

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, March 22, 2023

Start 10 a.m.
Adjourned 10:46 a.m.

1. MWPAAC Chair's Report – John McClellan

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of February Meeting Summary (action item)
- Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Update
- Announcement of new Rates and Finance Subcommittee Chair

Chair John McClellan welcomed MWPAAC members to the meeting.

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

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

Chair McClellan reported on the March 1 RWQC meeting, which included a work session to develop the RWQC workplan. There is quite a bit they are considering going into it. There is also a good opportunity for RWQC and MWPAAC to better coordinate and work together and better coordinate. Chair McClellan, who participated in the RWQC meeting, will include the RWQC work plan as a topic at the May Executive Board Retreat. There are many things that are of common interest to both bodies. A real benefit that MWPAAC can provide is a technical review of information and other items of consideration. Chair McClellan is looking forward to working more closely with RWQC this year.

Chair McClellan announced that Andy Baker, City of Bellevue, has been appointed as Chair for the Rates and Finance Subcommittee and thanked him for stepping into the role.

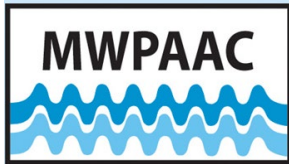
Chair McClellan informed MWPAAC members that a vote on waiving the required notice period for the MWPAAC Rate Recommendation Letter to the Executive would need to be taken in order for discussion and a vote to be taken on the letter today. MWPAAC Bylaws require meeting materials set for a vote to be emailed not less than seven days in advance of the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to waive the required 7-day notice period for the MWPAAC Rate Recommendation Letter to the Executive. The motion carried by voice vote.

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

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director, appreciates the letter MWPAAC has prepared and looks forward to the discussion.

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Kamuron reported that he met with the City of Seattle's Customer Review Panel on March 21 to discuss the proposed rate. WTD is also open with meeting with other agencies on the sewer rate if there is interest. WTD is working on getting the rate materials to the Executive by March 24 and have kept him informed on the discussions and comments. After review in the Executive's office, the sewer rate will be transmitted to Council in April. There also will likely be a lot of discussion on the rate at the April 5 RWQC meeting. MWWPAAC may want to offer another letter to the Council if there are changes in the Executive's office. WTD will work with MWWPAAC on that.

Kamuron reported that WTD is going through a heavy recruitment process right now. We've hired a recruitment sourcer who will assist with recruiting positions that are hard to fill. Out of the 96 FTE that were approved in 2022, we've started over half, which amounts to about 75 grouped recruitments. We'll keep MWWPAAC apprised as we continue.

Kamuron reported that King County recently participated in an EPA listening session on PFAS and CERCLA enforcement. WTD was represented by staff from DNRP representing the PFAS Coordination Strategy Group. Talking points from WTD's CERCLA letter were used in remarks noting that strong agreement with the EPA's "polluter pays" approach and that CERCLA liability should center on those industries that profited from these hazardous substances. WTD encouraged the EPA to pursue an aggressive source control program. WTD remains very interested in this, what can be done now and in the near term to remove these dangerous chemicals.

Kamuron provided a Legislative update to include:

- Bills needed to pass out of their House of Origin by March 8 to stay alive.
- SB 5545 on PFAS did not get out of the Senate and is likely dead for the year. It still could be revived during the session, but that is not expected. Staff will be looking at ways to provide more information on Biosolids and PFAS to legislators this summer.
- HB 1047 on Toxics is Cosmetic is alive and moving through the Senate.

Kamuron answered a question on the Nutrient General Permit. He reported, WTD is complying with the first year of Permit Cycle 1 which includes optimization planning and implementation, adaptive management, and annual reporting (due in March). WTD selected the bubble permit – all three WTD regional facilities are under one nitrogen limit. WTD is working to complete the first annual report and will get that out to MWWPAAC and posted the County website. WTD is able to stay underneath the bubble limit. More information to come on that. There are no updates on the litigation, but WTD is in discussion with the other parties to the litigation. There is no news to report on progress.

3. Subcommittee Reports

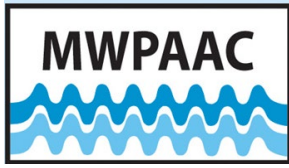
March 7, 2023, Rates & Finance:

- 2024 Sewer Rate Briefing

March 7, 2023, Engineering & Planning:

- Understanding Tier 1 Projects

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4. Discussion of Sewer Rate Letter to Executive, John McClellan, MWPAAC Chair (Action Item)

Chair McClellan discussed the process used to draft the rate recommendation letter. He also reviewed the process to introduce edits – 1) members would need to provide specific language; 2) a motion would be required (and seconded) to introduce edits as amendments and then discussion would occur; 3) a motion would be required to accept the amendments; 4) a vote would be required to determine if the motion fails or carries.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the MWPAAC Rate Recommendation Letter to the King County Executive. The motion carried by voice vote.

Chair McClellan asked if there were any members who wanted to introduce any amendments. No members introduced amendments. Chair McClellan asked if there was any further discussion before a vote. Members provided comments in favor of the letter.

Gregg Cato, Alderwood Water and Wastewater District made a motion to approve the rate recommendation letter as written. Maria Coe, City of Seattle seconded. Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, took a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

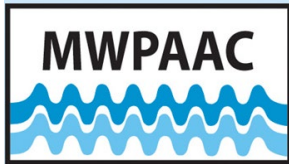
5. New Business/Future Topics, John McClellan, MWPAAC Chair

Jay Krauss, Sammamish Plateau Water, suggested a presentation on PFAS data comparison. He also asked about the action items in the letter. How will the issues be addressed going forward? Also, would the membership be served by a financial consultant to work on behalf of MWPAAC and uniformly address MWPAAC interests and dive deeper into the rate.

Chair McClellan reported the letter will be explicitly discussed along with action items at the upcoming Executive Board Retreat and in the development of the work plan. MWPAAC's work plan will also be tied to the RWQC work plan. He noted that they do very much want to have action items that we can show progress on. Regarding a financial consultant, that's a great topic to discuss at the Executive Board Retreat as well.

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director, presented a slide on the proposed Independent CIP Review. WTD is proposing to undertake this process which was also shared with the City of Seattle's Customer Review Panel. The process is anticipated to begin this summer. WTD is interested in undertaking this because we also recognize the same affordability issues that members do. At the RWQC work session, they were very interested in the rate. MWPAAC and RWQC share an interest in the topic, and WTD wants to be open and transparent on all topics. Kamuron advised of the need to better coordinate discussions with the two groups. MWPAAC can get into the weeds for items of interest. RWQC is charged with more of a policy review than a technical review. He doesn't think WTD is going to get the same perspective from the two different groups. We need to work through an optimized pathway - how do we get the work done and maintain affordability. Kamuron encouraged MWPAAC members to pay attention to what is happening at RWQC. We will do our best to work with both groups to find an

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optimized pathway. We look forward to working with MWWPAAC on the scope of the independent review.

Chair McClellan shared there is a lot of overlap with MWWPAAC and RWQC interests and concerns. Better coordination between the two bodies will hopefully help WTD in their efforts.

Kamuron also shared that he'd like to hear from agencies regarding PFAS and source control. This is a shared interest and he doesn't think WTD is going to be successful unless agencies are equally successful. How do we take on this issue more collaboratively. We all have interest in source control. WTD will share what we are learning and would like to hear from other agencies.

Mary Shustov, Sammamish Plateau Water, would like ongoing discussions on PFAS, PFOA, upstream contributions, and I/I. She also would like agencies to report their successes and issues so MWWPAAC member can all learn about that.

6. General Announcements

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:46 a.m.