

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Wednesday, September 27, 2023

Start 10 a.m.
Adjourned 11:44 a.m.

1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – John McClellan

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of August Meeting Summary (action item)
- Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Update
- Hybrid Meeting – October 25 at South Plant and Virtual

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 August meeting summary was approved as written by voice vote.

Chair McClellan reported on the September 6 RWQC meeting. The following briefings were provided:

- Proposed Motion No. 2023-0264: A motion concerning contaminants of emerging concern in wastewater effluent and directing next steps to limit their impact. The proposed motion passed out of RWQC and is moving forward to the Committee of the Whole (Sept. 20).
- Progress update on developing a methodology to forecast long-term costs of the Wastewater Treatment Division's capital improvement needs.

Upcoming briefing in October:

- 2023 Stormwater Summit: Action Goals, Opportunities, and Next Steps.

Chair McClellan reported there is a lot of work going on with RWQC which in turn is creating more work for MWWPAAC, as we are working to better align with the RWQC work plan. MWWPAAC is deeply involved with the approved motions. The Executive Board is reconvening the Asset Management (AM) Work Group to focus on the new work to respond to the new RWQC motions. Today MWWPAAC will hear from the consultants selected to do the work on the motions. We are asking that members hold their questions until the end of the presentation.

MWWPAAC's October General meeting has been scheduled as a hybrid a meeting. The Executive Board is considering canceling that meeting. More of an update will follow after the next RWQC meeting.

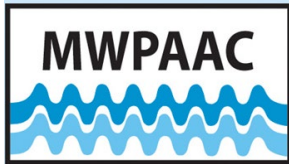
2. Wastewater Treatment Division Director's Report – Bruce Kessler, Deputy Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD)

Bruce Kessler, WTD Deputy Division Director, reported on behalf of Director Kamuron Gurol. Bruce's report included the following updates:

WTD Tours - WTD hosted a number of tours over the past month to include:

- Aug. 30 – WTD staff provided a tour of West Point to staff from the office of Congresswoman DelBene and staff from the office of King County Councilmember Kohl-Welles.

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- Sept. 20 – WTD provided a tour of West Point to County Executive Constantine with a focus on capital projects, WTD's summer maintenance work, and progress on the Power Quality Improvement Project. The Executive was also able to tour the building, which is really close to being dried in.
- Sept. 19 – WTD joined legislators for SPU's tour of the joint Ship Canal Water Quality Project – Bruce thanked SPU staff for the informative tour.

Nutrients Update

- The appellate court concluded that the requirements in the Nutrient General Permit are unlawful.
- Ecology's attorneys told WTD that Ecology intends to appeal the appellate court decision to the Washington State Supreme Court.
- The County and seven other wastewater utilities and three non-governmental organizations had appealed the Nutrient General Permit to the Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB). Those appeals were consolidated into one case and the appeals were stayed pending the issuance of the decision from the appellant court. Now that the appellate court has ruled on this matter, the parties to the PCHB appeal must provide the PCHB with a status report by October 16.
- Ecology and the parties to the PCHB appeal may ask the PCHB to continue to stay the proceedings before the PCHB until a final decision by the Supreme Court. That approach would maintain the status quo and the current partial stay of the nutrient general permit until the Supreme Court decides the issue or refuses to accept review of the appellate court decision.

Consent Decrees

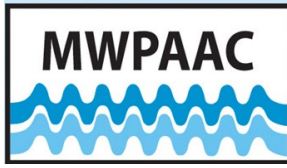
Bruce reported that, as many may be aware, WTD and the City of Seattle are wrapping up negotiations with the Washington Department of Ecology and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on the Combined Sewer Overflow Consent Decree (CD). WTD is hoping to bring an update to MWWPAAC by the end of the year – once confidentiality is lifted. Also, some may have seen the article in Sunday's Seattle Times regarding the ongoing discussions around the Lower Duwamish River cleanup, which is a separate CD in negotiation. Those negotiations are ongoing and WTD hopes to share more in the coming months.

Wet Weather Preparedness

Bruce reported on activities associated with Wet Weather Preparedness.

- Wet weather preparations kicked off at West Point last week.
- The team outlined summer operations project work - what was completed, what is paused for the season, and what was delayed till next summer.
- The team outlined the capital projects that are either starting up or continuing through the winter months.
- Discussions also took place around preparation for inclement weather, such as ensuring de-icer has been ordered and the preparation of snowplows to maintain access to and within the plants.
- The team also ran an emergency scenario with a run through of communications, incident command, and actions for recovery.

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- Wet weather preparations begin at South Plant the second week of October.

Brightwater Fire

Bruce provided an updated on the Brightwater fire. As many members are aware, there was a fire in one of the aeration basins at the Brightwater Treatment Plant in mid-August. An HDPE pipe caught fire when the contractor was fusing a fitting to the pipe. WTD is still assessing the damage and last week concrete cores were taken to evaluate the damage. WTD directed the contractor to get the aeration basin back in service by November 1, to accommodate heavier flows during the wet season. WTD is also going to direct them to do some interim repairs of the basin to beginning in October. Over the winter WTD will have a better idea of long-term repair and next spring permanent repairs will commence.

