

# METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Summary

Skype Meeting

Wednesday, December 9, 2020

Start 10:00 a.m.  
Adjourned 11:50 a.m.

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

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of October Meeting Summary (action item)
- Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Update
- Call for Nominations for MWWPAAC Vice Chair and Chair of Engineering and Planning
- Reappointment of Bob Elwell to WaterWorks Committee (Action Item)
- Meeting Platform

Olivia Robinson, Government Relations-Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD), took attendance by roll call.

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

Pam Carter, Chair, reported that the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) had not met for several months due to King County working on the budget. However, she noted that RWQC would be meeting that afternoon, December 9. The following briefings are on the agenda:

- WTD's Asset Management Webpage, which is also being shared with MWWPAAC today
- COVID-19 Revenue Impact Estimates
- Clean Water Plan Update

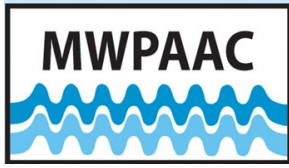
Pam reported that a call for nominations will not occur at this meeting. An email will be sent out on behalf of the Nominating Committee. Members may nominate themselves and MWWPAAC will vote at the January 27 General Meeting. If members are interested, they need to respond to the email.

The next order of business is the reappointment of Bob Elwell to the WaterWorks Committee. Pam shared that he's a valuable member on the committee and emphasized the importance of having knowledgeable people from MWWPAAC on that committee. Bob would like to serve again.

A motion was made to reappoint Bob Elwell. The motion carried.

Pam informed members that MWWPAAC meetings going forward (January 2021) will be on the Microsoft (MS) Teams platform, King County is moving to MS Teams. More information will be shared in an email to members.

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

Mark Isaacson, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) Director, thanked MWWPAAC members for their time, dedication, and leadership in the wastewater field. Mark began his report by reporting on a very brief bypass that occurred at West Point on December 2, 2020, at about 1:30 a.m. due to an operator error. The operator was conducting routine preventative maintenance and accidentally activated the emergency bypass gate and 15,000 gallons were released into the Puget Sound. The bypass gate was open for about three minutes. The flows were quite low at that time which led to a smaller discharge. Mark emphasized that any discharge is unacceptable and something that WTD takes quite seriously. WTD notified regulatory agencies, conducted water quality testing and closed the beach at West Point in Discovery Park early the next morning. Test results were quite low, and the beach was re-opened quickly. WTD also undertook an evaluation of what occurred as an opportunity to self-improve, not to isolate the employee, but to learn from the experience. WTD reevaluated some of the training and determined the valve the employee mistakenly used could have better markings.

Mark reported on how WTD staff is weathering the COVID-19 public health crisis we are in. Up through October, WTD had very few cases, but now is experiencing a significant uptick. Starting in November about six staff have contracted COVID-19 and as of December 9, all but one is back at work. These transmissions were acquired outside of WTD worksites. Due to HIPPA rules, WTD does not identify impacted individuals. As staff are nervous about exposure potential, WTD does participate in contact tracing and is clear on messages on safety protocol with respect to wearing masks, no lingering in control rooms, and social distancing. WTD does let folks know if there is a positive case and ask them to assume anyone around them could potentially have it and to take the necessary precautions.

Mark reported on the WTD Year End All Hands meeting. Traditionally, WTD has held four, but this year combined them and had one. Mark noted how he recognized administrative staff and how they are the invisible workforce. Mark highlighted the essential onsite work administrative staff have performed during the pandemic and recognized the support administrative staff provide as an important element of WTD's work.

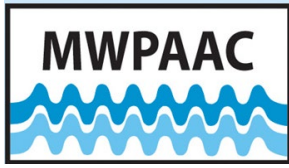
Mark also shared that he has announced he will be retiring in 2021. He noted, it was a very difficult decision for him. He feels the division itself is in a wonderful place. He noted that there is never downtime with WTD and there are always fascinating projects going on that will carry on, so he couldn't pick a time where there wasn't a whole lot happening. The management team and all those that support the work that is going on are outstanding, as well as the Department of Natural Resources and Parks leadership team and he feels good about that being in place. He doesn't have an exact date but hopefully by mid-year 2021 a new division director will be hired.

