

# METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Summary

**MS Teams Meeting**

**Wednesday, January 27, 2021**

**Start 10 a.m.  
Adjourned 11:18 a.m.**

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

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of December Meeting Summary (action item)
- Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Update
- WaterWorks Representative – Seattle (action item)
- Call for Vice Chair of Engineering and Planning

Pam Carter, Chair, welcomed members to the January MWWPAAC General meeting.

Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, took attendance by rollcall. A quorum was in attendance and the December meeting summary was approved as written.

Pam provided an update on the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC). RWQC last met in December – there was no meeting in January. The next meeting will be on February 3 and the following items are on the agenda:

- RWQC Work Program
- Treatment Plant Flows and Loadings Study – a briefing was provided to MWWPAAC on this topic last spring
- COVID Sewer Surveillance – COVID related

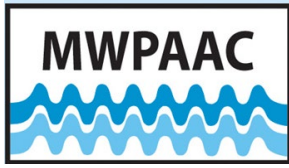
Pam reminded members that if they are interested in hearing the meeting online, they can do that on the King County website.

Pam briefly reviewed the application and qualifications of the applicant for the Waterworks Grant Ranking Committee representative – Melissa Ivancevich, City of Seattle. MWWPAAC has three representatives on the grant ranking committee. Melissa will represent Seattle.

A motion was made to approve Melissa Ivancevich as the Seattle MWWPAAC representative for WaterWorks. The motion carried.

Pam reported that Gary Schimek accepted a new position last month with the City of Issaquah and, while he will stay involved in MWWPAAC, he is stepping down from the vice chair position of the Comprehensive Engineering and Planning Subcommittee creating a vacancy. An email will be sent out seeking applicants and any interested members can respond to the email. Per the bylaws, the Executive Board will appoint the vice chair position.

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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, reported the January 13 storm event resulted in a very serious bypass at the West Point Treatment Plant. He emphasized that WTD takes every bypass very seriously and learns from them. WTD is looking at the root cause and is in the process of preparing an after-action report. WTD is also going to be preparing a report for the King County Council to review what happened, how it can be prevented in the future, and the impacts. The report will be solution-oriented and look at how we can work with Seattle City Light around power quality issues. The cause was related to a significant wind event that caused disturbances in the power force at the plant. WTD has made some adjustments to withstand power quality issues, but during this event winds were quite high and major power bumps caused the entire plant to go offline. Raw sewage pumps were the first to shut down before the overflow. WTD followed protocols with respect to closing beaches and Golden Gardens. Testing numbers were relatively low and beaches were only closed for a few days. Two of the large pumps did not come back online and we're investigating as to why.

The Richmond Beach and Medina Beach Pump Stations also experienced overflows as a result of heavy rain and disturbances in power quality that tripped off pumps. The communication system (that sends alarm notifications) notified main control of the pump station failures and operations staff were able to bring them back online. The East Pine Pump Station also experienced an overflow as a result of a power outage and generator failure. Due to a failure in the communications system, operations didn't find out about East Pine until early the next morning. WTD will need to investigate and fix the communications system failure. The nearby beaches were closed for two days. Mark reported there will be a study of voltage regulations coming up.

### **3. Subcommittee Reports**

#### **January 7, 2021, Rates & Finance:**

- Rate Setting 101
- WTD Reports and Provisos 2021 (Joint Topic)

#### **January 7, 2021, Engineering & Planning:**

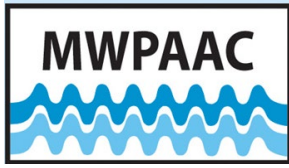
- WTD Reports and Provisos 2021 (Joint Topic)
- Evaluation of Emerging Wastewater Treatment Technologies

### **4. Officer Elections – Nominating Committee**

- a. Vice Chair of MWWPAAC**
- b. Chair of Engineering and Planning**

Pam Carter, Chair, reminded members that statements from each nominee were sent out with the meeting materials. Pam thanked Jack Broyles, Woodinville Water District, and Donald Anderson,

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Seattle Public Utilities, for their service on the Nominating Committee. Don provided a summary of the nominees for MWPAAC Vice Chair and for Chair of the Engineering and Planning Subcommittee.

Don made a call for nominations from the floor. No additional nominations were received.

A motion was made to accept the nominees for the positions. The motion carried.

Pam reminded members that voting members from jurisdictions would be receiving a SurveyMonkey link for voting. Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, reviewed the list of jurisdictions that had identified a voting member. One correction and two additions were made.

At the conclusion of voting, Pam thanked members for participating in voting and announced the results – Maria Coe will serve as Vice Chair of MWPAAC and Lisa Tobin will serve as the Chair to the Comprehensive Engineering and Planning Subcommittee.

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

Tiffany Knapp, Clean Water Plan Project Manager, provided the Clean Water Plan update. The full presentation can be found [here](#). January briefing topics included:

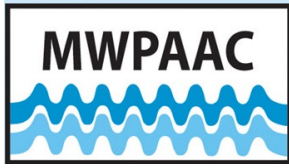
- Planning Process Refresher
- 2021 Work Plan Overview
- Ongoing MWPAAC Engagement in 2021
- 2021 Regional Engagement and Plan Development
- Actions Technical Workshops
- Deliverables – Plan Development Documents

### **6. Discussion of Executive Board Retreat and 2021 Work Plan, Pam Carter, MWPAAC Chair**

Pam Carter, Chair, shared that every year the Executive Board has a retreat. This year it was held virtually on January 12 and the majority of time was spent on the work plan. Last year there was a focus on Asset Management (AM), and the last AM presentation will be in March or April of this year. She asked members if it made sense to have something that is overarching throughout the year – one area the Executive Board thought about was capital projects.

Pam reminded members that more details are provided at subcommittee meetings than at the general meetings. She reviewed the items coming up in February and asked members to review the work plan schedule and topics. At the end of the schedule is a list of items that could be slotted in when it works out (e.g., nutrients, energy savings, capacity charge study group, etc.). Any of those items can be moved in. Pam asked for comments on the work plan. Pam noted sometimes MWPAAC has educational topics (e.g., WTD operational system) that helps members have a common understanding.

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Topics always relate back to the efficient operation of the system which relates to rates and maintaining clean water. Pam welcomed members to contact Executive Board members on any suggestions.

Comment:

- Suggests framing topics as it relates (relevance) to the contracts.

Lisa Tobin, Comprehensive Engineering & Planning Subcommittee Chair, asked members if they would be interested in participating in a survey to prioritize topics and make suggestions. Members agreed.

### **7. General Announcements**

Pam Carter, Chair, shared that rate discussions will kick-off at the Feb. 4 Rates & Finance Subcommittee meeting. Pam reviewed King County's rate proposal schedule, scheduled presentations to MWWPAAC, and talked about how MWWPAAC prepares a rate recommendation letter when WTD's rate recommendation is submitted. She emphasized, if members want to be involved in rate discussions and the drafting of the rate recommendation letter, that needs to occur at the subcommittee meetings. She encouraged members to participate.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:18 a.m.

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