

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Skype Meeting

Wednesday, October 28, 2020

Start 10 a.m.
Adjourned 11:53 a.m.

1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – Pam Carter

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of September Meeting Summary (action item)
- Regional Water Quality Committee Update (RWQC)
- Call for Nominating Committee

Marla Oughton, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) Executive Assistant, took attendance by roll-call.

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

Pam Carter, Chair, provided a summary of the October 7 Regional Water Quality Committee meeting, which included briefings on the following items:

- Washington Department of Ecology on Nutrient Management: a lot of questions were asked and there was a lot of concern about when agencies and cities get to weigh in.
- WTD Asset Management: Cost Drivers for Wastewater Rate Setting.

Pam shared that an email notice will be going out to MWWPAAC members putting a call out for Nominating Committee members. Members should reply to the email if they are interested in serving on the committee. There will be a call for Nominations for MWWPAAC Vice Chair and Chair of Engineering and Planning at the December meeting and elections will take place at the January MWWPAAC General meeting.

2. Subcommittee Reports

October 1, 2020, Rates & Finance:

- Rate Strategy
- Asset Management – South Plant (Joint Topic)

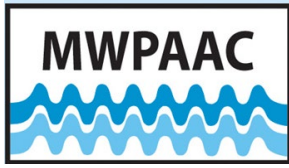
October 1, 2020, Engineering & Planning:

- Asset Management – South Plant (Joint Topic)
- Local Public Agency (LPA) Program Update

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

Mark Isaacson, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) Director, thanked Chair Carter for serving on MWWPAAC and the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC).

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Mark share his report would cover a few items – West Point Power Reliability, Nutrients Management, and WTD’s COVID-19 response.

In July 2019, West Point experienced a power sag and the system went offline for 27 minutes. WTD worked with the companies that constructed the pumps and brought in an electrician to see how we could ride-through power sags. It was concerning to have power dips and a potential bypass. Manual tests were performed during the summer and we saw that changes made to the system (Ovation) were working. On October 21, a real test occurred when a short duration storm hit the Seattle area and caused a power outage at the plant and the power sag did not affect the effluent or intermediate pump stations. WTD is excited about these types of successes.

Mark reported that WTD has been asked about the federal executive order that may limit funding for anarchist jurisdictions and whether that will affect WTD and our work with federal agencies. WTD continues to have communications with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and we do not see this affecting King County WTD. We will continue our communications with the EPA on that matter. This action may affect the City of Seattle, but Mark noted he cannot speak to that.

As Chair Carter noted, the RWQC heard a presentation from the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) on nutrients. Mark shared a few words of caution and one correction related to that presentation. Mark reported that Ecology has been working with WTD staff and that Resource Recovery Section Manager Rebecca Singer has been participating in a work group. Ecology did emphasize flexibility and made it clear they want to work with us, and that they will address non-nutrients going into the Sound and the concept of adaptive management. They’ll look at the first five years and then further out. Ecology is not looking at fines or a regulatory cap but working with agencies on how to address the nutrient loads into the Sound. As a note of caution, a Sound-wide analysis noted by Ecology stated that trading was optional. Ecology talked about a decade and we all know it takes longer than a decade to put forward changes such as this. Ecology will work to help provide funding and there will need to be a discussion on how costs fall on ratepayers. Topics not addressed include how nutrients are affected throughout the Sound and the influent of the ocean upwelling. Mark wanted to correct one comment from the meeting where an Ecology staff member noted that WTD might not be in the situation to fund certain projects if we had not delayed CSO projects. Mark reported that WTD has not delayed any CSO projects. None of WTD’s CSO projects have been delayed going back as far as 1990 or early 2000.

Question/Answer:

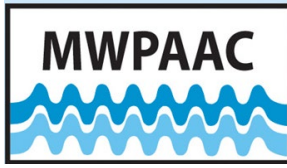
Q: Does WTD feel there is more to discuss with Ecology?

A: Yes.

Mark presented a report on WTD’s COVID-19 response and moving forward with our business. The full presentation can be found [here](#). Mark’s report included updates on the following items:

- How WTD is doing facing the biggest challenge of our lifetime?

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- Facilities / Operations
- Use of PPE in Operations
- Key Performance Indicators we monitor
- Personal conduct / staff expectations
- Community Services & Education Teams
- Construction Management
- Working from home

Action item:

Pam asked if graphics can be sent out on don't flush trash. Mark will have information sent out.

