

# **METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

## **Meeting Summary**

**Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 23, 2022**

**Start 10 a.m.  
Adjourned 11:41 a.m.**

### **1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – John McClellan**

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of January Meeting Summary (action item)
- Regional Water Quality Committee Update (RWQC)
- Call for Nominations – Engineering and Planning Chair
- Call for Interest – Engineering and Planning Vice Chair

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

Chair John McClellan called for approval of the January meeting summary. The meeting summary was approved as written by voice vote.

Chair McClellan provided an update on the February 2 Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) meeting. The following reports/briefings were provided:

- MWWPAAC Chair's Report
- WTD Director's Report
- Washington State Department of Ecology Nutrients General Permit Status Update

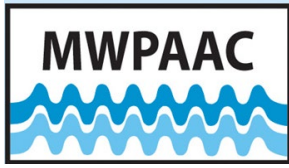
Chair McClellan reported that a call for nominations for the Comprehensive Engineering and Planning (E&P) Subcommittee Chair position would be sent out via email. Lisa Tobin, City of Auburn, will be retiring and leaving MWWPAAC. Election of the E&P Chair position will take place at the March 23 General meeting. Members interested in the chair position will need to respond by March 14. The E&P vice chair position is also open, and the Executive Board is putting out a call for interest. This position is appointed by the Executive Board. Members interested in putting their name forward for the vice chair position will also need to respond by March 14.

Chair McClellan informed members of a new reoccurring agenda topic, New Business/Future Topics, which was added in response to members' interest in allocating time for member-driven discussion of new topics and future agenda items.

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

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director, began his report by discussing the Operator in Training (OIT) program. This is a "grow-our-own" effort that has been quite successful. WTD started advertising recently for the new class. He reported that many employees in our current class are Persons of Color (POC) and we have also had good gender balance. This program helps WTD fill vacancies in operations as we continue to hire for operators. Last week he met with staff at West Point many of which who came through the OIT program.

**Next MWWPAAC General Meeting is March 23, 2022, via Microsoft Teams**



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Director Gurol wanted to close the loop on a recent request about the 30 percent escalation fee for delivering the CSO program as part of the Clean Water Plan. WTD did use the 30 percent factor for delivery on current dates. It includes a number of projects and very large ones. We used the 30 percent number to recognize that many projects are competing for resources. While we cannot go into detail due to ongoing discussion, we are looking at staggering the projects and thus would not need the same percentage of escalation. Director Gurol would be happy to discuss further if there are questions. On a related note, as construction costs continue to rise, this uncertainty is captured in the Association for the Advancement of Cost Engineering (AACE) methodology (wide range estimates) used by WTD to estimate project costs.

Director Gurol noted that later on today's agenda, MWWPAAC will hear more from Finance staff on rate drivers and the 2023 sewer rate. We will share more information at the March 3 Rates & Finance Subcommittee meeting. We are working to increase transparency and share more information earlier in the process. Director Gurol feels like WTD is fulfilling both of those requests, noting it is a real challenge to undertake this as we are still trying to formulate things and getting information in. We will continue to work with MWWPAAC and RWQC on this process and look forward to MWWPAAC's input and questions.

Director Gurol shared that WTD will also be presenting an overview later in the agenda and members will hear from Chair McClellan on his goals.

Chair McClellan thanked Kamuron for his report and on the OIT program, recognizing that it can be a challenge to recruit.

### **3. Subcommittee Reports**

#### **February 3, 2022, Rates & Finance:**

- Preliminary 2023 Rate-setting Policy Direction and Operational and Capital Investments

#### **February 3, 2022, Engineering & Planning:**

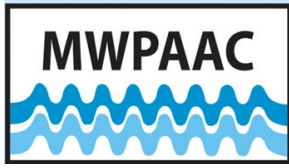
- Capital Projects Update

There may be a second meeting in March if needed for Rates & Finance. The rate recommendation letter will be worked on at the March meeting.

### **4. MWWPAAC Overview, Stan Hummel, Capital Projects Managing Supervisor, WTD, Kamuron Gurol, Division Director, WTD, Sharman Herrin, Government Relations Administrator, WTD, and John McClellan, MWWPAAC Chair**

Stan Hummel, Capital Projects Managing Supervisor; Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director; Sharman Herrin, WTD Government Relations Administrator; and John McClellan, MWWPAAC Chair, jointly presented the MWWPAAC overview. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The presentation provided information on:

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## Meeting Summary

- WTD System Overview
- Establishment of Metro
- Early Days of Metro
- Metro Merger
- Recent Plants
- Regional Water Quality Committee
- Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWWPAAC)
- MWWPAAC Subcommittees
- MWWPAAC 2022

**5. Preliminary 2023 Rate-setting Policy Direction and Operational and Capital Investments Kamuron Gurol, Division Director, WTD; Courtney Black, Rates, Capital, and Debt Management Supervisor, WTD; and Phillip Kwon, Accounting, and Operating Budget Administrator, WTD**

Director Gurol began the rate briefing by reporting this rate briefing would provide MWWPAAC with an update on the rate setting process. This will be a joint presentation. There are a lot of slides and a lot of information. The Rates & Finance Subcommittee has reviewed some of these slides already at their February 3 meeting, but for others this will be new information. The full presentation can be found [here](#).

Director Gurol presented the following items:

- Broad policy goals
- Policy-driven investments
- West Point resiliency and reliability
- Nutrient Permit regulations
- Asset Management

Courtney Black, Rates, Capital, and Debt Management Supervisor reemphasized WTD is bringing forward information from the February 3 Rates & Finance briefing materials. Courtney presented the following items:

- Agenda for briefing
- 2022-2031 Adopted Sewer Rate Plan
- Forecast Assumptions in Adopted 2022-2031 Plan
- Current Conditions – Transition to 2023-2032 Proposal Preparation

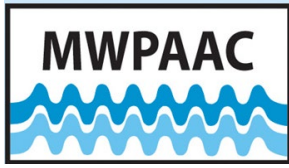
Phillip Kwon, Accounting and Operating Budget Administrator, presented the following items:

- New Operating Costs
- Update of 2023 Cost Increases
- Rate Development Goals – Operating Costs

Courtney continued and presented the following items:

- Preliminary Sewer Rate Sensitivity – Background

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- New Capital Costs Tested in Rate Sensitivity
- Under Consideration for Rate Plan – Not in Sensitivity Test
- Preliminary Sewer Rate Sensitivity – Comparison
- Next Steps before Executive Briefing & Proposal

Chair McClellan thanked WTD for the detailed and informative presentation.

### **6. New Business/Future Topics, John McClellan, MWPAAC Chair**

Chair McClellan asked for topics for future meetings. This will be a reoccurring agenda topic and will provide members with an opportunity to submit topics of interest or to engage in open discussion. Chair McClellan informed members they may also call or email him with any topics of interest.

### **7. General Announcements**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41 a.m.