

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Wednesday, August 28, 2024

Start 10 a.m.
Adjourned 11:53 a.m.

1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – John McClellan

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of June Meeting Summary (Action item)
- Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Update
- WaterWorks Committee Vacancies (future Action item)

Chair John McClellan welcomed members to the meeting.

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

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

Chair McClellan provided an update on the July 15 RWQC meeting. Agenda topics included:

- Briefing on Combined Sewer Overflow Consent Decree Modification
- Briefing on Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) Update

The September 4 RWQC meeting will be an in-person meeting. The agenda will include planning and scoping for WTD's Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) update process. There is a desire to focus on the higher-level policies at this point. Chair McClellan will report out at the next MWWPAAC General meeting.

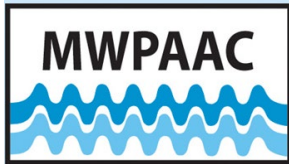
Chair McClellan announced there are two vacancies on the Waterworks Grant Ranking Committee - one for a sewer agency and one for the City of Seattle. WTD will need a completed application form and letter of interest. Applicants will be voted upon at a later meeting. The application form and information on the WaterWorks program will be sent out by WTD.

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

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director, reported on the following items:

- August 15, Heathfield Pump Station incident – there was a mechanical failure that resulted in a line break in one of the two underground force mains. Crews were able to stop the overflow in 20 mins. The overflow entered Squibbs Creek (also known as Vasa Creek) and continued into Lake Sammamish. Standard protocols were followed, signs were posted, and water samples taken. The area reopened on August 22. Temporary repairs were made within 48 hours. This particular force main is an older one from 1983. WTD is working to clean out the creek and

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stormwater vault. WTD will continue to work with appropriate state agencies to see if any additional restoration work is needed.

- First Amendment Auditors – WTD has been receiving phone calls and visits from people referring to themselves as First Amendment auditors. These folks can show up at plants and facilities, which can be disconcerting for staff. They show up in areas that are generally not open to the public wearing military type gear. WTD has made law enforcement aware of these events and is working to complete their public information requests. WTD is putting together a play book to provide guidance to staff. Several staff took the Municipal Research and Services (MRSC) training on How to Recognize and Respond to First Amendment “Audits. Kamuron will keep members updated.
- Congressional tours - WTD offered tours to Members of Congress and their staff in August. Staff from the offices of Senator Murray and Congresswoman DelBene toured facilities in Aust. These are great opportunities to continue the conversation and talk about federal funding.

WTD also hosted a Puget Soundkeeper Alliance tour at Brightwater. WTD has previously hosted them at South Plant and West Point. These tours help with awareness of issues (e.g., challenges at facilities) and help to build that relationship.

3. Subcommittee Reports

August 1, 2024, Joint Subcommittee Report

- Combined Sewer Overflow Consent Decree Modification
- Renton Reclaimed Water

4. Status Update: WTD Long-Term Financial and Sewer Rate Forecast (Motion 16449), Andres Bas Moore, Rates and Financial Planning Supervisor, WTD, and Crystal Fleet, Capital Portfolio Planning and Analysis Unit Manager, WTD

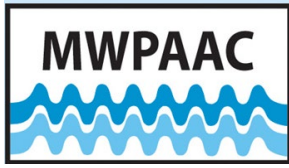
Andres Bas Moore, Rates and Financial Planning Supervisor, provided a status update on the WTD Long-Term Financial and Sewer Rate Forecast (Motion 16449). The full update can be found [here](#). This update is the same update provided to RWQC on July 15. Another update will be provided to RWQC in April 2025, and actions from the motion have to be delivered by July 2025. Andres reviewed major milestones achieved.

Questions/Answers:

Q: Can you talk a little bit more about the timing for the RWSP update and what’s dependent on that process?

A: Andres clarified, is the question having to do with the close coordination with the RWSP update group? Yes, such as capacity growth. It will be based more on high level assumptions and needs. The

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RWSP update will take longer and dive deeper into policy issues and actual cost will go into that. We will be talking to each other closely but will be running on parallel tracks.

Q: Curious about number 6. What comments are being sought from MWWPAAC? What is MWWPAAC's role?

A: MWWPAAC's role is in three main areas: implementation of recommendations into the financial forecast and tool; discussion on certain assumptions and inputs; and the way we transcend information.

Q: Modeling was being designed to take into consideration affordability. What can be afforded?

A: That impression came from consultant's report on Motion 1 and reflected the approach the consultants' documented from other agencies.

Q: Findings from initial motion: future forecasting was going to be based on historical asset costs modified by inflation. I think this area may need a secondary approach. Is WTD going to be evaluating the data available and implementation capabilities and open to other approaches, if necessary?

A: Yes, WTD would be open to other approaches that work. To clarify, inflation meaning construction costs. The other thing, short term (next 10 yrs.) we are using the actual project cost. Second step is a granular assessment by HDR of asset condition.

Q: Mentioned bringing on HDR for asset condition. Is there a scope on that yet? Will it cover all assets?

A: It has been scoped, originally part of the Asset Management (AM) work (for vertical facilities). As part of that work, we are going to do asset condition assessments at the facility and asset level. Updated information will be worked into asset useful life.

Q: Do you have a schedule in mind?

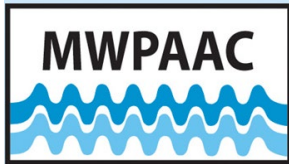
A: We are not expecting to have useful data until 2026. WTD has a team for linear assets and are working to build up that team.

C: Would like to understand more about what WTD is planning to do. For example, how is the data being collected, managed, synthesized into usable information? Would like at a future E&P, before 2026, to see what WTD is setting out to do. Maybe share lessons learned between all agencies. It's an important lift for AM.

