

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

Start 10 a.m.
Adjourned 11:36 p.m.

1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – John McClellan

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of February Meeting Summary (**Action Item**)
- Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Update
- Vacancy for Chair of Rates & Finance Subcommittee

Chair John McClellan welcomed MWWPAAC members to the meeting.

Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, took attendance by roll call. A quorum was in attendance.

The February 28 MWWPAAC Meeting Summary was approved as written by voice vote.

Chair McClellan reported on the March 6 RWQC meeting. He highlighted the following briefings and discussion topics:

- The MWWPAAC letter regarding Long-term Capital Forecasting Methodology was presented
- 2025 Wastewater Treatment Division Proposed Sewer Rate
- Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update
- Wastewater Treatment Division Long-Term Capital Forecasting Methodology Recommendation
- RWQC discussion on a new motion to clarify the roles of RWQC and MWWPAAC related to their view of the annual sewer rate – more to be shared later on the agenda
- RWQC Work Plan discussion

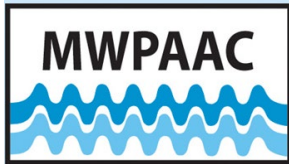
Chair McClellan reported there is still a vacancy for Chair of the Rates & Finance Subcommittee and the Executive Board is accepting letters of interest. An email was sent out to members with specifics as to what the Executive Board is looking for with this position.

Chair McClellan reported the Executive Board is working on general education items for upcoming meetings and looking for topics of interest from members. Members are encouraged to reach out to anyone on the Executive Board with suggestions. The Executive Board is having a retreat in May for work planning and requests topics of interest be submitted before then. Some topics of interest that have been raised include contracts, the RCE factor, and the capacity charge.

2. Introduction of Department of Natural Resources and Parks Director (DNRP), John Taylor

John Taylor, DNRP Director, introduced himself and shared that his appointment was confirmed by Council the previous day. He reported that he's been taking time to introduce himself and meet with

Next MWWPAAC General Meeting is April 24, 2024, via MS Teams



METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

division staff and visit/tour facilities. He is taking things in and is in learning mode. He shared that he comes to this position with a fair amount of utilities experience having worked for the Seattle City Council and Seattle Public Utilities, and more recently as the Deputy Director for DNRP's Water and Land Resources Division. However, this is his first experience in wastewater. He emphasized the important role of MWWPAAC as customers critical to WTD's success and as valued partners. He understands the rate and long-term vision have a lot of critical investments. He'd like to spend more time with members to see what is working and what is not working. He very much appreciates MWWPAAC's partnership and looks forward to working with everyone. He added that he's an ally in trying to keep rates down.

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

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director, reported on a media event that will be held on March 28 at West Point (WP). Leaders from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will join Congressional staff and the County Executive for a press conference to highlight WTD's receipt of a significant low interest loan commitment through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA). Nearly half will support projects at WP and the rest will support other projects. A tour will be provided and highlight projects at WP that the loan will support. The WIFIA loan will save an estimated \$78.8M in interest costs and potentially more if interest rates reduce in the coming years. This is WTD's third WIFIA loan with past loans for Georgetown and the joint Ship Canal Water Quality Project.

Kamuron shared that he'll be participating in National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Water Week and Water Policy Fly-in in April to meet with Congressional leaders and tour local facilities. WTD has hosted tours for congressional staff from the Washington delegation, and have met virtually with them, providing an opportunity to share WTD's message. The message is that more federal funding, ideally with grants or forgivable loans, is needed to pay for the investments required by federal statutes, projects to accommodate growth, and projects to keep the system in a state of good repair. WTD also hopes the EPA will encourage states to provide direct assistance to low-income families through the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF) loan program. WTD will keep MWWPAAC apprised.

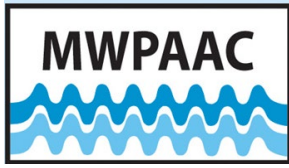
Kamuron informed members that he has a conflict today and has asked Jim Simmonds, the supervisor of the Combined System and Utility Planning Group, to provide the Regional Water Services Plan (RWSP) briefing on the agenda today. WTD will keep MWWPAAC in the loop as WTD provides updates on the RWSP to RWQC.

Question:

Q: With respect to the federal delegation, what can cities do to assist in the messaging?

A: WTD would be delighted to work with MWWPAAC, individual cities, and RWQC to articulate the need. Sharman Herrin, WTD Government Relations, can work with members to coordinate. Kamuron emphasized that the effort will likely need to be undertaken over several years. Right now, the emphasis is on getting a message of need out and opening discussions.

