complexity
- Three areas of the core question – appropriate path, investments, and actions.

Tiffany reviewed the upcoming elements of Clean Water Plan work to include:

- Clean Water Plan Planning Activities
- Planning Process
- Scope of Actions Identified (includes community engagement, leadership, and SMEs input)
- Described the details of the action – each action is a concept for future water quality investment
- Described the outcome of the action analysis and evaluation
- Evaluation Framework: Overview
- Two phase evaluation – mostly talking about first phase today
- Action Analysis and Evaluation (first phase)
 - Strategy Evaluation
 - Difference – affordability – complete package at the strategy exploration stage

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- Action Evaluation Categories
 - Not a specific category for ESJ as it will be imbedded in each category. Want to understand how ESJ impacts all categories and not as a separate category.
- Conceptual Flow of Equity Action Evaluation
- Exploration of Community Priorities and Evaluation Categories
 - Extensive engagement – a lot of the work in 2019.

Sonia-Lynn reviewed the Regional Engagement Activities to include:

- Regional Engagement Objectives
 - Advance Equity and Social Justice & Foster Relationships
 - Gather Community Input to Inform the Process
 - Build Awareness and Understanding of the Clean Water Plan
- Regional Engagement Framework
 - Community Based Organization – launched last year – engage communities not traditionally involved and communities that align with ESJ plan
 - External advisory group
 - Focused Engagement – interested parties
 - Broad Engagement – engagement opportunities
 - Youth and Student – high school and college groups
 - Tailored engagement – specified venue to engage elected officials and regulators
- Clean Water Plan Milestones
- Regional Engagement Goals for Fall 2020
- Regional Engagement for Fall 2020
 - Regional Engagement Topic Areas – reviewed 1 through 6 – adapting approach due to COVID-19 era
 - At midway point with a lot more engagement to do

Questions & Answers:

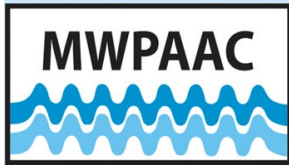
Q: People have expressed concern that the Clean Water Plan doesn't address the nutrients question that is looming and can be costly.

A: Tiffany Knapp referred back to slide 11 and the list of 35 actions that are being looked at. Nutrient regulation is on the horizon and a big question for the plan. On slide 11, under wastewater treatment decision area three there are actions that consider different ways that the County and WTD will be looking at nutrient removal - at each plant and the impact; different regulatory mechanisms (single permit); removal at other plants; nutrient removal and interactions with other utilities and common standards; and advanced treatment. The Clean Water Plan is definitely incorporating this issue.

Q: Can you provide an example of what a strategy might look like. Also, some of the action areas have mutually exclusive actions and some have multiple.

A: Steve Tolzman noted there is not an example. It is a hard task and the team is working hard to get to the strategies. How these things can play out – there needs to be complete representation in the complete path/outcome. The team will be back in the next couple of months to update this group and the MWWPAAC Clean Water Plan Task Force.

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Q: What is the one goal - It is to clean up the water?

A: Tiffany Knapp referred back to slide 11 – pollution control. Definitely looking at the big picture and on removing pollutants. Part of what we want to be able to explore and highlight are technical challenges and other mechanisms that would need to be in place to do this. Definitely will illuminate and highlight what would be required.

Comment: WTD should emphasize and brand the Why. MWWPAAC members will continue to hone in on the why.

Q: When will elected officials be considering the recommended plan? Referred to slide 22 and slide 19. Concern is priorities and cost – elected officials are not going to get it until mostly baked and then a debate is on if the right choices have not been made. Elected officials need to hear now and urge WTD staff to work with RWQC because those elected officials need to understand and understand deeply those kinds of trade-offs. MWWPAAC members can carry some of the information back, but also asks WTD to engage council members as if they are a stakeholder group. Not saying it is a bad regional engagement framework but doesn't have engagement of elected officials early on.

A: Steve Tolzman noted the team has been briefing RWQC since 2018. It will be a robust discussion with RWQC. Trade-offs will be much more apparent in the Environmental Impact Statement and the complexity will be much clearer. The framework does not overlook the interaction needed at the RWQC level.

Comment: Make sure it (RWQC engagement) is not just a process type of briefing and not having the time to engage. Members need time to ask questions about the meaty issues. We may not be at the meaty issues as of yet - urges that kind of time is programmed in. Olivia noted that there was a workshop on the Clean Water Plan at the November RWQC meeting and there were plans for further presentations in 2020, but RWQC did not meet between December 2019 and June 2020.

Comment: Need to understand the Why. Also, the bottom-line of what the Clean Water Plan is going to do to the rate. Is Ecology making WTD do this?

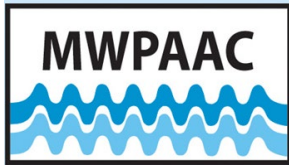
Response: Steve Tolzman noted it is more than just about the Department of Ecology. Steve talked about the why – asset management, CSO, treatment plant population growth, water quality programs, etc. all these things are looking to be a tremendous cost. The Clean Water Plan is a thoughtful process in how the decisions are made. The mission is to address the question on Page 4.

Pam Carter, Chair, reminded city officials they have a way to learn about it on a regular basis. They can ask about presentations at MWWPAAC. More cities need to participate in MWWPAAC and they will have access to the information.

5. Industrial Waste Rule Process, Greg Newborn, Industrial Waste Compliance Investigator III, WTD

Greg Newborn, Industrial Waste Compliance Inspector, provided an update on the progress to review and revise the Industrial Waste public rules. He reported the driver for the changes was an Executive Order that stated all King County Executive Public Rules, Policies and Orders written before January 11,

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2016, will expire January 11, 2021, unless renewed. He reviewed the six expiring rules and what's new/changed.

- King County Industrial Waste Local Discharge Limits
- Discharge of Construction Wastewater to the Sanitary Sewer System
- Discharge of Contaminated Groundwater to the Sanitary Sewer System
- Discharge of Cooling Water into the Sanitary Sewer System
- Discharge of Hauled Waste at a King County Publicly Owned Treatment Works (POTW)
- King County Industrial Waste Enforcement Response Plan

Greg reviewed the process to review and revise the rules and identified where WTD is at in the process, formal comment period, and shared information with members on ways to submit comments on the rules.

6. General Announcements

None

The meeting adjourned at 12:02.