

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, October 27, 2021

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

1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – Pam Carter

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

Chair Pam Carter welcomed members to the meeting.

Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, took attendance by roll call. A quorum was in attendance.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the September meeting summary. The motion carried.

Chair Carter reported on the Oct. 6 RWQC meeting. The following briefings were provided:

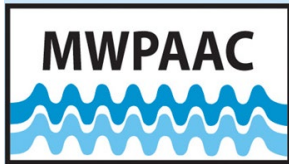
- Acknowledgement/receipt of two reports – results of West Point Treatment Plant discharge and Sewer Rate Cost Burden.
- Preliminary Review of the Clean Water Plan Development Process by the King County Auditor's Report and Committee Questions and Concerns. WTD will be responding to the Auditor's Report and RWQC and provide the same information to MWWPAAC members sometime in November.

Chair Carter also reported that Councilmember Dunn will serve as the RWQC chair for the remainder of 2021. The November meeting has been canceled and RWQC will next meet on Dec. 1. In January, there will be a reorganization and it may be February before RWQC meets in the new year.

Chair Carter shared that Maria Coe, MWWPAAC Vice Chair; Jack Broyles, Rates & Finance Subcommittee Chair; and Lisa Tobin, Engineering and Planning Subcommittee Chair will serve on the Nominating Committee with elections in January. On Dec. 8 there will be an official call for nominations for the two open positions - MWWPAAC Chair and Rates & Finance Subcommittee Chair. Members can contact the Nominating Committee if they have any questions.

Chair Carter reported the Executive Board meets prior to the general meeting and at this morning's meeting the Board was looking at doing a coffee chat after the Dec. 8 meeting in response to a request from some members. The Board is looking for a topic and WTD staff will ask for topics with the subcommittee agenda mailing. Topic information will come out with meeting materials. If there is no topic suggested, the extended meeting time will not be held.

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

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Division Director, thanked Chair Carter for her work on MWWPAAC and noted that she will be missed.

Kamuron reported on Clean Water Plan updates and comments received. He shared some good progress with the second SME (Subject Matter Expert) workshop and fifth elected officials' workshop recently being held. Participation increased with both workshops and he thanked those that attended. WTD appreciates member participation. He reported that WTD is putting elected officials' workshops on pause until the Strategies are ready for further discussion in Q2 2022. In the interim, WTD wants to stay engaged with MWWPAAC members and interested members can contact Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, to schedule a time for their jurisdiction to meet with WTD staff on the Clean Water Plan or other topics. The third SME workshop is scheduled on Nov. 10 and hopefully one more before the end of the year. Kamuron thanked Ben Marre, Seattle Public Utilities, Lisa Tobin, City of Auburn, and John McClellan, Alderwood Water and Wastewater District, for their assistance in pulling questions together for these workshops.

Kamuron reported that he is conducting outreach to MWWPAAC member agencies over the coming weeks. Marla Oughton, WTD Executive Assistant, is helping to schedule these meetings and if you have not received an email as of yet, expect one soon. We'd like to check in on nutrients, the Clean Water Plan, and how things are going with MWWPAAC. Kamuron shared that he appreciated the conversation with Soos Creek and is looking forward to talking to the City of Tukwila later today and Issaquah next week. He's appreciated members who have been responsive and looks forward to meeting with other agencies.

Kamuron also presented on WTD's Wet Weather Readiness – how we prepare for the rainy season. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The presentation was initially prepared for the Nov. 3 RWQC meeting which was canceled.

3. Subcommittee Reports

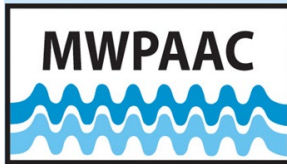
October 7, 2021, Rates & Finance:

- Capacity Charge Review Study
- Updating the Plumbing Fixture Table
- Capital Projects – Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station (Joint Topic)

October 7, 2021, Engineering & Planning:

- Capital Projects – Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station (Joint Topic)
- Regional Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Program Inspector Training and Certification Program – Survey Results

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Chair Carter reminded members that a tour of the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station might be an option for the tour in July 2022.

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 the following topics:

- MWWPAAC engagement with SMEs
- Current work on Strategy development and look ahead

John McClellan, Alderwood Water and Wastewater District, provided perspective on the SME workshop. The workshop provided a very deep dive into the subject of Asset Management. The workshop didn't answer all questions, but good effort was made. He appreciated the team's responsiveness in addressing all of the questions. Ben Marre, Seattle Public Utilities, also thanked the Clean Water Plan team. Discussions have been good and Kamuron's presentation highlighted the need to attend to Asset Management, which is a key area in order to be a good steward of the system. To give a sense of the importance of Asset Management, high-end investment estimates are \$22 to 39 billion dollars, so these discussions in the workshops are important. Ben encouraged members wanting to dig in more to attend the SME workshops. He also noted that it will be important for MWWPAAC to weigh in on overall direction, including Asset Management. John underscored what Ben mentioned about making recommendation to King County. This afternoon is an Advisory Group Strategies Session for the Clean Water Plan, which will also provide a deeper dive into Asset Management and treatment topics. Ben and John serve as MWWPAAC's representatives on the Advisory Group.

Member Question:

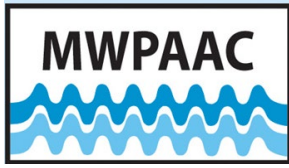
What is the difference between the SME workshop and Strategy Session?