### 3. Subcommittee Reports

#### December 3, 2020, Rates & Finance:

- Adopted 2021-2022 Biennial Budget & 2022 Rate-Setting Goals
- Asset Management – West Point (Joint Topic)

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### **December 3, 2020, Engineering & Planning:**

- Asset Management – West Point (Joint Topic)
- I/I Control Program Review and Status Update
- Nutrients Management Update

### **4. Clean Water Plan Monthly Update, Steve Tolzman, Program Manager and Planning Project Manager, WTD**

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

- Status of Actions Development
- Initiation of Strategies Development
- 2021 Look Ahead

### **Questions/Answers:**

Q: When are the elected officials' workshops starting?

A: We do not have dates as of yet – goal is to have four – we have drafted a rough outline. Sharman Herrin, WTD Government Relations, can help with any questions on scheduling.

### **5. DNRP Work from Home Update, Steve Namkung, Acting HR Manager, WTD**

Steve Namkung, Acting HR Manager, presented on the Wastewater Treatment Division's (WTD) perspective on Working from Home. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The presentation covered things WTD has faced, future challenges and lessons learned to include:

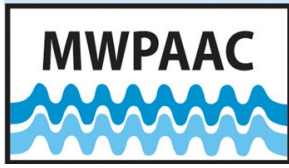
- Immediate Issues
- Continuing Issues (through Summer/Fall 2020)
- Supervisor/Manager Feedback
- Future Actions/Challenges
- Lessons Learned (learning)

### **Questions/Answers:**

Q: How do phone calls work?

A: Our County numbers are associated with our Skype, soon to be Teams, account and go directly to the employee. Staff should answer just as if they were in the office.

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# **METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **Meeting Summary**

### **6. Asset Management Webpage, Bruce Kessler, Deputy Division Director, WTD**

Bruce Kessler, Deputy Division Director, presented on the new asset management webpage. This webpage is based on interest received from stakeholders to have information about the Wastewater Treatment Division's (WTD) asset management available. Councilmembers, RWQC members, MWWPAAC, and the general public will have access to the webpage. The intention today is to get feedback from members to make sure the webpage is useful and meets your needs. Bruce invited members to provide comment or ask questions as he presented the mock-up. The site is not yet live – WTD hopes to have it go live at the end of December.

The website will be updated quarterly, and an email notification will be sent out to stakeholders. Bruce reviewed the webpage and summarized the content.

#### **Questions/Answers:**

Q: About asset management – 20-year projection timeline – what is the orange showing?

A: The dynamic is for each asset we put in what year we expect it will need to be replaced. Large expansions and large construction projects will influence the bar graph (spike). Need to keep an eye on the spike and manage. It's a tool we can use to manage spikes. When we bring costs into the proposed 6-yr Capital Improvement Program (CIP) which ties into the rate.

Q: Great presentation, Bruce! Noting that you've placed the backlog response in 2020-2021, does this suggest that we are funding/addressing the backlog over those two years, with corresponding budget increments?

A: This graph is a tool to alert us to our needs but is not tied to our 6-yr CIP – it helps us develop it.

Q: Is it fair to say the backlog will not get done this year or next year.

A: Yes, correct.

### **7. General Announcements**

Pam Carter, Chair, noted on December 2, 2020, an email was sent out about the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station. That email was in lieu of MWWPAAC's field trip. Pam thanked everyone for attending the December meeting. We look forward to next year and hope at some point we can meet in person when it is safe to do so.

Olivia Robinson, Government Relations-WTD, noted we'll send information on the Don't Flush campaign in case members want to use the information.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:50.

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