

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Wednesday, April 24, 2024

**Start 10 a.m.
Adjourned 11:01 a.m.**

1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – John McClellan

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of March 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 and the March meeting summary was approved as written by voice vote.

Chair McClellan reported on the April 3 RWQC meeting. MWWPAAC's sewer rate letter was reviewed and he answered a few questions. The Chair noted that, Gregg Cato, Rates and Finance Subcommittee Vice Chair, will lead today's discussion/review of the sewer rate letter to the King County Council. WTD also provided the following briefings at RWQC:

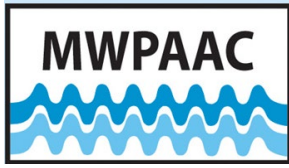
- Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update
- Wastewater Treatment Division Long-Term Capital Forecasting Methodology Recommendation
- Overview of the policies that determine how regional water system costs are shared and the sewer rate and capacity charge structures – Chair McClellan suggested that this briefing be provided to MWWPAAC at a future Rates & Finance Subcommittee meeting

Chair McClellan reported there is still a vacancy for the Chair of the Rates and Finance Subcommittee. The position will be appointed by the Chair since it will be filling an unexpired term, per the MWWPAAC bylaws. The Executive Board is planning to review this role as well as other roles on the Executive Board at the May 10 Executive Board Retreat.

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

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director, reported that he participated in the National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) Water Week and Water Policy Fly-in the week of April 8. He met with several Washington's Congressional delegation members and was joined by WTD Finance and Administration Manager, Courtney Black, and Seattle Public Utilities' Deputy Director for Drainage and Wastewater, Ellen Stewart. The meetings were positive and they shared a combined message - new 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.

Next MWWPAAC General Meeting is May 22, 2024, via MS Teams/WTD South Treatment Plant



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Kamuron shared that WTD received a significant low interest loan commitment through the Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA), which WTD welcomes, but higher sewer rates are still required to pay back those loans. He also visited Washington DC Water's Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Plant and Alexandria, VA's AlexRenew Wastewater Plant. Both utilities treat for nutrients. Kamuron shared it was very helpful to see the sites and see what peer agencies are doing in an effort to ensure WTD stays on the leading edge of wastewater utilities.

Kamuron reported on the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) update. The new process and how WTD engages MWWPAAC will be discussed at the May MWWPAAC Executive Board Retreat. This will not be a quick process and WTD will need engagement from RWQC and MWWPAAC. WTD will keep MWWPAAC engaged as updates are provided to RWQC and WTD will work to maximize the strengths of both committees.

3. Subcommittee Reports

April 4, 2024, Rates and Finance Subcommittee Report

- Discussion of 2025 Sewer Rate Letter to the King County Council

April 4, 2024, Engineering and Planning Subcommittee Report

Industrial Waste Program Overview

4. Discussion and Vote on 2025 Sewer Rate Letter to the King County Council, 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 sewer rate letter to the King County Council. 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.

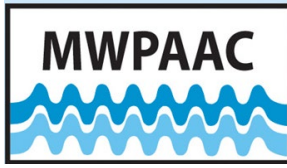
Gregg noted that the first order of action is a motion to waive the seven-day requirement in the bylaws. The bylaws require that materials that require action, be sent out seven days in advance of the meeting.

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

Cynthia Lamothe, Skyway Water and Sewer District made a motion to introduce the MWWPAAC rate letter to the King County Council for consideration. John McClellan, Alderwood Water and Wastewater District seconded. The motion carried.

Gregg reviewed the context of the letter and 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. Hearing none, voting proceeded.

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Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, took a roll call vote. The motion carried (18-Yeas, 1-Nay).

5. **Capacity Charge Methodology Study Review**, Joe Crea and Vanessa Waller, Raftelis

Courtney Black, Finance and Administration Manager, provided background on the Capacity Charge Methodology work previously completed before the pause. The capacity charge work was paused during the Clean Water Plan process due to the linkage between both projects. There was substantial progress made in the first phase going into 2021. WTD previously heard from stakeholders that there is not a way for meaningful feedback until numbers are applied to the methodologies and the policy implications are defined. Today, Raftelis will provide an overview of the previous work as we get ready to engage with MWWPAAC and move into the next phase. WTD will start developing data and inputs that will help in calculating the charge. This work will be completed prior to the completion of the RWSP update. There will also be a reestablishment of the MWWPAAC workgroup and engagement. Courtney introduced Joe Crea and Vanessa Waller from Raftelis who will review the work.

The full presentation can be found [here](#). The presentation provided the following updates:

- Introduction
- Project drivers
- History of current methodology
- Where we're at now
- Where we're headed: alternative methodologies
- Next Steps

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

Chair McClellan asked for any new business or proposed future topics. He encouraged members to reach out to Executive Board members with any topic ideas for upcoming meetings.

7. **General Announcements**

Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, announced the May 22 MWWPAAC General meeting will be held at WTD's South Treatment Plant in Renton. More information will be provided soon. Chair McClellan requested WTD consider hosting a hybrid meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:01 a.m.

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