Next MWWPAAC General Meeting is April 24, 2024, via MS Teams



METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

4. Subcommittee Reports

March 7, 2024, Rates and Finance Subcommittee Report

- Proposed 2025 Sewer Rate Briefing

March 7, 2024, Engineering and Planning Subcommittee Report

- Nutrients Update
- Biosolids Update

5. Discussion and Vote on 2025 Sewer Rate Letter to the King County Executive, Gregg Cato, Rates and Finance Subcommittee Vice Chair (Action Item)

Gregg Cato, Rates and Finance Subcommittee Vice Chair, discussed the process used to draft the rate recommendation letter. He also reviewed the process to introduce edits – 1) members would need to provide specific language; 2) a motion would be required to introduce edits as amendments and then discussion would occur; 3) a motion would be required to accept the amendments; and 4) a vote would be required to determine if the motion fails or carries.

Gregg noted that the first order of action is a motion to waive the seven-day requirement in the bylaws. The bylaws require that materials that require action, be sent out seven days in advance of the meeting.

A motion was made and seconded to waive the seven-day bylaw requirement. The motion carried by voice vote.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the MWWPAAC Rate Recommendation Letter to the King County Executive for discussion. The motion carried by voice vote.

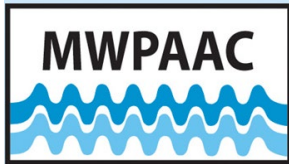
Gregg asked if there were any members who wanted to introduce any amendments. No members introduced amendments. Gregg asked if there was any further discussion before a vote. Members provided comments.

Gregg Cato, Alderwood Water and Wastewater District made a motion to approve the rate recommendation letter as written. Ben Marre, Seattle Public Utilities seconded. Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, took a roll call vote. The motion carried (16-Yeas, 1-Nays, 1-Abstain).

6. Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update, Jim Simmonds, Comprehensive Planning Supervisor

Jim Simmonds, Comprehensive Planning Supervisor, presented the RWSP update to MWWPAAC. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The updated provided information on the following:

Next MWWPAAC General Meeting is April 24, 2024, via MS Teams



METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

- Purpose of briefing
- Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) elements
- Need for plan update
- Revised process, vision for clean water
- Key roles and coordination
- Next steps

Question/Answers/Comments:

Q: Is RWQC a mandatory referral?

A: It's up to legal counsel for the Council. It is County policy which goes to Council.

Q: How will WTD get new RWQC members up to speed on current policy?

A: Kamuron presented in February on "what is wastewater treatment." Several meetings have also been held offline to help bring them up to speed.

Kamuron also shared that WTD's goal is to not to piecemeal RWSP updates. The first phase will include minor edits and clean-up of the RWSP, which WTD is hoping will be straight forward. WTD is looking to do the second phase of more in-depth updates all at once.

Comment: Same concerns about piecemeal. Would like more information on what phase 1 and phase 2 look like and when MWWPAAC and RWQC members will be engaged. Also, more detailed timelines would be helpful.

A: More information will be shared at RWQC next week and that information will be brought back to MWWPAAC. WTD will also provide regular updates at the Comprehensive Engineering & Planning Subcommittee meetings.

Comment: Great that the process is being reinitiated. Suggest the process include sufficient time for members to review information and contribute.

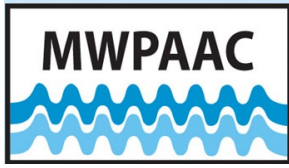
A: Agree.

RWQC has drafted a resolution that will clarify roles. It will be up for a vote at the April 3 RWQC meeting. Chair McClellan will share more on the resolution later in the agenda. In essence, RWQC is putting in writing what MWWPAAC already does. Neither MWWPAAC nor RWQC have authority over one another. MWWPAAC doesn't have any authority but can make recommendations.

7. Overview of RWQC Resolution on RWQC's Role on the Sewer Rate, John McClellan, MWWPAAC Chair

Chair McClellan provided an overview of the draft RWQC resolution, which clarifies the roles, collaboration, and efficiency between RWQC and MWWPAAC in the review of the annual sewer rate and capacity charge with MWWPAAC serving as the technical reviewer. The resolution will be considered for possible action at the April 3 RWQC meeting.

Next MWWPAAC General Meeting is April 24, 2024, via MS Teams



**METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Meeting Summary

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

Chair McClellan asked members for new business or future topics. None were proposed.

9. General Announcements

Chair McClellan shared he'd be happy to discuss the Rates & Finance Subcommittee Chair vacancy with any interested members. Members can reach out to him directly.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:36 a.m.