Q: Looking at the timing of the long-term forecast, is there an active desktop data analysis that is going into the report while you wait for the new data? Looking at AM replacement and validation.

A: As far as the work HDR is working on, building up to a financial forecast, we do have within the scope of work a plan for validation of data. As far as the initial method, we are just looking at end of life data that we have accessible to us now, before we get the more informed forecast. The intent was to use HDR to validate that data.

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5. **Regional Wastewater Services Plan Scope, Janice Johnson, RWSP Update Program Manager, WTD**

Janice Johnson, RWSP Update Program Manager, presented an update on the RWSP. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The updated included information on:

Agenda:

1. Draft scope and schedule overview
2. Draft major policy issues/questions
3. Next steps

Questions/Answers:

Q: Can you give us an idea on item #4?

A: The task is to document and describe challenges and opportunities that will be very informative to the vision we are developing.

Q: We have eight steps, where does MWWPAAC fit in?

A: We developed the draft schedule because we are sharing information with RWQC on Sept. 4. We have had some initial conversations and need to have more, but plan to have additional touch points for MWWPAAC.

Q: Do you have input on MWWPAAC touch points, so WTD has appropriate input?

A: We will continue to talk about it and will discuss that at the RWQC workshop next week. This is coming together as we go. RWQC and MWWPAAC are on the same page regarding that input.

Q: Vision for clean water - I would think, establishment of the vision would be the first step before the other items. What is the reason for having the vision in the middle of the process instead of the beginning?

A: The vision will be developed concurrently, and the idea is that we'll have it in place to inform decision making. This may not be ideal as it is not sequential, but it will be used in technical planning.

C: It may be helpful if developed early.

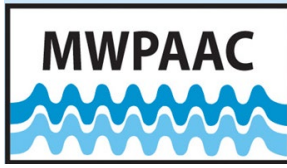
Q: How should we submit comments regarding the Word documents?

A: The Executive Board will discuss and provide an update.

C: Would suggest a category for major policy issues – those that are tied to the existing contracts. In the near future, we are going to start talking about the contracts before we start negotiating the contract.

Q: Where does decision making about levels of asset management/risk fit into the scenarios and policy decisions?

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A: To a certain degree, some sort of decision making will need to occur as we develop the three alternatives. Ultimately, the decision making will be made after the draft is issued and we start to receive comments.

A: The intent between the three alternatives is to show a continuum. The alternatives are trying to show distinct differences and after feedback there would be a decision-making process. That process hasn't been defined.

C: Some elements of being a pioneering utility look expensive. Maybe look through framework of best practice. It would be worth discussing - elements in each that fall under best practice. There is some resistance to this approach because of where the Clean Water Plan went. It would be good to talk through further.

C: If there was an order to the list of criteria? I'm concerned Finance/Affordability is at the end. Capacity is of high importance and should be moved towards the front if there's an order. Costs, infrastructure, and water quality may be missing.

A: There is no order to the bulleted categories. We hear you about the importance and inclusion of other items.

C: Vision component would and should inform how categories might be organized.

C: Some contracts expire in 2036., Curious as to how the discussion on that will resume (timing) relative to the RWSP process. Other thing on three alternatives, agree that "pioneering" might be way out there but I think future focus is really important and when you look at not waiting until the last minute in anticipating things that are coming. It's better to anticipate early on and to be looking at those opportunities.

C: MWWPAAC engagement over the year - opened eyes to seeking opportunities to plant seeds along the way for strategic enhancement for a pioneering utility. Hope the ESJ category can be expanded to equity amongst contract agencies.

C: Cascade Water Alliance has implemented ESJ with all contract agencies.

C: Would like to change requirement for issuance of MWWPAAC materials. Why can't they be sent a week in advance like RWQC materials?

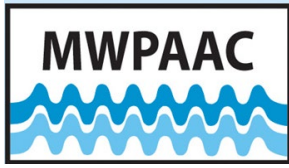
C: With MWWPAAC subcommittees coming up next week, the Executive Board suggests a continuation of this topic to allow for more input.

C: Love the comments about timeliness. It would be helpful to know when materials are distributed and how you want feedback. If that could be a standard process, that would be helpful.

Q: Where are major policy topics listed (e.g., I/I, AM investment)?

A: This is the list of categories, tabular format, under each there is more description (which included in additional information). Suggest all look at that table before next week's E&P meeting.

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C: What is the future capacity needed for growth? So much in this question, without trying to create so many more documents. Need to breakout questions. Hard to wrap head around what the analysis would look like.

C: Where are the big policy issues/questions? Need to draw those out of the policy issues and questions.

C: Agree, [there are] two sides to policy issues – the policy and how it's designed.

C: Infrastructure resiliency questions, are they best answered in an engineering analysis or is there a policy decision here?

C: Second question seems to lean more into the policy question.

C: Agree with John that some things are technical and when thinking about the realm of things, policy guides direction and the way things are carried out. Address what level of risk is acceptable - you have highly subjective levels and there are different kinds of risks. Operations, financial, enterprise, community, there's a lot that goes into that. Policies to guide risk tolerance would have to be very specific and granular. What principles are kept in mind when assessing risk?

C: There doesn't seem to be a lot of consideration for the amount of technical analysis needed. Doesn't see a gold bar for technical work on the schedule.

C: Important, when we look at risks and investment of existing assets. Best practice, one of the things you look at is level of service. If there is a strong level of service, provides good guidance for investments. Taylor investments towards levels of service.

C: What is the level of service is the policy decision.

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

Chair McClellan reiterated he'd like to bring the RWSP Scope topic back at the subcommittee meetings to continue the discussion.

7. General Announcements

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:53 a.m.

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