

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

MS Teams Meeting

Wednesday, February 24, 2021

**Start 10 a.m.
Adjourned 12 p.m.**

1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – Pam Carter

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of January Meeting Summary (action item)
- Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Update
- Announcement of Vice Chair of Engineering and Planning

Chair Pam Carter welcomed MWWPAAC members to the meeting.

Olivia Robinson, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) Government Relations, took attendance by roll call. A quorum was in attendance.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the January meeting summary as written. The motion carried.

Pam reported that the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) last met on February 3 and the following briefings were provided:

- Treatment Plant Flows and Loadings Study
- COVID Sewer Surveillance

RWQC will meet again on March 3 and the following briefings will be provided:

- Sewer Rate Schedule and Process: Asset Management as a Selected Rate Driver
- Clean Water Plan Workshop

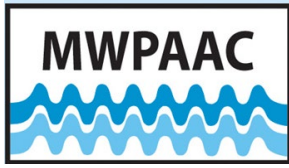
Pam reviewed the role and process MWWPAAC follows in making a recommendation on the sewer rate. She reminded members that MWWPAAC advises WTD and the Executive and that RWQC advises the Council on the sewer rate. MWWPAAC weighs in at a different point than RWQC.

Pam announced the appointment of vice-chair to the Comprehensive Engineering and Planning Subcommittee. This is a duty of the Executive Board to appoint. John McClellan, Alderwood Water and Wastewater District, has been appointed as vice chair.

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

Mark Isaacson, WTD Division Director, thanked members for their time and noted that it's a great time to dialogue about what is going on in the division. He shared that members will be hearing a presentation today on the Clean Water Plan and how WTD has responded to COVID in its construction and education programs. He reported that WTD will be hosting five elected officials' workshops on the Clean Water Plan with the first to occur the third or fourth week of March. These workshops will start

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out with background, decision areas, and a summary of community input and will then progress into discussions on Asset Management (a major driver), affordability analysis, action items, strategies, etc. WTD is also planning technical workshops to include MWWPAAC members, community members, and environmental community organizations. Three technical workshops will be conducted in April and May and will include information on the treatment system, operations, and wet weather management. In March, WTD will present to RWQC on Clean Water Plan decision areas and a presentation on asset management. In addition to RWQC, WTD anticipates briefing the King County Council at the Mobility and Environment Committee several times this year. These monthly briefings will include information on drivers, decision areas, background, etc. WTD will also continue to provide monthly briefings at MWWPAAC General meetings.

Mark provided an update on WTD's Operator in Training Program, a program where we train our next operators, so that they can fill positions as staff retires. This year WTD doubled the number of applicants from 213 in 2019 to 410. It's a really good sign that WTD's outreach efforts have reached far and wide and individuals are interested in the wastewater industry.

Mark reported that WTD also has Waterworks Grants coming up and 73 very competitive Waterworks Grant Letters of Intent (the first step in the application process) have been received. He thanked members from the committee for their assistance with that.

3. Subcommittee Reports

February 4, 2021, Rates & Finance:

- 2020 Financial Performance & Overview of 2022 Sewer Rate Schedule and Process
- Asset Management – Conveyance (Joint Topic)

February 4, 2021, Engineering & Planning:

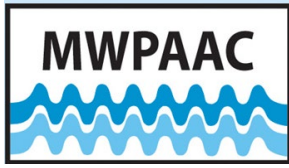
- Asset Management – Conveyance (Joint Topic)
- Legislation: WAWARN Agreement

4. Clean Water Plan Update, Steve Tolzman, Clean Water Plan Project Manager, WTD

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

- Work Plan and Schedule
- Upcoming Workshops
- Schedule Overview for 2021 - near term focus
- Upcoming Regional Discussion on Actions – specific dates to be announced shortly
 - Actions Technical Workshops (will be about 4 hours long) – will have technical subject matter experts at the workshops. Steve encouraged members to attend.
 - RWQC Actions Discussions

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- Elected Officials' Workshops - will produce technical reports on actions that will be sent out two weeks in advance of the first workshop.

John McClellan, Alderwood Water and Wastewater District, provided a summary of the February Clean Water Plan Advisory Group meeting. He reported this was the ninth meeting of the advisory group and that the meeting was presentation heavy with a lot of good information presented. The three big points that were presented included an overview of the Clean Water Healthy Habitat Strategic Plan and how it interrelates to the Clean Water Plan; pollutant loading, collaboration and partnerships, and assumptions going forward; and the upcoming technical workshops. John strongly encouraged members to attend – very good information will be provided. If members have any questions, please contact John or Ben Marre, Seattle Public Utilities.

Action Item: Provide materials distributed at the external advisory group. Steve Tolzman will follow-up with Olivia Robinson.

5. Overview of 2022 Sewer Rate Schedule and Process, Hiedi Popochock, Financial Services Manager, WTD

Hiedi Popochock, WTD Financial Services Manager, first addressed the billing question that was asked earlier in the meeting and reviewed the billing cycle for 2020 and 2021.

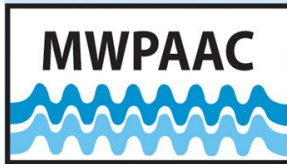
Hiedi reported that the goals and 2021 schedule for the 2022 rate were presented to the Rates & Finance Subcommittee on February 4. Today's presentation is the same presentation. The full presentation can be found [here](#). Hiedi reviewed the schedule of activities. She noted that a March 3 RWQC briefing has been recently added. She also noted that the MWWPAAC recommendation letter dates and actions are proposed timelines for MWWPAAC consideration/action.

Comment/Action Items:

Rate schedule information is rather nebulous. Members requested more specific information (rate proposal) to go out in advance of additional rate discussions to include information on the King County Executive's priority programs that were identified as being included in the 2022 budget and rate proposal.

Chair Pam Carter shared that MWWPAAC has not been happy with the compressed schedule, but it is what it is. The first details will be presented at the upcoming Rates & Finance Subcommittee on March 4. Normally, MWWPAAC sends comments to the Executive even when there is no increase. The subcommittee will provide direction and draft the rate recommendation letter. Pam reminded members, that the rate recommendation letter will not be word-smithed at the general meeting as it is just not practical. A draft letter will be sent out to the full MWWPAAC group and there can be minor changes, but we are not going to group write a letter at the March 24 General meeting. She encouraged members to attend the Rates and Finance Subcommittee meeting to learn more.

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6. COVID-19 Impacts on WTD Construction and Education Programs, Susan Tallarico, Education and Engagement Supervisor, WTD, and Will Sroufe, Construction Management Supervisor, WTD

Education Programs

Susan Tallarico, Education and Engagement Supervisor, provided a briefing on how Education Programs have pivoted during COVID-19. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The briefing included information on:

- The COVID-19 Shutdown
- Assess and Adapt (Adapt, Assess, Pilot)
- Program Highlights
 - ESJ & Demographics
 - Outputs & Outcomes
- Resources

Action Item: Members asked for a list of schools and districts that have participated in the Education Programs.

Construction Impacts

Will Sroufe, Construction Management Supervisor, provided a briefing on how COVID has impacted construction. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The briefing included information on:

- Onset of the Pandemic
- Construction Changes
- Impacts
 - Daily work
 - Changes to construction
- Other Actions

7. General Announcements

Chair Pam Carter reminded members of the subcommittee meetings on March 4.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

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