Steve Tolzman noted that WTD wants to get input now from MWWPAAC before decisions are made around Strategies. The external Advisory Group has a diverse attendee group while the SME workshops are geared towards MWWPAAC agencies.

Director Gurol reported WTD has been working hard to reflect the areas of interest from members and others that have a stake in the plan. WTD has also heard some criticism on the process. We do have some challenges, including a shifting regulatory landscape that is occurring while we are going through the planning process. WTD is looking at a more holistic and broad-based approach to the system. We are trying to not have blinders on how the system operates today and what the options are looking forward. Uncertainty about what the regulatory landscape is going to be creates concerns and we all have a little bit of this challenge of conducting a planning process in this dynamic environment. We expect people to levy those tough questions and some members on today's call have expressed those concerns. Kamuron thanked WTD staff who have fielded the questions and concerns and thanked those who have raised concerns. We are all involved in public service and we are serving the same customers - directly and indirectly. WTD wants to hear from members - your tough questions will help us get there and positive reflections will help us get there.

Chair Carter noted one major concern for many is how much is this going to cost. WTD will continue to do the basic thing (wastewater treatment), but where is the emphasis going to be in this plan?

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Member Comment:

Appreciate the extended schedule and transparency efforts, both really positive developments. The Auditor's Report raised questions about the scoping of the Clean Water Plan, which are similar to those raised by MWWPAAC, Clean Water Plan Advisory Group, and other stakeholders. Will the Auditor's Report be discussed at a future MWWPAAC meeting?

Response:

Director Gurol reported that WTD is tasked with developing responses to the questions raised in the Auditor's Report for RWQC and he thinks the same material can be shared with MWWPAAC.

5. Regional I/I Program Inspector Training and Certification Program – Survey Discussion, Nicole Smith, Project Manager, WTD, and Johnson Nguyen, I/I Planner, WTD

Nicole Smith, Project Manager, and Johnson Nguyen, I/I Planner, presented on the I/I Inspector Training & Certification Program Interest Survey. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The briefing included the following topics:

- Refresher on I/I
- Overview of Proposed Inspector Training & Certification Program
- Introduction to Interest Survey
- Survey Results – Interest, Inspector Information and Inspector In-Training Program
- Takeaways

Member Questions/Comments:

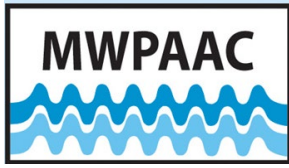
- Can WTD follow-up by sharing the comments from the survey? I know we took the time to clarify all responses in each question's additional comment window. It would be good to see all survey respondent comments.
- Boyd Benson, City of Bothell, recommended removing the higher education requirement as it would preclude many of our inspectors from qualifying for this program. Mary Shustov, Sammamish Plateau Water, agreed.
- Would mandatory inspections be included? How will that happen?

Responses:

WTD will send out the comments from the survey. Nicole shared that an agency could still endorse an employee who did not meet the higher education requirement. WTD will not mandate any inspections. This voluntary program is intended for inspectors your agencies already use for new construction or repairs by your own codes and policies.

Nicole also clarified that the inspector training program is taking existing inspectors and bringing them up to a common expertise program. The inspector in-training program is a different program and came up because of the qualification questions raised. They are two separate trainings. Also, WTD is looking at diversity and equity issues related to the program.

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6. Capacity Charge Review Study, Joe Crea, Vice President, Raftelis

Courtney Black, Rates, Capital & Debt Management Unit Supervisor, provided background on the Capacity Charge Review Study – why we are doing this work and how we engaged MWWPAAC and who the consult is. Courtney introduced Joe Crea, Raftelis Vice President. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The briefing provided information on the following items:

- Project drivers
- History of current methodology
- Where we're at now
- Where we're headed: alternative methodologies
- Next steps

Member Questions/Comments:

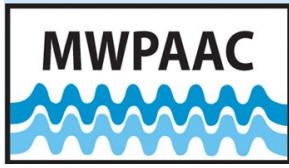
- Lloyd Warren, Sammamish Plateau Water, commented it's an extremely important issue. The Robinswood agreement is quite contentious. He looked at materials provided and there may be merit to what has been proposed. However, the information is vague, theoretical, and hard to provide comment on without more detailed information. He recommends slowing down and providing more detail and more time to comment. He can't evaluate at this time as there is not enough information. He has additional questions, but there is not enough time today.
- Maria Coe, City of Seattle, agreed with Sammamish Plateau Water's comments and notes existing methodology is a combined approach.
- If the proposed stormwater or legacy pollution projects end up being included in the Clean Water Plan, will capital costs be included in the capacity charge calculation?
- The City of Bellevue supports reevaluating how the capacity charge is determined and appreciates the work and information provided so far. We will provide more input once actual numbers are developed and made available. Part of that information we will be looking for include the size of cost shifts and who will be impacted the most.

Responses:

Courtney shared that it is the intent of bringing MWWPAAC in at the early stage in order to avoid compressing time on reviewing the methodologies once the numbers are available. WTD is recommending a deferral of the next comprehensive update to the capacity charge until after Council approval of the Clean Water Plan.

Joe shared that any costs not needed to serve growth are not included in the calculation.

Chair Carter thanked Joe for his presentation.



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7. General Announcements

Next general meeting is December 8.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.

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