

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Wednesday, September 22, 2021

Start 10 a.m.

Adjourned 12 p.m.

1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – Pam Carter

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

Chair 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 August meeting summary. The motion carried by voice vote.

Chair Carter reported on the September 1 RWQC meeting. The following briefings were provided:

- Report on January 21, 2021 Unpermitted Wastewater Discharge-Response to Motion 15832 (this report was covered for MWWPAAC in August)
- Clean Water Plan Strategies (this information was presented at the Elected Officials' Workshop yesterday)

The October 6 RWQC meeting included a briefing on the Clean Water Plan.

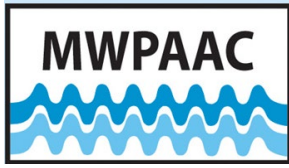
- Preliminary Review of the Clean Water Plan Development Process by the King County Auditor's Office
- Clean Water Plan: Committee Questions and Concerns

Chair Carter encouraged cities and especially those with elected officials on RWQC to listen to the presentations. While these topics were heard at MWWPAAC in August, it can sometimes help (with understanding) to hear the information again.

Chair Carter shared that as a member of the Public Works Board (PWB), she participated in a tour of the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station with Representative David Hackney (D-11). (She also noted that she just finished her term on PWB.) She highly encourages a tour for MWWPAAC next year – it's quite an interesting project.

Chair Carter reminded members that elections are in January for MWWPAAC Chair and Chair of the Rates and Finance Subcommittee. Chair Carter will be retiring and not running for MWWPAAC Chair next year. Some members have expressed interest for an elected person to hold the position, but that is not required. Maria Coe, City of Seattle, will stay as vice chair and chair a Nominating Committee. Members interested in serving on the Nominating Committee should contact Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations. Chair Carter also reviewed the process for nominations

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Chair Carter recognized that MWWPAAC meetings are generally packed with important agenda topics and that not all questions can be asked or addressed at the full meeting. However, members may follow-up with presenters if they have questions. Their contact information is provided at the end of each presentation.

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

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director, reported WTD has heard from many agencies that it would be preferred for WTD to take a little more time with big decisions items in the Clean Water Plan and MWWPAAC will hear about the adjusted timeline today. We are also implementing some opportunities for dialogue as we continue the process. WTD appreciates those of you who have participated in the Elected Officials' Workshops. The Subject Matter Expert (SME) Workshops are also coming along and are focused on specific Actions selected by MWWPAAC members. Please let us know if you have an Action that you would like covered. If you have a topic of interest, please let us know. The next Elected Officials' Workshop will be on October 22 and we welcome any feedback on the agenda.

Kamuron reported on a good news item about an honor from Envision, a group with the purpose to foster dramatic and necessary improvement in the sustainable performance and resiliency of infrastructure. Envision recently honored WTD's Sunset Heathfield Pump Stations and force main upgrade project with an Envision Silver Award for project sustainability. The award recognized King County's significant achievement in going above and beyond with respect to social, economic, and environmental conditions in the community. In 2018, WTD received a Platinum Award for the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station. These infrastructure investments really help us serve our community, protect public health and achieve environmental goals. It is nice to see that the Envision group has recognized WTD.

3. Subcommittee Reports

September 2, 2021, Rates & Finance - Canceled

September 2, 2021, Engineering & Planning:

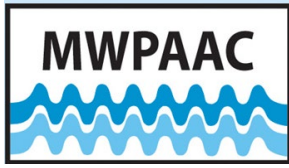
- Regional Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Program Inspector Training and Certification Program Concept Development Discussion

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

Steve Tolzman, Clean Water Plan Project Manager, presented an update on the Clean Water Plan. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The briefing included information on the following:

- Planning process check-in
- MWWPAAC engagement with SMEs
 - August 30 meeting report out

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- Upcoming opportunities
- Strategies Status and Other Engagement

August 30 - MWWPAAC – Clean Water Plan SME Session Meeting Report Out

List Tobin, City of Auburn, provided the SME session report-out. She noted that she has had good conversations with WTD staff about the Clean Water Plan and how it's similar to a comprehensive sewer plan (something we all prepare), but most importantly how it's different.

