

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Wednesday, January 26, 2022

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

1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – Maria Coe, Vice Chair

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of the December Meeting Summary (Action Item)
- Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Update

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

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

Vice Chair Maria Coe reminded members of the MWWPAAC Officer Elections on the agenda this morning. She reported that WTD received a limited number of member confirmations for voting. If member agencies want to participate in voting, they need to confirm their voting member with Marla Oughton, WTD Executive Assistant. If a voice vote is called, only one member from each agency should participate.

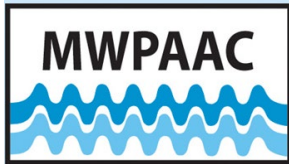
Vice Chair Coe reported the January 5 Regional Water Quality Committee meeting was canceled. In January the Council reorganized, and the next meeting will be held on Feb. 2.

2. Wastewater Treatment Division Director's Report – Bruce Kessler, Deputy Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD)

Bruce Kessler, WTD Deputy Director, began by reporting on recent overflow events. Several events occurred during the heavy rainfall on January 7. He noted the prompt responses from WTD employees to quickly stop the overflows, clean affected areas, notify health and regulatory agencies, post precautionary signs, and test water quality in the adjacent water bodies. Deputy Director Kessler reported on each event:

- Montlake – On Tuesday, Jan. 4, there was an extended Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) event with a discharge of combined sewage into Lake Union via the Montlake Regulator, which is a permitted CSO outfall. The overflow occurred after an actual CSO event when the Regulator's outfall gate failed to close completely following the CSO event. WTD Operations staff were immediately dispatched to the station where they discovered the stuck gate to be approximately 30% open and used manual means to quickly close it. The gate has since been repaired and the station is ready for service.
- Medina – On Friday, Jan. 7, there was an overflow from about 1-2:30 p.m. at the Medina Pump Station due to heavy rainfall. The station was pumping at full capacity at the time and could

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not keep up with the I/I into the system. The excess amount went out to the emergency outfall into Lake Washington. Part of Medina Park beach was closed for the weekend and the following Monday the beach was reopened after water quality testing showed safe results.

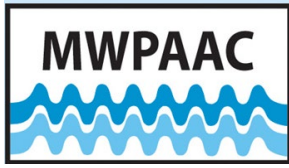
- Rainier Ave. S – On Friday, Jan. 7, an overflow to Lake Washington was caused by a local plumber. The plumber working at a home along Rainier Ave. S. in Seattle removed a cleanout plug from the home's private side sewer. The side sewer is connected to the County's sewer system and the County's system started to drain out of the side sewer at a fairly high velocity, preventing the plumber from reinstalling the plug. The County was informed of the situation and quickly installed a new cleanout plug and stopped the overflow. WTD posted signs in parks near the area as a precaution to warn people to avoid contact with the water. Signs were removed the following Monday after water quality testing showed safe results.
- Carkeek – There was a loss of disinfection at the Carkeek Wet Weather Treatment Station between 5:30 p.m. on Friday, Jan. 7 and 2:30 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 8. During that time period, the flows received full treatment but not full disinfection. The event ended when flows were diverted to West Point Treatment Plant for full treatment. Water quality testing at Carkeek Park breach showed safe results. The disinfection system has been repaired.
- Lake Hills Trunk – During the evening of Monday, Jan. 24, a build-up of fats, oils and grease from homes and businesses caused a backup into the Lake Hills sewer line, resulting in a sewer overflow from a maintenance hole located at Lake Hills Blvd. and 154 Ave. SE in Bellevue. The overflow lasted for about an hour. Crews responded quickly and worked into the night to clean up the area. While most of the flow was contained on the street, some got into Kelsey Creek adjacent to the Lake Hills Greenbelt. The affected areas of the creek were cleaned, signs were posted in the park to avoid water as a precaution. Test results are due back today on water quality.

Deputy Director Kessler reported that King County filed an appeal and motion to stay on the Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit (PSNGP). Other jurisdictions also filed. The Pollution Control Hearings Board has jurisdiction and all appeals have been consolidated with hearings expected in 2023. The appeal addresses the use of the Salish Sea Model and conflicts with Federal and State regulations.

Director Gurol joined the meeting briefly and shared that WTD cannot talk in detail about the stay or negotiations, yet. He reported that one other entity requested a stay of the PSNGP in its entirety. WTD has been negotiating a partial stay with Ecology and expects that the decision, which will need to be approved by the Pollution Control Hearings Board, will take several weeks. WTD will keep MWWPAAC up to date. The stay will help WTD with costs in the near-term.

Deputy Director Kessler reported that MWWPAAC would be hearing from WTD Finance later today on the schedule and process for setting the 2023 sewer rate. WTD is still working through the process. The 2023 rate will begin to show the cost of complying with the PSNGP. He reported that WTD has multiple goals for the 2023 rate to include:

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- Increase reliability of offsite locations and the West Point Treatment Plant
- Respond to increasing regulatory pressure
- Respond to growth-related demand on the system
- Address the most critical asset management risks
- Respond to the Executive Priorities – Clean Water Health Habitat, Strategic Climate Action Plan, and Equity and Social Justice).

3. Subcommittee Reports

January 6, 2022, Rates & Finance:

- Review of Adopted 2022-2031 Sewer Rate Plan and Preliminary 2023 Rate-setting Policy Direction
- Capital Projects – Coal Creek (Joint Topic)

January 6, 2022, Engineering & Planning:

- Capital Projects – Coal Creek (Joint Topic)
- Nutrients Update

4. Officer Elections – Nominating Committee (Action Item)

- a. Chair of MWPAAC
- b. Chair of Rates and Finance Subcommittee

Vice Chair Coe called for nominations for Chair of MWPAAC.

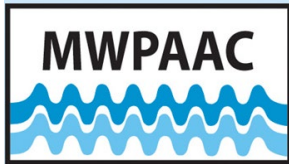
Lisa Tobin, City of Auburn, nominated John McClellan, Alderwood Water and Wastewater District, for MWPAAC Chair. Al Nelson, Northshore Utility District, seconded the nomination. No additional nominations were received. John McClellan was elected as MWPAAC Chair by voice vote.

Vice Chair Coe called for nominations for Chair of Rates and Finance Subcommittee.

Lisa Tobin, City of Auburn, nominated Jack Broyles, Woodinville Water District, for Rates & Finance Chair. Gregg Cato, Alderwood Water and Wastewater District, seconded the nomination. No additional nominations were received. Jack Broyles was elected as Chair of Rates and Finance Subcommittee by voice vote.

- ### 5. Review of Adopted 2022-2031 Sewer Rate Plan and Preliminary 2023 Rate-setting Policy Direction, Hiedi Popochock, Financial and Administration Section Manager, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD); Courtney Black, Rates, Capital, and Debt Management Supervisor, WTD; Crystal Fleet, Capital Portfolio Planning and Analysis Unit Manager, WTD; and Phillip Kwon, Accounting, and Operating Budget Administrator, WTD

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Hiedi Popochock, Finance and Administration Section Manager, provided an overview of the rate briefing that would be covered today at MWPAAC. She emphasized that the presentation includes very early, preliminary and conceptual cost estimates. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The following items were covered in the briefing:

- 2023-2032 Sewer Rate Goals and Schedule
- 2022-2031 Adopted Sewer Rate Plan
- New Operation Costs
- New Capital Costs
- Capacity Charge

6. General Announcements

Vice Chair Coe announced that MWPAAC will be looking for someone for the Rates & Finance Vice Chair position. This position is appointed by the Executive Board. Members interested in serving in the position may contact Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.