Overflow Events

Bruce reported on two overflow events.

Ballard Siphon

On Wednesday, September 20, WTD made a control logic change and a gate didn't open to allow the flow to go to Ship Canal. The change was made in preparation of the Ship Canal Water Quality Project, which will be discharging to the facility when it comes online in a few years. This event is considered an exacerbated CSO, which is reportable, because it started before all of the system's capacity was depleted. In other words, the CSO would have started later or not at all if the system was functioning properly. WTD's estimates approximately 568,000 gallons of stormwater and sewage was released into Salmon Bay. The overflow was reported to Ecology and Public Health – Seattle and King County and water quality samples were taken from Salmon Bay. Last Friday, samples came back normal so we discontinued sampling.

Royal Brougham

On Monday, September 25, an overflow was reported at a maintenance hold located at Edgar Martinez Drive S. and Occidental Ave. S. during a rain event around 6:30 p.m. WTD notified the Department of Ecology and Public Health – Seattle & King County. Crews were sent out to investigate and perform cleanup. The flow level indicators indicate the flow never got within 6ft of ground surface. Bruce shared a photo that showed sprays of water coming from the maintenance hole. WTD believes the maintenance hole was spraying out air and the water is street stormwater. WTD is continuing to evaluate the incident to determine if an overflow event actually occurred.

3. Subcommittee Reports

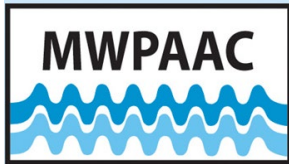
September 7 Joint Subcommittee Meeting

- Discussion of Scope of Work for RWQC Motions

Andy Baker, Rates and Finance Subcommittee Chair, reported on the September 7 Joint Rates & Finance and Comprehensive Engineering and Planning Subcommittee meeting. He noted that MWWPAAC will be hearing from the consultants later in today's meeting.

Andy encouraged members to attend the October 5 Rates & Finance Subcommittee meeting.

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4. Overview of Motion on Contaminants of Emerging Concern, Erika Kinno, Resource Recovery Policy & Research Unit Supervisor, WTD

Erika Kinno, Resource Recovery Policy & Research Unit Supervisor, presented on Contaminants of Emerging Concern (CECs) and Proposed Motion 2023-0264 concerning CECs in wastewater effluent which is being considered by the King County Council. The full presentation can be found [here](#).

The presentation provided the following information:

- Whereas clauses
- Action Items
- Legislative Path

Questions/Comments:

There was a question about whether Reclaimed Water is going to be considered for sampling. Erika reported the current sampling effort doesn't extend to Reclaimed Water.

A member suggested that WTD may want to consider the Washington State Department of Ecology's PFAS remediation practices.

Another member expressed interest in the consistency of data, noting having information for Recycled Water and Biosolids will help inform what we do with the products. Also, understanding what happens when it comes to a non-waste products going somewhere else is valuable information to have. He'd like to see that.

Chair McClellan would like to invite Erika back for a briefing update after the briefing to RWQC in 2024.

5. Discussion of Scope of Work and Schedule for RWQC Motions, Drew Henson, Technical Practice Leader, Planning and Modeling, Consor; Joe Crea, Vice President, Raftelis; Crystal Fleet, Capital Portfolio Planning and Analysis Unit Manager, WTD

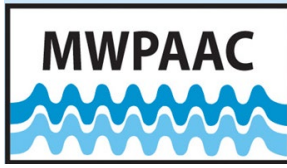
Crystal Fleet, Capital Portfolio Planning and Analysis Unit Manager, introduced the project team. Drew Henson, Consor Technical Practice Leader, provided an overview of Consor. Joe Crea, Vice President Raftelis provided an overview of Raftelis.

Drew Henson, Joe Crea, and Brandon Vatter, Capital Planning Lead, shared brief bios and reviewed the roles of the Project Team Leadership.

The project team presented on the Long-Term Capital Rate Forecasting Study to include:

- Goals of the Long-Term Planning Study
- Preliminary Project Schedule
- Peer utilities to be used in analysis – initial candidates

The full presentation can be found [here](#).



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Questions/Answers:

Clarification: The project will look at a 75-year projection. It's a little bit atypical to look out that far, but the study will look at this. It's more common for it to be around 20-years.

Q: A member agency noted they have a 100-year asset management plan and asked why wouldn't a larger agency like WTD have a similar plan?

A: Crystal clarified the RWQC motion established the 75-year horizon.

Q: A member noted the product (study) should be useful and, also noted that a continual ask is a "true up" of the RCE.