For the first SME workshop, MWWPAAC members selected two topic areas for which they had concerns and needed more information. Lisa asked members to look at the informational handouts that were sent out by Marla Oughton, WTD Executive Assistant, before the August 30 workshop. The focus for this workshop was on Asset Management and Wastewater Conveyance with further information on the Strategic Asset Management Plan (SAMP) and the Conveyance Plan. The upcoming SME workshop will focus on wastewater treatment and wet weather management, as well as more on conveyance and asset management.

Steve Tolzman noted that questions from MWWPAAC came in advance of the last SME workshop. WTD is generating a lot of information and sharing with many audiences and strives to be responsive. The questions were very helpful in targeting the agenda specifically to what MWWPAAC wants to hear.

Lisa shared that there is still an important conversation to have about the Clean Water Plan and its bigger picture topics. We do not have a date set yet but looking at potentially November and this would be a longer meeting. We will keep members posted on this.

Steve shared that the SME Workshops were created in response to MWWPAAC members expressing interest in access to SMEs internal and external to King County. The first workshop on Asset Management included SMEs and national experts and we will continue that with the other sessions.

Comment:

The MWWPAAC meetings seem to run long and there isn't always time for member agencies to have exchanges on agency issues in relation to the Clean Water Plan or general contract issues. Can we create a forum as part of the meetings to have a deeper agency exchange, so we don't get cut off due to meeting time limits? As peer agencies these meetings are our primary forum for agencies to share perspectives.

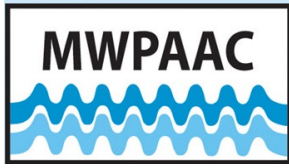
Response:

Chair Carter advised the Executive Board will consider the request.

5. Nutrients Update, Rebecca Singer, Resource Recovery Section Manager, WTD

Rebecca Singer, WTD's Resource Recovery Section Manager, presented an update on the Puget Sound Nutrients General Permit. She noted that today's presentation would be brief and provide a process

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update, review comment themes throughout all the comment letters received by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), give an update on next steps, and what it is looking like from Ecology's point of view. The full presentation can be found [here](#).

Comment:

Regarding the timeline Ecology is operating under - comment letters provide substantive comments. The time between when they issue the permit and time to provide additional comments is very limited. How has Ecology had enough time to review the substantive comments?

Response:

Rebecca has heard they are still working within the projected timeline. The timeline has been pushed out a bit as the original date was the end of August. They (Ecology) have said they do not intend to delay further.

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director, underscored a couple of points – Ecology will respond to the comments; however, it is true that there may be very little to minimum changes to the permit. Next steps include an appeal period WTD will need to consider if an appeal should be filed. He encourages others to consider that as well. The appeal period begins when the permit is issued and the Pollution Control Hearings Board hears appeals, which is not a place our agencies often go for a resolution. Filing an appeal may create another window of time while acknowledging that we do not want to be in a litigation process but would like to keep the conversation going with Ecology. Kamuron thanked agencies for their comment letters. He saw a lot of consistency in the letters, and we are doing a good job of understanding each other's perspectives, which is a really good thing.

Chair Carter thanked Rebecca for her update.

6. Strategic Climate Action Plan Overview, Sue Meyer, Sustainability and Innovation Program Supervisor, WTD

Sue Meyer presented on the Strategic Climate Action Plan. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The briefing included information on:

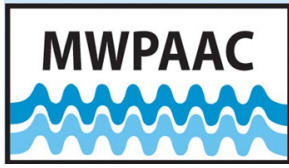
- SCAP – What & Why
- WTD is a Key Player
- Key WTD Commitments
- Next Steps

Chair Carter thanked Sue for her briefing.

7. General Announcements

Chair Carter reminded members about the need for members to serve on the Nominating Committee and to consider the office of MWWPAAC Chair and Chair of the Rates and Finance Subcommittee. Maria Coe, City of Seattle, will chair the Nominating Committee.

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Chair Carter encouraged member agencies to participate in the Elected Officials' Workshops.

Comments:

- MWWPAAC meetings seem like a WTD-driven committee. Would encourage in future meetings that member agencies have opportunities for observations, etc.
- Would appreciate getting the agenda and agenda items sooner than the day before the meeting so as to assess better and be more prepared for the meetings. Is this possible? Olivia Robinson reminded that the agenda is sent a week before the meeting. WTD staff will consider the request to have materials available earlier but will need to coordinate with presenters.

Chair Carter advised the Executive Board will consider the request. She reminded members that Section 4 is also an option (agency forum) and that not all agencies are attending meetings even when they are virtual. She encourages everyone to attend.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.