

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, April 28, 2021

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

1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – Pam Carter

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

Chair Pam Carter welcomed members to the MWWPAAC General meeting. Olivia Robinson, Wastewater Treatment Division Government Relations, took attendance by roll call. A quorum was in attendance.

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

Pam reported on the April 7 Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) meeting. The April meeting included briefings on:

- 2022 Preliminary Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge Discussion
- Clean Water Plan – Making the Right Investments at the Right Time

Pam shared that the same topics will be on next week's RWQC's meeting.

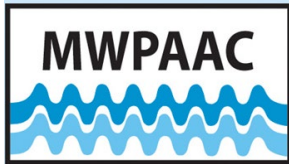
Pam informed members the May subcommittee meetings were canceled since there were no pressing topics for discussion. A cancellation was sent out this morning. The topic of Clean Water, Healthy Habitat will be on the next general meeting agenda on May 26.

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

Mark Isaacson, WTD Division Director, shared that this would be his last MWWPAAC meeting as WTD Director and the last time he'll be presenting the Director's report. He thanked MWWPAAC for their participation in WTD's mission, including protecting public health, safety, and the environment. MWWPAAC's participation is extremely helpful; especially the open, honest discussion which is incredibly important to WTD's success. Mark thanked Chair Carter for her leadership and Vice Chair Maria Coe. He thanked subcommittee chairs, vice chairs, and those dedicating their time behind the scenes. He reported that WTD has work to do, as any large utility knows nothing is perfect and we strive to make things better. We will have future discussions on rate alternatives and the process of framing a rate proposal. There are three large areas that are not complete yet that need MWWPAAC's continued participation:

- The Clean Water Plan – it will sustain our future that is financial and affordable. Mark thanked Ben Marre, Seattle Public Utilities, and John McClellan, Alderwood Water and Sewer District for their participation the Clean Water Plan Advisory Group. He also thanked Jack Broyles,

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Woodinville Water District; Kyle Wong, Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District; Joshua Pantzke, City of Kirkland; Mike Johnson, Cross Valley Water District and Leslie Webster, City of Seattle, for their participation on the MWWPAAC Clean Water Plan Technical Taskforce; and Gary Schimek, City of Issaquah, for his early work with the taskforce.

- Asset Management Program – the program has been refined and is better than it used to be in prior years. We have work to do with the backlog. He thanked Ron Speer, Soos Creek Water and Sewer District, for his advocacy on the Asset Management Program.
- Training for the trades – WTD needs a program in the skilled trades similar to the Operator in Training program. It's becoming harder and harder for WTD to recruit for the trades. We need to do the training for the trades and it's a priority that needs to get done.

Mark congratulated new WTD Director Kamuron Gurol on his appointment. He acknowledged the 24/7 operations within WTD and with the agencies represented at MWWPAAC. It's a hidden service, but an important one. He appreciated being able to present to MWWPAAC over the last several years.

Chair Carter expressed her appreciation working with Mark and the good relationship between WTD and MWWPAAC.

3. Subcommittee Reports

April 1, 2021, Rates & Finance:

- 2022 Sewer Rate Discussion
- Asset Management – Condition Monitoring Program (Joint Topic)

April 1, 2021, Engineering & Planning:

- Asset Management – Condition Monitoring Program (Joint Topic)
- I/I BMPs Recommendation

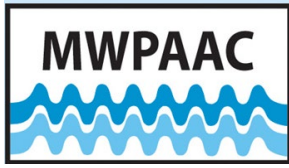
4. Clean Water Plan Update, Steve Tolzman, Clean Water Plan Project Manager, WTD

Chair Carter thanked the Clean Water Plan team for the monthly briefings provided to MWWPAAC – adding that it is really very helpful.

Nicole Smith, Senior Water Quality Planner, presented on behalf of the Clean Water Plan project managers. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The briefing included information on the following topics.

- Planning Process check-in
- Upcoming Actions Technical Workshops
 - Workshop 1 Completed - April 20
 - Workshop meeting materials will be posted to the website as early as this week.

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- Workshop 2 – scheduled for May 13
- Workshop 3 – scheduled for May 25
- New Information Resources

Ben Marre, Seattle Public Utilities, provided a report on the External Advisory Group. He thanked King County for the workshops. He reiterated what Nicole had mentioned about the workshops being a four-hour commitment, but a great opportunity to hear a lot more about the technical assumptions, analysis, and conclusions. There is a lot of good technical information that is just now becoming available. He also heard from others that there was a lot of good opportunity to ask questions. Just know that if you are able to attend – it's a real opportunity to dig in and learn more. The next Advisory Group meeting is in June. John McClellan, Alderwood Water and Sewer District, added that if members had any interest or concerns about the technical program that the workshops are really worthwhile. It's not just sit back and listen but ask questions. WTD has put a lot of effort into being responsive to our concerns.

