

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

Start 10 a.m.
Adjourned 11:05 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

Chair John McClellan welcomed MWWPAAC members to the meeting.

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

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

Chair John McClellan reported on the summer tour scheduled for July 26 of the Joint Ship Canal Water Quality Project. WTD will send out information on the tour and members will need to RSVP. Later in the agenda there will be discussion of the proposed MWWPAAC comment letter to the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) regarding the West Point Treatment Plant National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit. Chair McClellan emphasized that there is a lot of value to MWWPAAC using their voice and letting their opinions be known. Changes in the proposed permit may not affect all MWWPAAC agencies in the moment, but all pay into WTD services. MWWPAAC should be taking a visible stand on these types of things so the voice of MWWPAAC and its agencies becomes recognizable and Ecology comes to expect comments from MWWPAAC.

Vice Chair Maria Coe reported on the June 7 RWQC meeting. This year, RWQC is working on a more aggressive work plan and diving into a lot more topics and MWWPAAC is working to align with RWQC's work plan. The following briefings were provided:

- Wastewater Governance
- Long-term Capital Improvement Investments
- Federal Funding Opportunities and Update from RWQC Subcommittee on Federal Funding

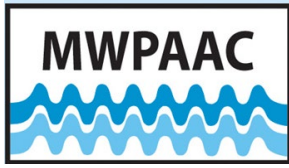
The next RWQC meeting is scheduled for July 6 and the following briefings are anticipated:

- RWQC letter of support for MWWPAAC's West Point NPDES comment letter
- RWQC proposed motion relating to methodologies to forecast long-term financial investments for WTD's Capital Improvements

Vice Chair Coe reported the MWWPAAC Executive Board met on May 18 for a spring retreat which she'll report further on later in the agenda. Topics of discussion included:

- Cash Financing
- Rate Affordability
- 10-year Capital Program

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

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director reported on long-range capital and rate forecasting. WTD has been asked to look beyond the current 10-year forecast. One of the important components is understanding the long-term capital investments that would drive that rate. At the July 6 RWQC meeting, a motion will be introduced asking WTD to identify a methodology to forecast long-term improvement as far out as 75-years. This process also would include a role for MWWPAAC to provide comment. WTD is updating its work program to accommodate this request. The first status report would be due in September 2023, with a briefing to RWQC in December 2023. If the motion gets out of RWQC, it will move on to the full Council. Kamuron will keep MWWPAAC apprised.

Kamuron reported on WTD's Operator in Training (OIT) Program. WTD is in week three of the 12-week program and has 17 participants in this year's class. The focus this first month is covering topics from basic wastewater safety training, wastewater terminology, and the treatment process. He looks forward to providing updates to MWWPAAC as the participants move through the program. He shared there were over 175 applicants for the year's OIT program.

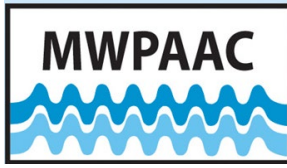
Kamuron reported on how WTD took advantage of an opportunity during a scheduled West Point Power Outage. In the early morning hours of June 6, West Point Treatment Plant shut down operations as power was disconnected for Seattle City Light to perform scheduled repair work. WTD sent divers into a wet well at one of the pump stations to collect measurements and data for an upcoming replacement of the influent flow meter. WTD also used the outage to assess the condition of an isolation gate located within the plant's north disinfection structure. The whole process worked well - the plant was shut down, Seattle City Light got their work done, and WTD got its work done.

Kamuron reported that on June 21, there was a recycled water leak at the York Pump Station that was the result of a broken pipe. The recycled water was fully disinfected. The leak came from under the York Pump Station parking lot up the hill from Sammamish Valley. The water entered a heavily vegetated area that is inaccessible to the public and then went into a local stormwater leading to the Sammamish River. Repairs are underway and the regulatory agencies have been notified.

Kamuron reported on updates to WTD's Mission and Commitments (formerly Values). WTD has been doing some internal work to update its mission and values. WTD employees were invited to participate in the process. The updated mission statement summarizes the reason for WTD's existence and the purpose, or intention, behind our collective efforts. WTD also redefined its "Values" as "Commitments." The Commitments define how we do our best work together and guide our daily behavior within and outside the organization. WTD will continue to have conversations at multiple levels to encourage reflection on the mission and commitments. Kamuron read the updated Mission and Commitments.

Our Mission: We protect public health and the environment by collecting and cleaning wastewater while recovering valuable resources for a thriving Puget Sound region.

