

# METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, June 22, 2022

Start 10 a.m.  
Adjourned 11:24 a.m.

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

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of April Meeting Summary (action item)
- Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Update
- WaterWorks Representative for District

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

Chair John McClellan welcomed MWWPAAC members to the meeting. The April meeting summary was approved by voice vote.

Chair McClellan provided an update on the June 1 Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) meeting. Vice Chair Maria Coe attended on his behalf. The following briefings were provided:

- Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) of Water in into Regional Wastewater Systems
- Status of the Nutrients General Permit in context of Thurston County Superior Court Action

Chair McClellan additionally reported on the following items:

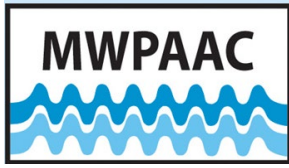
- A district representative is still needed for the WaterWorks Grant Ranking Committee. He emphasized the importance of having their voice represented on the committee.
- Later on today's agenda, we'll be hearing from WTD Government Relations Administrator Sharman Herrin on contract language and other elements.
- We'll be rescheduling the Jurassic Parliament training to later in the summer or early fall, as August is a busy vacation month for many.
- The Plumbing Fixture Work Group is forming up and more information will be shared when they begin their work.
- The July tour of the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station is scheduled for July 20. More information will be shared in the coming weeks.
- We're tentatively looking at scheduling the September MWWPAAC General meeting as Hybrid. If members are not able to attend in person, they can join via Teams.

### 2. Subcommittee Reports for May and June

Gary Schimek, Comprehensive Engineering and Planning Subcommittee Chair provided a report on the June 2 Joint Subcommittee meeting. Two briefing were provided. The Rates and Finance Subcommittee did not meet in June.

- MWWPAAC Work Plan Discussion
- Resource Recovery Section Updates

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

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director, reported that the WTD sewer rate ordinance was approved by the King County Council on June 2. The regional input, including from MWWPAAC and individual agencies, was very valuable to the Council. There was also uniform acknowledgement of affordability in long-term rate planning. One big driver for the rate is Asset Management and Director Gurol noted that the MWWPAAC Executive Board has formed an Asset Management work group. He thanked the group members and shared their names – Gregg Cato, Alderwood Water and Wastewater District; Adib Altallal, City of Tukwila; Andy Tuchscherer, Sammamish Plateau Water; Ben Marre and Tara Wong-Esteban, City of Seattle/SPU, and Steve Hitch, City of Redmond. RWQC will be represented by Councilmember Conrad Lee, City of Bellevue, and Commissioner Lloyd Warren, Sammamish Plateau Water. This group represents a good spectrum of perspectives from WTD's service area, which he appreciates. As part of their work, the group will tour South Treatment Plant and see the Asset Management work underway there. We look forward to hearing from the group, including how they handle local assets.

Director Gurol provided an update on a King County ordinance that sets a goal that 50 percent of its fleet of heavy-duty trucks will be electric by 2038, contributing to the county's commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from its operations by 80 percent by 2030. Some heavier vehicles will take a little longer to transition. The ordinance contributes to the goals of the County's Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP). WTD will need to identify infrastructure needs for charging stations and will prioritize older vehicles first and then plant sites. We'll keep MWWPAAC apprised as to progress.

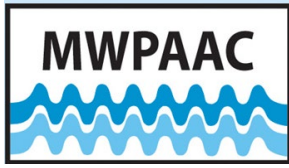
Director Gurol shared he would not be available to attend the July MWWPAAC tour, but Deputy Director Bruce Kessler will be attending.

Chair McClellan added, in the interest in the electric vehicles, they are about to become cost neutral to vehicles with traditional engines. Director Gurol added that WTD is looking at utilization, where vehicles need to be deployed, type of vehicles required, what does that mean for charging infrastructure, etc. Except for the Loop trucks that go over Snoqualmie pass, WTD vehicle trips are short. Director Gurol shared the Solid Waste Division has a new electric truck that they are piloting. The county has a strong commitment for fleet operations. WTD is the biggest electrical user in the county, and we have three different electrical providers. With this ordinance, we are going to do something meaningful about climate change.

### **4. Update on the Clean Water Plan Pause, Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director**

Director Gurol provided an update on the Clean Water Plan pause. The work is continuing – Step 1 is complete, and we are in the middle of developing adjustment strategies in Step 2. We also are reaching out to engage partner agencies and stakeholders to seek comment. Then Step 3 is to deploy. Materials are in process, and he hopes to have more of an update at the next MWWPAAC General meeting in August.

