

# METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Wednesday, June 23, 2021

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

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

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

Chair Pam Carter welcomed members to the MWWPAAC meeting.

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

A motion was made and seconded to approve the May meeting summary. The motion carried by voice vote.

Pam reported on the June 2 RWQC meeting. The following briefings were provided:

- Clean Water Plan Actions – Wet Weather Management, Legacy Pollution, Pollution Source Control and Product Stewardship. MWWPAAC has been previously briefed on these items.
- Clean Water Healthy Habitat Project.

The next RWQC meeting is July 7, and the following briefings will be provided:

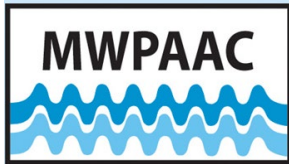
- Clean Water Plan – Strategies Discussion.
- Draft Nutrients General Permit; Preliminary County Perspectives. This item is on today's MWWPAAC agenda.

Chair Carter reported that in July MWWPAAC doesn't normally have a meeting, but instead schedules a field trip. This year MWWPAAC is going to tour the Brightwater Education facility and trails tour on July 28. It will not be a tour of the plant, but of the outdoor areas and include a discussion on reclaimed water. More information to follow by Friday, June 25, via email, which will request responses from members. Due to ongoing COVID restrictions, no transportation will be provided. Pam shared that the Executive Board met prior to the General meeting and discussed future meetings and whether they would be in person. That is still to be determined. The Executive Board is waiting for the Governor's guidance. We may be looking at a hybrid model. If members have suggestions, they can email them to Olivia Robinson and Sharman Herrin. Stay tuned for updates. Also, there may be a special meeting coming up about nutrients. It's a big topic and we may need to schedule a special meeting.

### 2. Wastewater Treatment Division Director's Report – Kamuron Gurol, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD)

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Division Director, echoed Chair Carter's comments on the nutrients issue and flexibility in how we might organize ourselves individually and collectively in response. Kamuron

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shared that he met with Sammamish Plateau Water and is looking forward to meeting with other agency staff and commissioners.

Kamuron reported the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) did release a nutrient draft permit last Wednesday. Rebecca Singer, Resource Recovery Section Manager, will be joining MWWPAAC today to share some initial findings and information. On the positive side, the permit does allow for the bubble permitting concept, which WTD had previously requested. However, it does not specify how the bubble permit would be applied and it may be hard for WTD to meet compliance. Ecology has a 6-week period for comments – comments due August 2. (Update – the comment deadline was later extended to August 16.) The permit does have significant cost implications for WTD and would impact all agencies due to significant capital costs, operational costs, and additional staffing levels. WTD has questions and concerns about Ecology’s underlining science and what drew them to their conclusions. Kamuron encouraged member agencies to provide comment on the permit.

Kamuron reported on the potential supply delivery shortage of sodium hypochlorite, which is used in wastewater and drinking water. There is a nationwide shortage and a bit of pinch point in the facility located in Longview, WA, where they had an electrical problem that made their plant go down. They are in the process of getting fully back into production. We’ve been working with agencies within King County to ensure we have adequate quantity, which is very important for us. Right now, the situation is looking positive that we’ll continue to receive the supply needed. You’ve probably seen some news on it most of it’s related to drinking water.

Chair Carter thanked Kamuron for his report and recognized WTD for having sufficient sodium hypochlorite back-up so that there is not a shortage.

### 3. Subcommittee Reports

#### June 3, 2021, Rates & Finance:

- Overview of Sewer Rate Cost Structure Report to Council

#### June 3, 2021, Engineering & Planning:

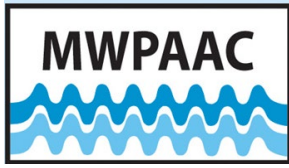
- Reclaimed Water Program Overview and Updates
- Decennial Flow Monitoring Interim Update

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

Steve Tolzman, Clean Water Plan Project Manager, presented a Clean Water Plan briefing. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The briefing provided information on the following items.

- Planning Process check-in
- Initiation of Strategies Technical Development
- Upcoming Planning for MWWPAAC Engagement with Subject Matter Experts (SMEs)

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### External Advisory Group Meeting

Ben Marre, Seattle Public Utilities, expressed appreciation for the Actions workshops and materials shared. He noted that a number of the actions explore the bookends (e.g., asset management) and as focus moves into the Strategies, there will need to be some discussion of the in between. He shared that the work that is being done with MWWPAAC to explore the Actions more in-depth is important. It's a great opportunity to understand Actions more deeply, ask questions, explore the assumptions, and what is the right point in the middle. John McClellan, Alderwood Water and Wastewater District, reiterated that it's a good opportunity for those not only with a technical background, but will help in sharing information with our agencies and electeds.

