

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Wednesday, August 23, 2023

**Start 10 a.m.
Adjourned 11:33 a.m.**

1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – John McClellan

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of June Meeting Summary (action item)
- Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Update
- Potential Hybrid Meeting – October 25

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 June meeting summary was approved as written by voice vote.

RWQC Chair Councilmember Claudia Balducci was in attendance and introduced herself. At future meetings, she hopes to provide some direct reporting from RWQC to MWWPAAC. Today she wanted to introduce herself and shared that through their work plan this year RWQC will take steps to work with the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) and MWWPAAC on long-term rate setting and a methodology for long-range capital forecasting. At the RWQC meeting this afternoon, a second motion will be proposed asking for a long-term rate projection up to 75 years. Other things on the RWQC work plan that overlap with MWWPAAC include the cash funding approach, governance, and potentially designating Puget Sound as a national asset that may come with some funding. Councilmember Balducci hopes to join MWWPAAC meetings occasionally and share what RWQC is doing and to keep an open line of communication. She emphasized that RWQC relies on and appreciates input from MWWPAAC.

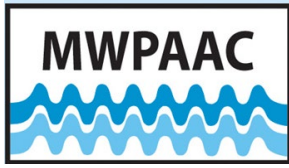
Chair McClellan thanked Councilmember Balducci, noted that he appreciates the opportunity to report to RWQC, and is excited about the degree of coordination this year.

Chair McClellan asked members about attending a hybrid meeting on October 25 at WTD's South Treatment Plant in Renton. Several members expressed interest in meeting once or twice a year in person. No objections were made. Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations will send out a poll to determine how many members will join in-person.

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

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director, reported on the Brightwater Treatment Plant fire that occurred on Tuesday, August 15. He detailed the incident and provided an update. He reported he was out at Brightwater for a staff appreciation event on August 22 and observed the aeration basins, burned basin area, and debris. It was a difficult fire for responders to deal with, as the type of material that

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burned can be difficult to extinguish. He appreciated the work of responders and staff. The fire has not affected plant operations as the affected basins were already isolated for construction and the plant can run on two basins.

Kamuron reported on several summer WTD facility tours:

- MWAAC toured the Joint Ship Canal Water Quality Project on July 26. Kamuron thanked Seattle Public Utilities for providing an insightful tour.
- WTD conducted two Biosolids tours in August:
 - King County Executive Dow Constantine received a briefing on WTD's biosolids program and toured the Loop Vehicle Maintenance Facility in North Bend and active forest application site on August 2.
 - Elected officials from the City of Carnation, including Councilmember Harris who is on RWQC toured active forest application sites on August 15.
 - WTD hopes to take Councilmember Balducci later in the fall.
- WTD provided two congressional tours of the West Point Treatment Plant
 - Congresswoman Pramila Jayapal (WA-7) and three members of her staff and two staff members from the office of Congressman Adam Smith (WA-9) toured on August 7. Part of the tour included talking through potential avenues for federal funding. WTD continues to work to inform and to find opportunities to talk to members of Congress and their staff about WTD's important work.
 - Next week WTD will be providing the same tour to a staff member from the office of Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (WA-1). These tours provide a great opportunity for WTD to build relationships and to discuss potential federal funding avenues across WTD's system. This is likely a long haul, with no immediate results, but it's very worthwhile.

Kamuron reported on the truss installation work taking place at the West Point Treatment Plant power quality building. A video was presented that provided a drone overhead view of the first truss being put in place. Kamuron oriented MWWPAAC members to what they were seeing in the video and described the work being done and the status of the project.

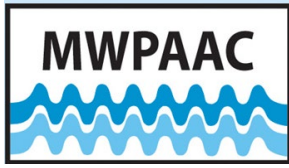
3. Subcommittee Reports

Steve Hitch, Comprehensive Engineering and Planning Subcommittee Chair reported on the joint August 3 subcommittee meeting.