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### 5. Overview of King County Wastewater Treatment Contracts, Sharman Herrin, Government Relations Administrator, WTD

Sharman Herrin, WTD Government Relations Administrator, presented an overview of the Sewage Disposal Contracts, as well as information on contract extensions and other relevant documents. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The overview included information on:

- Background
- Sewage Disposal Contracts
- Core Contract Provision: Delivery/Acceptance of Sewage
- Core Contract Provision: Construction of Regional Facilities
- Core Contract Provision: Connecting Local Facilities to Regional Infrastructure
- Core Contract Provision: Quarterly Payment (Reporting and Billing)
- Core Contract Provision: Monthly Wholesale Sewer Rate
- Core Contract Provision: Capacity Charge
- Core Contract Provisions: Other

Sharman also reported on what is (different) in the contracts that have been extended.

- Contracts Extended thru 2056: Additional Provisions
- Other Relevant Provisions/Document

Director Gurol thanked Sharman for her report.

#### Questions/Comments:

##### **Comment:**

Cynthis Lamothe, Skyway Water and Sewer District, requested an example, at a future meeting, of the “newer” I/I provision language.

##### **Response:**

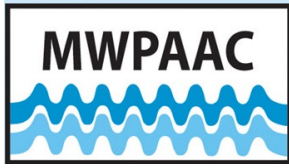
Sharman stated that WTD will email the language to MWWPAAC. She also shared the timing to look at contract language provisions is still yet to be determined for contract updates. Sharman can send out the last draft contract language that was drafted in the contract negotiations. WTD can provide an update on contract negotiations at a future MWWPAAC meeting.

##### **Comment:**

Commissioner Warren, Sammamish Plateau, is interested in continuing contract negotiations. It would be good to figure out what that looks like with the relaunch of the Clean Water Plan and how those parallel.

##### **Response:**

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Director Gurol shared WTD would be interested in members' comments. The City of Seattle is undertaking a study with Portland State University on governance, and this would be relevant to contract issues. Other member agencies are also participating in the governance study, and we can discuss more about the study later this year. Right now, we have the system we have now and in the near-term we can think about how to structure the work better with the current tools. We want to do our part at WTD and can help inform on the future contract process and we look forward to working with MWWPAAC on that.

### **Comment:**

Al Nelson, Northshore Utility District, asked for more details about the Portland University Study.

### **Response:**

Director Gurol deferred to the City of Seattle for response. Ben Marre, Seattle Public Utilities, shared that the study is looking at the question of governance. He noted that the Sound Cities Association and others are involved in a Steering Committee and added that there are a couple more meetings ahead with a recommendation expected at the end of the year that can inform future work. Ben will follow-up with Al Nelson and can do a deep dive at a later meeting, as he is not prepared today with materials. Ben can also make survey results available to members who would like to see the results.

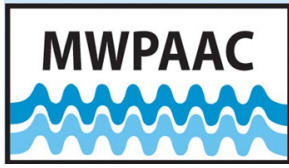
## **6. New Business/Future Topics, John McClellan, MWWPAAC Chair**

Chair McClellan asked members if they have any business or topics to propose for future meetings.

### **Comments:**

- Commissioner Tom Harman, Sammamish Plateau, asked for a copy of the Robinswood Agreement as we work on contract negotiations. Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, shared it will be a topic for August's general meeting and we will share with materials.
- Director Gurol announced the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Utility Leadership Conference will be held in Seattle in July. He encouraged members to review the agenda for items of interest. The County Executive and Seattle Mayor will be speaking at the conference. Andrew Lee, Seattle Public Utilities, and Director Gurol will be on a panel discussion. He also commented that at a future meeting we should discuss PFAS and related changes in regulations. Olivia Robinson shared that Erika Kinno, Research and Policy Advisor Manager, will be providing an update on PFAS at a future meeting.
- Chair McClellan seconded the consideration for attendance at the NACWA conference noting that having a local conference to attend is a good use of time.
- Al Nelson, Northshore Utility District, heard a rumor that the Washington State Dept. of Ecology (Ecology) may have a hold on Nutrients and be backing off. Director Gurol reported the news has not made it to him but noted that there were legal discussions in early June around the authority to issue a permit and he thinks they that went reasonably well. Last January, a Thurston County court ruled on behalf of appellant (City of Tacoma) and Ecology is appealing that decision. The landscape is hard to predict right now. We are also interested in other early near-term actions that could be deployed – maybe do some smaller things, cheaper, and faster by focusing on the areas that are most vulnerable.

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- Al Nelson, Northshore Utility District, would be interested in hearing more about WTD's maintenance management system, Asset Management program, and side sewer inspection program.
- Commissioner Shustov, Sammamish Plateau, wonders what Thurston County courts' decision really means. Director Gurol noted that the court found on behalf of the City of Tacoma on all four points related to Ecology's authority to issue a general permit and whether they went through the proper rule-making process. Ecology has appealed the decision. Chair McClellan also shared that Alderwood Water and Sewer District also signed on to the suit with the City of Tacoma. It's a short-term victory, as it is being appealed, but it does give us more time for planning some solutions that may be more effective.
- Ben Marre, Seattle Public Utilities, shared that Ecology's 3-year strategic plan has been released that includes a new dissolved oxygen (DO) setting for Puget Sound.

### **7. General Announcements**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:26 a.m.