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Our Commitments:

- **Trust and integrity:** We build trust and integrity by consistently delivering on our commitments.
- **Quality of service:** We deliver exceptional and equitable service to all our communities.
- **Cultivate learning:** We encourage learning and growth within a positive work environment.
- **Empowered teams:** We respect a diversity of ideas. We collaborate to resolve problems and create solutions.
- **Diversity, equity, and inclusion:** We center diversity, equity, and inclusion at the core of our success, and value the contribution of every person.
- **Communication:** We listen to understand, and we share timely, accurate, and clear information.
- **Financial accountability:** We are responsible stewards of ratepayer dollars.
- **Innovation:** We foster a creative environment where employees are empowered.
- **Environmental stewardship:** We are committed to sustainable best practices in all we do.

Kamuron reported on some good news – on June 27, the King County Council approved a Washington State Department of Commerce Public Works Board 20-year loan for \$10 million with an interest rate of 1.39 percent. This loan will save ratepayers over \$3 million in conventional bond financing.

Kamuron reported on a successful bond sale. On Monday, June 26, WTD had a successful revenue sewer bond sale just under \$130 million, the savings associated with bond sale is over \$19 million, which is a 11 percent improvement from the previous forecast. Kamuron noted that savings are preliminary until defeasance.

3. May and June Subcommittee Reports

Andrew Baker, Rates and Finance Subcommittee Chair reported on the May and June meeting topics:

- Depreciation and Cash Funding Approach
- Capital Funding and Work Plan Discussion

Steve Hitch, Comprehensive Engineering and Planning Subcommittee Chair reported on the May and June meeting topics:

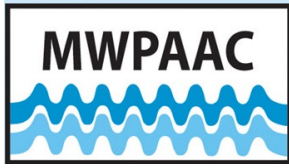
- Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) Inflow and Influent (I/I) Program, Part 2
- Class A Biosolids Ordinance
- NPDES West Point Permit Discussion

4. Discussion of MWWPAAC's Letter on the NPDES West Point Permit, Ben Marre, MWWPAAC Comprehensive Engineering and Planning Subcommittee Vice Chair (Action Item)

Ben Marre, Comprehensive Engineering and Planning Subcommittee Vice Chair, discussed the process to prepare the draft MWWPAAC West Point NPDES permit comment letter to Ecology. He thanked all of the contributors and presented the letter.

Ben asked if there were any proposed edits. No edits were submitted.

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

5. MWWPAAC Executive Board Spring Retreat Report, Maria Coe, MWWPAAC Vice Chair

Vice Chair Maria Coe reported on the May 18 Executive Board Retreat, which included a tour of West Point Treatment Plant.

The Executive Board has moved from having one to two retreats a year to better evaluate how MWWPAAC is progressing on work plan topics, review comments from members, and determine if topics are germane with current MWWPAAC member interests.

Under leadership of Chair Balducci, the RWQC work plan better aligns with the MWWPAAC work plan. MWWPAAC will serve as a technical reviewer to RWQC.

Some upcoming work will include review of the 10-year capital program and that will be discussed during the upcoming fall and winter. The goal is to have more time to review and discuss areas of support and concern.

Vice Chair Coe reported MWWPAAC will also be working with WTD to solidify work plan topics and send out the work plan to all MWWPAAC members. Given the importance of the upcoming topics, we hope to continue to see the trend of increased participation and look forward to continued feedback from members. An update from Olivia Robinson or Marla Rivas Erickson will be sent in the coming weeks.

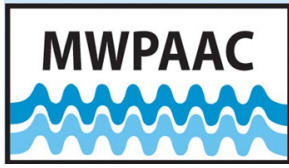
Kamuron Gurol expressed his appreciation for moving retreats to twice a year and continued engagement with the MWWPAAC Executive Board on planning out the work program and dovetailing it with the RWQC work program. There is a shared interest and WTD wants to make sure we are working as seamlessly as we can and avoid duplication or changing policy direction. WTD will do our best to work with each group and identify the area best undertaken by each respective group. We hope to be a helpful partner. He also added that the MWWPAAC Executive Board discussed more of a focus on PFAS and he'd like to know more about what cities and districts are doing to address the issue with source identification and source control. He'd like to see the topic added to the work plan for this year.

6. WTD Biogas Systems 101: Gas Sales and Revenues, Carl Grodnik, Energy Program Lead, WTD

Carl Grodnik, Energy Program Lead presented on WTD Biogas Systems 101: Gas Sales and Revenues. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The presentation included information on the following topics.

- Brief Overview: Biogas from Wastewater

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- WTD's Use of Digester Gas
- Environmental Attributes of Renewables – What are RECs, RINs, e-RINs, T-RECs?
- Summary
- Q&A

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

None.

8. **General Announcements and Meeting Adjournment**

Vice Chair Maria Coe encouraged members to continue to attend the general and subcommittee meetings. Also, to RSVP for the Joint Ship Canal Water Quality Project tour.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.