4. Clean Water Plan Monthly Update, Steve Tolzman, Program Manager and Planning Project Manager, WTD; MWPAAC Clean Water Plan Advisory Taskforce, Gary Schimek, Taskforce Member, City of Redmond

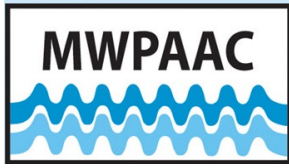
Steve Tolzman, Program Manager and Planning Project Manager, presented an update to the Clean Water Plan. The full presentation can be found [here](#). Steve's report included updates on the following items:

- Core Planning Question
 - Planning Process
- October Briefing Topics
 - Initial action evaluation findings
 - Building Strategies from Actions
 - MWPAAC Clean Water Plan Technical Advisory Taskforce Report by Gary Schimek, City of Redmond
- Action Analysis: Overview of Preliminary Findings
 - Today's Briefing:
 - Asset Management, Resiliency and Redundancy
 - Initial Finding
 - Wastewater Conveyance
 - Initial Findings
- Building Strategies from Actions – Overview of Conceptual Flow & Planning Considerations
- Strategy Exploration

Gary Schimek, Taskforce Member, presented a report on the October 7 Clean Water Plan Technical Advisory Taskforce meeting. The full report can be found [here](#) (page 13). Gary's report included updates on the following items:

- Meeting format
- Brief review of previous sessions
- Presentation and discussion topics

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- Actions Development Status Report
- Actions Preliminary Findings – Wastewater Treatment and Asset Management Decision Areas
- Looking forward

Gary shared that he has some questions that he will bring forward to the next Taskforce meeting after today's MWWPAAC discussion.

- Funding for projects – where is it coming from
- Groundwater impacts
- Best way to address storm water issues
- Equity re: conveyance and rate level

Gary reported the next taskforce meeting would be in December, date to be determined (now scheduled for December 17). Focus will be on a continuation of preliminary findings from action analysis and an updated approach to building strategies. The Taskforce expects “homework” assignments to ramp up when detailed results are ready for actions and for comparison of strategies vs strategies.

Questions/Answers:

Q: Related to technology - a few companies are looking to contract with the federal government on tracking COVID in wastewater. What about nitrogen, can it be traced in wastewater streams? It may be way to see where the nitrogen flow is coming from - sampling for COVID anyways.

A: Smart utility action in conveyance – A smart utility system can be deployed with the capability to monitor pollutant levels upstream of treatment plants. WTD is exploring this through the Clean Water Plan.

Comment: Suggests WTD think about it - the mechanism is coming. Also, advised to not omit the ports when it comes to accountability around nutrients.

Q: Regional Water Quality policies - are they on hold?

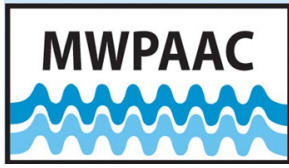
A: From the Clean Water Plan perspective, we expect findings to offer insights and opportunities to update policies, so we have updated statements around decision areas.

Q: Sewer contract negotiations - haven't heard much about that.

A: The Clean Water Plan can lead to good policy discussion and good discussion around agreements. The data will illuminate a variety of things and a good understanding of our challenges and the best way to work through. Sharman Herrin, WTD Government Relations, reminded members that MWWPAAC discussed towards the end of last year/beginning of 2020 whether the negotiations effort should be tabled while the Clean Water Plan was in progress. There was general support in doing both activities in parallel. It's a topic of discussion for 2021, including what the next steps will be. Sharman agreed that when contract negotiations continue, they will be informed by the work of the Clean Water Plan.

5. **Report on West Point AECOM Recommendations, Mark Slepki, Capital Project Manager, WTD**

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Mark Slepiski, Capital Project Manager, provided an update on the progress of the West Point Improvement Program. The full presentation can be found [here](#). His report included updates on the following items:

- AECOM 2017 Assessment – four recommendations:
 - Implement a Life Safety Management (LSM) program
 - Conduct comprehensive emergency response training
 - Conduct an evaluation to address plant constraints and improve redundancy
 - Optimize a capital improvement plan to maximize redundancy
 - Identified 98 strategies for implementation
 - Currently:
 - 59 complete
 - 19 in progress
 - 20 not applicable / infeasible (agreed upon by AECOM in 2019 follow-up report)
- Progress/Highlights Recommendation #1
- Progress/Highlights Recommendation #2
- Progress/Highlights Recommendation #3
- Progress/Highlights Recommendation #4
- West Point Capital Improvement Program
- Conclusions

Question/Answer:

Q: Is there a report that is going to the Council re: AECOM recommendations.

A: Quarterly reports are sent to Council. Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, noted quarterly reports have been provided since the AECOM recommendations came out and will continue. There just had not been an update provided to MWWPAAC recently.

6. General Announcements

Next meeting is December 9. Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, reminded members that MWWPAAC doesn't meet in November.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

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