Kamuron Gurol thanked the members of MWWPAAC for their engagement and the Clean Water Plan team.

Chair Carter thanked Steve for the repeated education the Clean Water Plan team has provided to MWWPAAC members.

### **5. Portfolio Management Update, Crystal Fleet, Capital Portfolio Planning and Analysis Unit Manager, WTD**

Crystal Fleet, Capital Portfolio Planning and Analysis Unit Manager, presented an update on the Capital Project Portfolio Management. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The update provided information on the following topics:

- Portfolio Management Recap
- Portfolio Updates
- Lessons Learned

#### **Question:**

Does WTD consider a moratorium based on availability of funds / how local agencies are notified of changes that impact their service area.

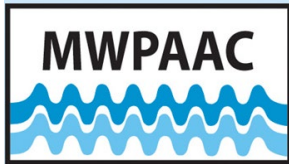
#### **Answer:**

Crystal clarified that the Delivery Board does not consider costs in initial prioritization, which happens at the Definition Board level. WTD is working on improved communication and engagement with MWWPAAC member agencies when priorities change. Kamuron Gurol shared that WTD will continue to seek dialogue with local sewer agencies on project prioritization, and WTD will continue to be transparent in our process.

### **6. Capacity Charge Affordability Update, Hiedi Popochock, Financial Services Manager, WTD; Leah San Mateo, Project Manager, WTD; and Caera Quan, Project Manager, WTD**

Hiedi Popochock, Financial Services Manager, presented an update on the Capacity Charge Affordability Program. The full presentation can be found [here](#). Hiedi introduced her colleagues, Project Managers Leah San Mateo and Caera Quan. The briefing provided information on the following topics:

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- Background on Capacity Charge Affordability Program
- Program Benefit and Cost Assumptions in 2019
- Summary of 2019-2021 Account Data
- Additional Affordability Program Enhancements

### **7. Nutrients Update, Rebecca Singer, Resource Recovery Section Manager, WTD**

Rebecca Singer, Resource Recovery Section Manager, stated that she is not presenting a PowerPoint, but would provide her talking points to members after the meeting. She shared that comments on the Nutrients Permit are required by August 2 (later changed to August 16). There are upcoming workshops in July that members may attend and there also will be an additional advisory committee meeting. She'll provide the links to the workshops and meeting. The documents we are commenting on include the draft Puget Sound Nutrients General Permit (PSNGP), the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and the Fact Sheet. WTD is keeping comments very high level, providing no recommendations, and will follow-up on technical issues (i.e., scope of proposed coverage, adequacy, general concerns). One of the things Ecology mentioned is that they did not do an economic analysis. They don't think there will be cost impacts with the draft permit. WTD disagrees.

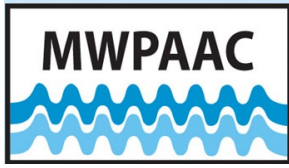
Things that stood out:

- Introduced new definitions – split out facilities by size
- Bubble permit – required to adhere to both
- Upon issuance – nitrogen optimization reporting annually
- All permittees – nutrient reduction evaluation (wastewater characterization, economic evaluation, rate review, environmental justice review, other ways of managing wastewater)
- How LOTT has been required to reduce nitrogen reductions. They are now very well below the Ecology requirement. This was a 20-year process. They have ability we don't have (i.e., direct discharge to groundwater).
- Fact sheet – includes greater in-depth detail, Ecology's scientific argument, information on the advisory committee process, and Ecology's new position on AKART. Rebecca recommends members read this document.
- Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Plan
- Implement Best Management Practices

Rebecca emphasized how actions taken today will make this the single largest investment this generation will make. We need collaboration on commenting and public comment. We'll be putting out template letters and encourage you to reach out to your constituents. Rebecca will provide links and information on contacts.

Chair Carter thanked Rebecca for her update and providing a good high-level overview of the Draft Nutrient Permit.

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### **8. General Announcements**

Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, shared information on the MWPAAC July tour will be sent out shortly.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.

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