August 3 Joint Subcommittee Meeting

- Source Control Programs in Seattle

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4. West Point NPDES Permit – Update and Public Comment Summary, Jeff Lafer, NPDES Permit Administrator, WTD

Jeff Lafer, NPDES Permit Administrator, presented a summary of the West Point Treatment Plant NPDES comments and provided an update on the status. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The following updates were included in the presentation:

- Public Comment Process and Permit Renewal Overview
- Ecology's Process
- Responses to Comments
- Issuance of Final Permit
- Permit Renewal Timeline
- Comment Letters – Overview of Scope/Scale
- Public Comments – Issue Summary
- Next Steps and Q&A

Andy Baker, City of Bellevue, requested a follow-up once the permit is issued, including the estimated cost to implement. Kamuron agreed to keep MWWPAAC apprised.

As Jeff laid out, there is uncertainty on the final permit and whether WTD will accept it or appeal. WTD will likely have to comply even if appealed. As WTD gets into the sewer rate process, assumptions will be made about costs, but there is still a lot of uncertainty. As things come into clearer view and move forward, WTD will provide an update. If an appeal process is taken, there may be limited information WTD can provide.

Andy further clarified that he'd like an update to look at cost impacts on the operational side of things, in addition to capital costs.

Kamuron reminded MWWPAAC members that WTD starts working in the fall on the sewer rate process for the following year - 2025 sewer rate process - Oct. 2023 to April 2024. WTD will be transparent in the process and there will be a lot of focus on capital and operational costs.

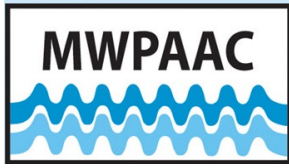
5. MWWPAAC Work Plan Discussion, MWWPAAC Executive Board and WTD Staff

Chair McClellan reported the Executive Board is still working on the work plan to align with RWQC's work plan to ensure MWWPAAC is working on the right things at the right time and working on those things that are most important. The Executive Board will share a draft of that work plan when it's ready.

Bruce Kessler, WTD Deputy Director presented on the two motions Councilmember Balducci and Kamuron mentioned earlier.

- Proposed Motion 2023-0257: Long-term Capital Needs Forecast
- Draft Motion on Long-term Financial Forecast

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Chair McClellan asked WTD to work with agency Public Information Officers on the Ratepayer Report and ratepayer comments.

Andy Baker, City of Bellevue, added that leveraging subcommittees is a great way to involve MWWPAAC, as well.

Councilmember Balducci noted MWWPAAC's interest in being involved, including engagement with the consultants. She can bring this to RWQC, and they can help in building the approach.

Andy Baker, City of Bellevue, clarified there will be advisory recommendations related to the new motions that will be part of the MWWPAAC work plan, and that there will be timelines to coordinate with RWQC.

Kamuron added that MWWPAAC will need to add capacity to participate within the given schedules. MWWPAAC may need to look at the process to review and how to ensure robust involvement in a nimble way. WTD wants to ensure there is ample opportunity for robust engagement within the timelines.

Kamuron encouraged MWWPAAC members to think about the policy question trying to be addressed and the policy goal. A realistic approach needs to be taken with respect to what can be delivered and how time should be spent in these processes.

Chair McClellan shared what Kamuron is expressing is very much in the minds of MWWPAAC member agencies.

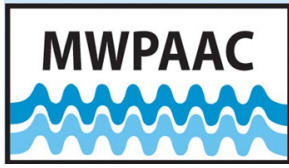
Andy Baker, City of Bellevue, noted to put it in policy context, its supporting informed decision making. Building a financial forecast is a tool not necessarily a policy. It will assist in future decision making.

Steve Hitch, City of Redmond, noted a policy question from the Asset Management group is whether having a tool that looks further out will help with uncertainty.

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

Chair McClellan reported the Executive Board will be engaging the Asset Management work group to assist with methodologies. The Executive Board looks forward to their participation from those who were involved in the work group last year. If other members are interested, please contact Chair McClellan.

Chair McClellan reminded members the draft MWWPAAC work plan is being worked on and will be shared with MWWPAAC members. Members will also have an opportunity to comment before it is finalized.



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7. General Announcements

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:33 a.m.