

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Start 10 a.m.
Adjourned 12 p.m.

1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – John McClellan

- a. Welcome and Introductions
- b. Determine Quorum
- c. Approval of January Meeting Summary (**Action Item**)
- d. Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Update
- e. Announcement of Chair of Comprehensive Engineering and Planning Subcommittee; Upcoming Vacancy for Chair of Rates & Finance Subcommittee

Chair John McClellan welcomed members to the meeting.

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

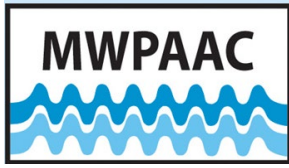
The January meeting summary was approved as written by voice vote.

Chair McClellan reported on the February 7 RWQC meeting. The following briefings were provided:

- WTD Director's Report - provided an update on status of WTD facilities, pending Nutrients litigation, WTD's biosolids permit including PFAS testing for biosolids and the effort by Ecology's biosolids group. Chair McClellan noted a Biosolids update is scheduled for the March Engineering & Planning Subcommittee meeting.
- Selection of RWQC Vice Chair - Councilmember Conrad Lee, Bellevue, was appointed. Councilmember Balducci serves as Chair.
- Introduction to the RWQC and the Regional Wastewater Treatment System.
- 2024 RWQC Work Plan.
- Status update on the long-term forecasting work requested by Motions 16410 and 16449.
- 2025 Rate-setting Policy Direction and Cost Drivers.

Chair McClellan reported that the Executive Board discussed filling the vacancy for the Chair for the Comprehensive Engineering & Planning Subcommittee. Since the appointment is to fill an unexpired term, the position is appointed by the MWWPAAC Chair. Jaclyn Knoth, City of Bellevue, has been appointed and has accepted. The Executive Board is happy to have her join the team. Also, at the Executive Board meeting Andy Baker announced he will be taking on a new role with Cascade Water Alliance. The Executive Board is looking for an interested member to serve as Chair for the Rates and Finance Subcommittee. Interested members need to send a letter of interest. Marla Erickson, WTD Executive Assistant, will send out an email with more information. The Executive Board hopes to make an appointment at the April 24 Executive Board meeting. Due to the vacancy, Vice Chair Maria Coe and Rates and Finance Subcommittee Vice Chair Gregg Cato will be leading the rate recommendation letter effort.

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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 the following items:

- Executive Constantine selected John Taylor as the new Director for the Department of Natural Resources and Parks. John most recently served as the Director of the Department of Local Services. WTD has been working to get John up to speed on WTD topics.
- WTD will continue the sewer rate discussion with today's presentation on the Preliminary 2025 Rate-setting Policy Direction and Operational and Capital Investments and the 2025 Sewer Rate briefing at next Thursday's MWWPAAC Rates and Finance Subcommittee meeting. Kamuron shared that he asked staff to wait on the second 10-year projection of the rate for now while WTD continues to work on the motions. The MWWPAAC Executive Board is also working on forming a workgroup to work on the long-term forecasting motion.
- State Legislative Session:
 - SB 6163 which is an updated version of the Biosolids bill that WTD was active on last year died in committee yesterday. WTD is uncertain what may happen next session but will continue tracking.
 - King County is part of a coalition working with the University of Washington supporting a budget proviso that would investigate how to optimize a mobile method to detect PFAS in consumer products. Proviso included in the House budget and we are hoping it will be included in the Senate budget.
- WTD is looking at conducting a rate payer survey and would like to coordinate with any agencies undertaking any survey work this year. The overall goal is to gauge knowledge and understanding of King County wastewater services; sentiment and perception of services, products associated with recovered resources (biosolids, recycled water); ratepayer priorities and expectations for WTD services and investments; environmental values and priorities; and preferred channels of communications. King County and the local sewer agencies serve a population of diverse customers and this information would be helpful for communication efforts. Kamuron asked members to notify Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, of any upcoming survey work.

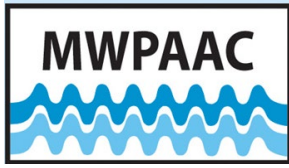
Kamuron shared a short video on WTD's Operation in Training Program. The program has been recognized by the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) and has been a very successful program for WTD.