5. I/I Control Program – MWWPAAC I/I Taskforce Recommendation on Regional Best Management Practices (Action Item), Lisa Tobin, Chair, Engineering and Planning Subcommittee, and John McClellan, Vice Chair, Engineering and Planning Subcommittee

Lisa Tobin, Engineering and Planning Subcommittee Chair presented on the MWWPAAC Inflow/Infiltration (I/I) Recommendation on Regional Best Management Practices. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The briefing provided information on the following topics:

- I/I Reduction Program Overview
- Four Recommended Best Management Practices (BMPs)
- Implementation
- Feedback
- Revise or approve recommended options

Lisa also noted that the full recommendation from the subcommittee had been sent out in advance with meeting materials.

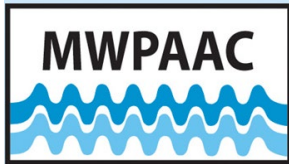
John McClellan, Engineering and Planning Vice Chair, reviewed the draft recommendation letter to WTD Division Director Mark Isaacson. John reminded members that the measures are voluntary. He also shared the reason the recommendation letter is asking for support for materials is because some agencies don't have a graphics department.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the MWWPAAC I/I Recommendation letter. The motion carried by voice vote.

John then opened the floor up for discussion and comments.

Questions and an objection were made to the last sentence in the letter, specifically citing the "peak flow program" language noting that was not part of the I/I discussions or recommendations. Other members concurred with the objection. Lisa recommended that the last sentence that contained the language could be struck. The last sentence was deleted from the letter.

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A motion was made and seconded to approve the MWWPAAC I/I Recommendation letter as amended. The motion carried by voice vote.

6. Executive's 2022 Sewer Rate Proposal and MWWPAAC Letter to Council (Action Item), Hiedi Popochock, Financial Services Manager, WTD, and Jack Broyles, Rates and Finance Subcommittee Chair

Hiedi Popochock, Financial Services Manager, presented the Executive's proposed sewer rate. The full presentation can be found [here](#). She reviewed WTD's proposal and MWWPAAC's recommendation that proposed a four percent increase for 2022 and yearly increase going forward. After receiving input from MWWPAAC and other stakeholders the Executive's proposal includes the four percent increase for 2022 and yearly increases going forward.

Gregg Cato, Rates and Finance Vice Chair, shared that the Executive's plan does not commit to a rate plan each year and it is not being guaranteed at this point. Hiedi reported that the rate is adopted annually and is accompanied by a 10-year forecast. Every year the rate proposal will be brought to MWWPAAC. Jack Broyles, Woodinville Water District, asked that if the Executive is proposing annual increases, will WTD also recommend annual increases? Is this issue ongoing or is a one-time thing? Hiedi reported it will be a reoccurring conversation every year. It will be up to the Council to make that decision. Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, noted WTD is required to go to Council on an annual basis with the rate. Chair Carter also noted that you cannot bind future Council actions. There are no guarantees. This is the best we have had in a long time.

Jack reviewed the MWWPAAC Rate Recommendation letter to Council that was sent out to MWWPAAC with the meeting materials and noted that it was identical to the recommendation letter sent to the Executive, as the Executive's proposal had not been transmitted prior to the materials going out. Jack noted that amendments are proposed now that the Executive's rate proposal has been transmitted, primarily to the first paragraph and one grammatical correction. Jack reviewed the changes. Chair Carter noted there are very few changes given the Executive's proposal supports the four percent and annual increases.

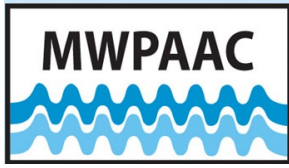
A motion was made and seconded to approve the MWWPAAC Rate Recommendation letter to Council, sent out with the meeting materials. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the MWWPAAC Rate Recommendation letter to Council as amended. The motion carried by roll call vote.

7. Developing the WTD Capital Improvement Program (CIP), Crystal Fleet, Capital Portfolio Planning and Analysis Unit Manager, WTD

Crystal Fleet, Capital Portfolio Planning and Analysis Unit Manager, provided a presentation on the Capital Improvement Program. The full presentation can be found [here](#). Crystal shared the presentation provides a high-level overview of the Capital Improvement Program. The briefing included information on the following items:

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- Capitol Project Sources
- Capital vs Maintenance (operating)
- Capital Improvement Program
 - Prioritizing
 - Forecasting
- Funding Decision
- Appropriation Request
- WTD 2021-2026 CIP by the Numbers

8. General Announcements

Chair Carter reminded members that the May subcommittee meetings were canceled.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.