

# METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Summary

**MS Teams Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 27, 2022**

**Start 10 a.m.  
Adjourned 11:20 a.m.**

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

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

Chair John McClellan welcomed MWWPAAC members to the meeting.

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

The April meeting summary was approved as written by voice vote.

Chair McClellan reported that the Executive Board has appointed Ben Marre, Seattle Public Utilities, as the Comprehensive Engineering & Planning Vice Chair. He also announced that there will be a call out for the plumbing fixture work group from WTD. The expected commitment will be for one to two hours per month for the coming year.

Chair McClellan reported on the April 6 Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) meeting. The following briefings were provided:

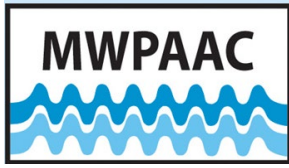
- Sewer Rate/Capacity Charge-Status Update and Discussion
- Decennial Flow Monitoring/Conveyance System Improvement Program
- Review of the MWWPAAC Rate recommendation letter - RWQC decided to not write a letter of their own as they were very much in alignment with MWWPAAC's letter

Chair McClellan noted there was also discussion on how to best communicate the rates to the rate payers. And a reminder to not lose track of seismic updates (resiliency) required in the wastewater system.

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

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director, reported on the sewer rate process. Last week the King County Executive transmitted the rate and capacity charge to Council. His rate was the same as proposed by WTD. The Executive appreciated the discussions that have occurred at MWWPAAC, and he shares MWWPAAC's concern about long term affordability. WTD will continue to work closely with MWWPAAC and other stakeholders to address affordability and other issues raised during the recent rate process. MWWPAAC interests expressed in the rate recommendation letter will guide the MWWPAAC work plan for the coming year and into 2023. The rate will next be heard at the Budget and Fiscal Management Committee with an anticipated early June adoption date. The contract deadline to adopt the rate is June 30.

**Next MWWPAAC General Meeting is June 22, 2022, via MS Teams.**



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Director Gurol expressed his appreciation to those agencies that responded to the MWWPAAC work plan poll. The Executive Board will meet next week to discuss the results and will work to layout the work plan for the remainder of this year and into 2023. Asset Management will continue to be a top priority and today MWWPAAC will hear from Capital Portfolio Planning and Analysis Unit Manager Crystal Fleet.

Director Gurol looks forward to working with MWWPAAC over the coming year.

### 3. Subcommittee Reports

#### **April 7, 2022, Rates & Finance:**

- Discussion of Sewer Rate Letter to Council
- Discussion of 2022/2023 MWWPAAC Work Plan – Part 1 (Joint Topic)

#### **April 7, 2022, Engineering & Planning:**

- Discussion of 2022/2023 MWWPAAC Work Plan – Part 1 (Joint Topic)
- Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) BMP Toolkit Update

Comprehensive Engineering & Planning (E&P) Chair Gary Schimek provided a verbal report for the April 7 E&P meeting. He reported that Nicole Smith, WTD Project Manager, provided a status update on the Infiltration and Inflow (I&I) BMP Toolkit. The focus was on tool kit planning and a preview of the educational materials was provided.

### 4. Discussion of Sewer Rate Letter to Council, Gregg Cato, Rates and Finance Subcommittee Vice Chair (Action Item)

Gregg Cato, Rates and Finance Subcommittee Vice Chair, presented the draft MWWPAAC Rate Recommendation letter to Council. The letter content is the same as the letter that was sent to the King County Executive with only changes to the addressee information and date.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the MWWPAAC Rate Recommendation Letter to Council. The motion carried.

Gregg asked members for comments or edits. There were no edits or comments.

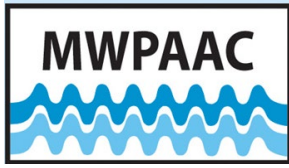
A motion was made and seconded to approve the MWWPAAC Rate Recommendation Letter as written. Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, took a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

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

Crystal Fleet, Capital Portfolio Planning and Analysis Unit Manager, presented on Asset Management (AM). The full presentation can be found [here](#). The presentation included information on:

- AM Decision Making – AM Prioritization Criteria

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- Asset Management Tier 1 Definition
- New Asset Management Tier 1 Projects in 2023-2032 Rate Plan
- New FTEs and Recent Project Launches

### **Comment:**

More work needs to be done on seismic vulnerability - on conveyance pipes in particular. Crystal and WTD Deputy Director Bruce Kessler shared that it's part of resiliency efforts and that WTD can bring back to MWWPAAC to show how WTD is scoring this type of vulnerability – use an example or two.

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

Chair McClellan asked members for any new business/future topics they'd like to propose.

It was suggested to look into what can be learned from the Infiltration and Inflow Program at the City of Tacoma with respect to Infiltration and Inflow.

Director Gurol noted that the Nutrients field is pretty dynamic right now. The City of Tacoma sued the Department of Ecology (Ecology) over the proposed Nutrient requirements and there was a recent decision made in a Thurston County court around Ecology's public process. We don't know exactly what it means yet. Much of the work in the first five-year cycle relates to monitoring, optimization and reporting. WTD will keep MWWPAAC informed as we learn more. Alderwood Water and Wastewater District is part of the suit with the City of Tacoma. The court recognized that Ecology did not follow the procedures regarding the new rules. No doubt Ecology will appeal. For the very least, things will be pushed out for some time.

### **7. General Announcements**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:20 a.m.