

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

Start 10 a.m.
Adjourned 12 p.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

Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations took attendance by roll call.

A quorum was in attendance and the March meeting summary was approved as written by voice vote.

Chair John McClellan provided an update on the April 5 RWQC meeting and highlighted the following discussion topics:

- RWQC Work Program – good discussion on that, Committee expressed a desire to take-action on things.
- Formation of a subcommittee to develop a strategy for additional access to federal funding for nutrients regulations and other large capital projects. Cash Funding approach and impacts of higher rates on both current and future rate payers.
- Review of the MWWPAAC Rate Recommendation letter to Council.

In May, the following briefings are anticipated at RWQC:

- Briefing on the Executive's proposed 2024 Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge and supplemental appropriation to WTD's operating budget.
- Discussion with County Lobbyists regarding federal funding opportunities.
- Wastewater governance discussion focused on a study conducted by Portland State University on behalf of the City of Seattle will be pushed out to June.

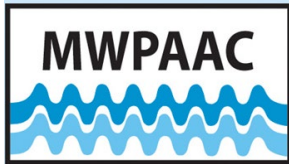
2. Wastewater Treatment Division Director's Report – Kamuron Gurol, Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD)

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director reported the Executive transmitted the proposed 2024 Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge to Council in early April. There were no changes to the recommendation from WTD. Kamuron thanked MWWPAAC members for their engagement and recognized there are still items of discussion to carry forward.

Kamuron announced that Finance and Administration Section Manager Hiedi Popochock has accepted a position at the Port of Seattle which is a great opportunity. WTD will be looking to fill that position in the coming months. Senior leaders in Finance and Administration will help cover during recruitment.

Kamuron shared that today's agenda includes a nutrients' update from Nutrient Management Coordinator Jacque Klug. He feels confident WTD will be able to stay under the action limits as it is

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looking promising right now. WTD still has concerns with long-term costs. Kamuron also reported there are no updates on litigation and that WTD is monitoring all efforts and will keep MWWPAAC apprised.

Also today, WTD will be starting the conversation with MWWPAAC regarding the West Point National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. There are new requirements and regulations the permit is asking WTD to meet including an aggressive survey schedule related to PFAS. Additionally, the schedule for compliance at our Elliott West CSO facility may be a challenge and will add costs to the capital program. This is another driver on costs and they are not staggered but stacked.

Kamuron reported that the state legislative session ended this last weekend and provided a couple of updates on bills WTD was tracking.

- HB 1047 which address PFAS and other chemicals in cosmetics products passed.
- SB 5245 related to PFAS in Biosolids did not move forward in this legislative session. WTD will have work ahead of the next session to educate legislators regarding PFAS.

3. Subcommittee Reports

April 6, 2023, Rates & Finance:

- Discussion of Sewer Rate Letter to Council
- 2024 Sewer Rate Capital Projection (Joint Topic)

April 6, 2023, Engineering & Planning:

- 2024 Sewer Rate Capital Projection (Joint Topic)
- Conveyance System Improvement (CSI) Program Update Status

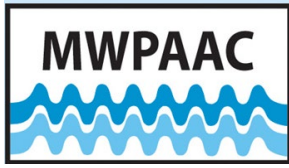
4. Discussion of Sewer Rate Letter to Council, John McClellan, MWWPAAC Chair (Action Item)

Chair John McClellan discussed the process used to draft the MWWPAAC Rate Recommendation letter to Council. The draft letter was presented for review.

Chair McClellan asked if there were any members who wanted to introduce prepared amendments. No members introduced amendments. Chair McClellan asked if any further discussion was needed before the 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. Andy Baker, City of Bellevue seconded. Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, took a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously.

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5. NPDES West Point Permit – Overview, Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director presented an update on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) West Point Permit. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The presentation included an update on the following items:

- Key Concerns
- Timeline
- New or restrictive effluent limits
- Elliott West compliance schedule
- New Industrial Waste Source Control Program for PFAS
- 2024-2033 Capital Improvement Program Conceptual Project Estimates at Completion
- Next Steps

Questions/Comments:

A member suggested there may be potential for a unified voice regarding the West Point NPDES permit to ensure the regulators understand the burdens they are placing on all of our communities.

Kamuron welcomes a comment letter from MWWPAAC. WTD will likely not submit one until later in the process in order to see first what comments are provided in public comment meetings. The East Waterway Plan also came out within the last few days, which is another set of costs. WTD will provide an update to MWWPAAC soon.

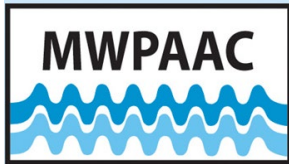
Chair McClellan noted the sooner MWWPAAC knows how WTD is forming their response, they can better determine how to respond as MWWPAAC or individually as agencies. He asked about the feasibility with new regulations and WTD's ability to achieve everything at once. Kamuron shared that WTD will engage in an independent review of its capital program and assumptions. WTD will get more information from an outside source including feasibility, but it will not be available in time to inform comments on the permit. Kamuron has also been engaging with Ecology on early comments, via conference call, at the leadership level. There's an opportunity to relay the scale that WTD is talking about when it comes to implementing new regulations, which is a \$250M program per year quadrupling to \$1B or more. Consequently, it is a big lift over the course of several years. WTD is asking the same question as to how we can accomplish it all.

6. Nutrients Update, Jacque Klug, Nutrient Management Coordinator, WTD

Jacque Klug, Nutrients Management Coordinator, presented an update on Nutrients. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The presentation included an update on the following items.

- Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit 2022 Performance
- Optimization Planning for 2023
- Nutrient Reduction Evaluation

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- Other Nutrient Regulatory Actions We're Tracking

Questions/Comments:

Chair McClellan asked about ongoing modeling and if WTD is directly involved in efforts to model the behavior of the Puget Sound Salish Sea and chemicals. The University of Washington Puget Sound Institute and wastewater utilities is funding additional modeling work to advance the regional science. Chair McClellan would like a presentation to hear more details. This may be a good discussion for the MWWPAAC Executive Board Retreat in May.

Kamuron thanked Jacque for her presentation. He also underscored that we need to have a clear pathway ahead, WTD does not know what Ecology will approve for AKART (all known, available and reasonable treatment). What is the reasonable amount of money to spend on this and what is the reasonable technology that exists? It's a judgement call and WTD wants to better understand Ecology's perspective on this. WTD has put in the early compliance costs (first five-years). Kamuron also emphasized we have to keep this in context. The approach so far is parameter by parameter and there should be a broader approach. Kamuron agreed bringing back some of the science to MWWPAAC would be good in the coming months.

7. New Business/Future Topics, John McClellan, MWWPAAC Chair

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.