

# MWPAAC Comprehensive Engineering & Planning Subcommittee

June 6, 2024 Meeting Summary

## Agenda:

- 1. Welcome & Introductions – 9:40am (5 min)**  
**Jaclyn Knoth, Engineering & Planning Subcommittee Chair**
- 2. PFAS and Contaminants of Emerging Concern – 9:45am (45 min)**  
**Erika Kinno, Policy and Research Supervisor, WTD**  
**Megan Smith, Clean Water Habitat Lead, King County**

Erika and Megan presented on PFAS and Contaminants of Emerging Concern of behalf of WTD and the County. A slide deck accompanied the presentation of which a PDF was provided to MWPAAC attendees on June 4<sup>th</sup>.

The presentation provided a quick review of PFAS and CEC's, as well as topics effecting WTD and the regional impact. Topics included:

- Refresher on PFAS and CEC's
- Overview of KC Motion 16434, and the 9 actions to achieve the goals of the county.
- WTD's responses to the actions
- Countywide steps and overall efforts

Details on the motion, actions, responses, and ongoing efforts are available in the provided slide deck.

## Questions & comments:

- **Emily Flannegan (Via Chat function)** – Could you please include the Sammamish River vs. Recycled Water report to the chat?
  - **Erika Kinno** – We are currently finalizing the report, once it becomes available, I can reach out to Olivia to share with MWPAAC.
- **Susan Saffery** – Are there any current discussions on what you will bring for your state legislative efforts this year? And I would like to offer our agencies assistance or participation.
  - **Megan Smith** – We currently have an internal CEC team working to prepare our priorities for the legislative session.
- **John McClellan** - Based on where we are at now with the motion and PFAS and biosolids – do you have a sense of when you will see a reduction in concentration of CECs or PFAS leaving treatment plants?

- **Erika Kinno** – At this time we are not treating PFAS, but with the product bans and other source control efforts we expect to see an impact. We are also seeing retailers take action, for example REI's commitment to exclude any PFAS products from their retail lines.
- **John McClellan** – Absolutely. I was wondering if you have made any projections based on those facts, and in the context of biosolids for land use?
  - **Erika Kinno** – At this time we don't have projections.
- **Kamuron Gurol** – Thanks to you both, this was a great presentation, good helpful information.

I really want to share a few points on this topic.

- This is systemic, we all have a stake in this. We want to try and deal with this issue upstream. To reduce costs of WTD mitigation, which ultimately impact wholesale customers as well, individual efforts to mitigate upstream are one of largest efforts that can drive change. This partnership needs to be whole and start ahead of the treatment process. We would like to hear what other agencies in MWPAAC are doing in terms of source control. I'm asking MWPAAC to take this message back to your home agency.
- We are working in DC on CERCLA and reliability. So far, we have guidance from EPA to not take action against treatment and drinking water purveyors. We hope to see other agencies to also prioritize this with your own legislative agendas.
- We plan to report back to RWQC later this year, waiting for agenda space. Possibly in July we will be talking in that forum and encourage members here to talk to their local electeds and participate in that forum.
- We should approach this with a public health frame, work to focus our attention on the biggest public and environmental health impacts. Maybe it's biosolids or recycled water, maybe another area. We should be looking to put our effort to the areas of greatest impact, as well as education of the public to take actions in their homes. I am concerned about future costs and impacts and encourage us all to work together on this issue.
- **John McClellan.** – Thanks, Kamuron, as KC and WTD work on legislative efforts, I would ask that you please share those efforts with MWPAAC so we can help and participate.
- **Jay Krauss** – Federal Register says EPA is going to be developing a program with a questionnaire and pilot sampling program for PFAS. Is WTD aware of and/or participating in this effort?
  - **Erika Kinno** – Yes, we are aware, and EPA put the questionnaire out for comment. It looked standard and we did not submit comment. WTD has three treatment plants included on the EPA list. We expect to be responding to the questionnaire and participating in the associated sampling.
- **Jay Krauss** – We have mentioned source control a few times, while PFAS is a hot topic, it's still a developing issue for wastewater. There are really two source control points, what goes into the effluent, and what goes out in the discharge. For agencies contributing flows, some guidance and recommended actions or where to gain more information about what comes from the effluent is needed. DOE has set standards for prior state action limits and now apply to EPA MCLS standards to drinking water, but if our regional system is generating biproducts and we are perpetuating these

contaminants. Hopefully there are eyes on the EPA's test results on environmental standards for WTD.

- **Erika Kinno** – Looking at specific dischargers, in the NPDES permit for West Point there was requirement for WTD to work with industrial discharges and their use of PFAS products, ultimately working to reduce. We also hope to work on investigation in our sewer sheds. Research shows the small amounts of contaminants from homes and non-industrial businesses cumulatively can have a big impact. Also, looking at what's coming from our filtration points, such as drinking water agencies are also being asked to look at PFAS measurements.
- **Jay Krauss** – I may have shared this before – a Minneapolis study showed they found PFAS in 100% of their stormwater outfalls. So, this brings us back to II.
- **Ben Marre** – At Seattle we have pretty substantial source control program within the City – curious does the County have a similar Source control team for unincorporated areas such as the airport to track things down? And have you thought about developing best practices or similar type resources for us as a region to help drive change?
- **Erika Kinno** – We have our industrial waste program working with the airport, landfill, and other large industrial dischargers but the limitation we have is the lack of regulations that are enforceable on industrial users. It's a monitor situation. The new West Point permit does require us to coordinate with industrial users to work on best practices.
- **Megan Smith** – From the internal County coordination standpoint – we have agencies impacted by requirements and agencies that can work in partnership with the community, non-profits, and universities to prevent CECs from entering our environment in the first place. We have a strong PFAS and 6PPDQ team, and several other agencies in the County working together on this issue. We are seeing it's a lot of staff time and effort, so we are working on a framework for addressing the highest risk CEC's first and looking to coordinate legislative and regulatory efforts. We have an opportunity to bring things like 6PPDQ into some of our other environmental preservation efforts as well, like fish passage projects. We are happy to share legislative interests plus communication tools that we are development for CECs including PFAS. Feel free to reach out to me.
- **Kamuron Guroi** – I appreciate the partnership on this I would be interested in hearing from folks like Jay Krauss, who have had PFAS in his system and can share their story to help us understand what they had to do. I believe this would be very helpful and educational for the WTD team. I would ask or propose we use an upcoming subcommittee meeting. That would be beneficial as we go forward, we also do legislative agenda for the County in the summer. I'm thinking about how we coordinate timing of this as we prepare for legislative agenda items. We want to use our voice and time our voice for it to be strongest.

### 3. Engineering & Planning Adjournment

10:30

No additional comments, E&P Chair Knoth called for adjournment.

**The Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.**