3. Subcommittee Reports

February 1 Joint Subcommittee Report

- Discussion of Long-term Capital Needs Methodology Recommendation
- Preliminary 2025 Rate-setting Policy Direction and Operational and Capital Investments

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4. Discussion and Vote on Long-term Capital Needs Methodology Recommendation Letter, Ben Marre, Engineering and Planning Subcommittee Vice Chair (Action Item)

Ben Marre, Comprehensive Engineering and Planning Subcommittee Vice Chair, presented the draft MWWPAAC recommendation letter on Long-term Capital Needs Methodology and reviewed the process to draft the letter. The draft letter was sent out to MWWPAAC members the week prior with meeting materials. Ben reported there had been some suggested changes received from members that will be presented in redline.

A motion was made and seconded to introduce the letter. The motion carried.

Ben reviewed proposed redlined changes on the first page of the recommendation letter. Discussion followed.

Ben asked if there were any members that wanted to introduce any additional amendments. No members introduced amendments. Ben asked if there was any further discussion before a vote.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the first page amendments. The motion carried by voice vote.

Ben reviewed proposed redlined changes on the second page of the recommendation letter. Discussion followed.

Ben asked if there were any members that wanted to introduce any additional amendments.

Mary Shustov, Sammamish Plateau Water, introduced one amendment removing the words “and MWWPAAC agrees” in the first sentence, second to the last paragraph. She also requested a change to the second sentence without specific language. Discussion followed.

Andy Baker, City of Bellevue, suggested an edit based on Mary’s comments to the second sentence (same paragraph) to read “The forecasting methodology, with MWWPAAC’s recommendations bulleted above, will build on WTD’s strengths, and will position WTD well for a Long Term Financial and Sewer Rate Forecast and updating the Regional Wastewater Services Plan.” Discussion followed.

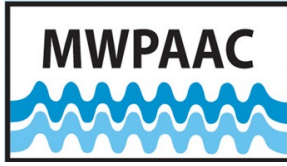
Cynthia Lamothe, Skyway Water and Sewer District suggested removing the word “more” in the last sentence of the second bullet. Discussion followed.

A motion was made and seconded to accept the second page amendments. The motion carried by voice vote.

Ben asked for any additional amendments from the floor. No additional amendments were proposed.

Chair John McClellan made a motion to approve the Long-term Capital Needs Methodology Recommendation letter as amended. Cynthia Lamothe, Skyway Water and Sewer District, seconded. Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, took a roll call vote. The motion carried unanimously (16-y/0-n).

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The recommendation letter will be finalized and MWPAAC members will receive a copy.

5. Preliminary 2025 Rate-setting Policy Direction and Operational and Capital Investments, Andres Bas Moore, Rates Modeling Supervisor, WTD; and Crystal Fleet, Capital Portfolio Planning and Analysis Unit Manager, WTD

Andres Bas Moore, Rates Modeling Supervisor and Crystal Fleet, Capital Portfolio Planning and Analysis Unit Manager presented on the Preliminary 2025 Rate-setting Policy Direction and Operational and Capital Investments. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The presentation provided an update on the following:

- Goals, Background and Assumptions
- Preliminary Changes to CIP
- Preliminary Changes to O&M
- Preliminary Rate Impacts
- Questions & Next Steps

Andres and Crystal answered questions from members.

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

Chair McClellan asked members for new business or future topics. It was proposed that DNR Director John Taylor be invited to a future meeting for introductory purposes. Chair McClellan agreed to adding that topic.

7. General Announcements

Chair McClellan reviewed the process that will be followed in drafting MWPAAC's Rate Recommendation Letter to the Executive. The timeline is compressed. WTD's final rate proposal will be shared at the March 7 MWPAAC Rates and Finance Subcommittee meeting. MWPAAC will have two weeks to draft the letter. An email will be sent to members requesting input. The draft is due to WTD on March 20 to include with the March 27 MWPAAC meeting materials. The recommendation letter will be voted on at the March 27 general meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.