A: Chair McClellan clarified that the RCE was not part of the motion. Devin ViBarnes, Rates, Capital & Debt Management Manager, clarified the RCE is not a part of that, but with long term rate forecasting, WTD is looking at the different attributes and variables. WTD is looking at how RCEs are going to impact long term forecasting. This effort is to build tools that we can use later. RCE is more on the rate forecasting side of things.

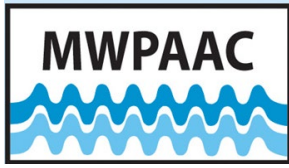
Chair McClellan shared that Alderwood Water & Wastewater District also has a 100-year capital plan. The value is to capture the entirety of the underground infrastructure as it ages with very basic criteria so that gives Alderwood potential peaks in capital expenditures. Seeing beyond 20-years is of value to MWWPAAC member agencies that have established the practice of looking further out.

It was noted that the study will support the question raised. There was a question about the wholesale component with agencies listed in presentation. Joe Crea responded they will be looking more closely at those criteria when screening. Part of what the consultant is researching is what are their approaches with respect to planning for unknown regulations or unplanned system updates. The project team was encouraged to also look at what is going on with growth in the peer agency service areas as part of the screening process. Noting it would be helpful to understand the differences in the peer agencies and their plans when reported back. It would be good to be mindful of differences.

Comment: Jay Krauss, Sammamish Plateau Water, recognizes the work is responsive to a King County Council motion, he was hoping for much more involvement and perhaps add things to the scope to add value. It's a mystery how King County manages finances. If at the end of the day, we are only developing tools, and some of the inputs are off, it's not going to be of benefit. His member agency hopes this study will bring preciseness and validity to the regional system.

Sharman Herrin, WTD Government Relations Administrator, wanted to recognize comments and concerns from MWWPAAC. WTD has the scope and timeline to comply with RWQC and are looking forward to the tools that come out of the study. She noted, this is not the only opportunity for input. This scope is moving forward to meet the timeline. The tools will help WTD be transparent, and WTD has been working to be more transparent.

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There was a discussion of how MWWPAAC can record the request from Jay Krauss. Chair McClellan will reach out to Jay and prepare a list.

Bruce Kessler, WTD Deputy Director, shared WTD was looking at working on a study with an outside consultant (prior to the approval of the motions) and put that on hold given the current work and timelines but WTD can hopefully capture what Jay is asking for in that study.

Jay Krauss, Sammamish Plateau Water, noted at the end of the day if we can accomplish these things it will help in the future to bring clarity and there won't be a gauntlet of questions at each meeting.

There was also a comment on the methodology of how to do the work of capital forecasting. At some point before the tool is delivered, that work will have to be conducted. As the consultants evaluate the methodologies of capital investment needs, do they have a sense of what considerations they'll be weighting deficiencies and what is needed to build out that tool? There is a schedule on recommended methodology, and is there a further out end date in 2025 for having the tool done. If one of the methodologies involves a longer time to evaluate/build, MWWPAAC would like to hear about it without it being disqualified by timelines. Chair McClellan asked to hold that thought until we get further into the study and address as we go to some degree.

Comment/Q: A member noted that local agencies want a product that is relevant to agencies more than a product delivered on time. Also, at what point in the schedule will member agencies input be received?

A: Crystal Fleet reviewed the schedule that includes work with the MWWPAAC AM Work Group, and subcommittee and general meeting presentations.

Chair McClellan shared the motion was not developed in a vacuum and was developed with input from MWWPAAC based on input from the general body. This is a bite and not a one and done. The AM Work Group is being reconvened for the expressed purpose of the work related to this study. In previous meetings, it was stated how the AM Work Group would serve in this capacity and effort.

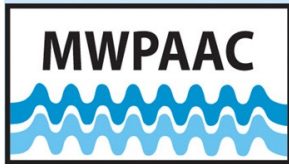
Commissioner Mary Shustov, Sammamish Plateau Water, asked about making a motion for a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Jay's comments being acknowledged as a MOU between MWWPAAC and WTD. Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, noted this item is not up for a vote. Chair McClellan will follow up with Mary on the intention of her request.

Q: Is there is consideration of ongoing maintenance and resources - how will WTD manage going forward? Consultants will prepare the tools and WTD will then internally take over.

A: WTD will need to consider if we can implement with existing resources and staffing and it will depend on the recommendations. WTD will need to look at resources to make it a repeatable process.

A member asked the reason for the tight timeline. Chair McClellan shared it was set by RWQC. Sharman Herrin, WTD Government Relations, added RWQC is wanting to have tools in place recognizing we have rate development this year. We also have the Clean Water Plan restarting this

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coming year and rate increases in the capital program. Having tools with a longer view sooner will help in decision making recognizing the trajectory WTD is on.

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

Chair McClellan advised members that an update would be provided on the October 25 General meeting date in the coming weeks.

7. General Announcements

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:44 a.m.