

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

General Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, October 23, 2024

Start 10 a.m.
Adjourned 11:46 a.m.

1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – John McClellan

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of August Meeting Summary (action item)
- Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Update
- Vote on WaterWorks Committee Vacancy – Kazia Mermel, representing City of Seattle (action item)
- Report from October 4 Executive Board Retreat

Chair John McClellan welcomed members to the meeting and shared there is a new process that will be followed for taking attendance. Attendance will no longer be taken by roll call. Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, will use the Teams participant list to take attendance going forward.

A quorum was in attendance and the August meeting summary was approved as written.

Chair McClellan reported on the October 2 RWQC meeting. The following briefings were provided:

- Regional Wastewater Services Plan Update: Status Report
- Executive's Proposed 2025 Wastewater Treatment Division Proposed Capital Improvement Program
- Stormwater Study Session: Part 1-Understanding the Stormwater Problem

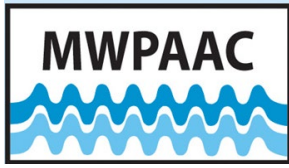
The briefing on Contaminants of Emergency Concern was deferred to a future meeting.

Chair McClellan asked for a voice vote to approve the application for Kazia Mermel for the City of Seattle position on the WaterWorks Grant Ranking Committee. Her application was included in the meeting materials and was approved by voice vote.

Chair McClellan reported on the October 4 Executive Board Retreat. Discussion topics included the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) update and makeup of the working group; meeting procedures including taking of attendance, voice roll call, and voting; and managing presentation questions. It was decided that questions related to the topics in the presentation will be entertained during presentation and other questions will be held until the end. The meeting Chair will facilitate calling on members who have raised their hands or put questions in the chat.

Chair McClellan reported that the RWSP working group has met and have begun discussions. The working group consists of a mix of cities and districts and members of the group include John McClellan, Alderwood Water and Sewer District; Ben Marre, Seattle Public Utilities; Ella Williams, City of Bellevue; Carly Joerger, City of Kirkland; Crystil Wooldridge, Woodinville Water District; and Andie Parnell, Sound Cities Association. The intent is to keep the group nimble to allow for better scheduling with a smaller group. Members can reach out to Chair McClellan with any questions. Darren Greve,

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WTD Government Relations, reported that October 9 was the first kickoff meeting. The first order of business is the Charter, with the intention of bringing the draft Charter to MWWPAAC at the next General meeting on December 11. The working group will be working with WTD planning staff, coordinating with MWWPAAC members, and interacting with the consultants on the vision process. Kamuron Gurol will share more about the collaboration and coordination of the groups.

Chair McClellan announced there is no MWWPAAC General meeting in November due to the holiday. The next General meeting will be December 11.

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

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

Nutrients Legal Update

On September 5, the Washington State Supreme Court issued a decision in one of the nutrient cases, Tacoma v. Washington State Department of Ecology – Ecology prevailed. Tacoma had objected to the permit on procedural grounds. This decision resolves a procedural concern but does not address a variety of substantive issues with nutrient regulation and litigation. The substantive issues will go back to Pollution Control Hearings Board (PCHB), under a consolidated appeal, that will now go forward. Trial is scheduled for October 2025.

Another related nutrient case involves an appeal of the West Point NPDES Permit by the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance. On May 30, 2024, the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance filed an appeal with the PCHB. Soundkeeper's appeal states that nitrogen effluent limits should have been included in the West Point permit. King County and Ecology are asking for a dismissal of the West Point permit appeal, or in the alternative are requesting a stay of the appeal, until the Puget Sound Nutrient General Permit (PSNGP) case is decided. A decision on the motion to dismiss is expected by the end of 2024. WTD continues to comply with all PSNGP requirements.

WTD Tours

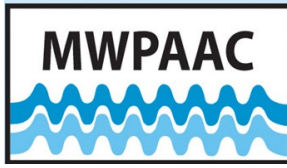
On September 16, the City of Seattle Customer Service Panel toured the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station. It was a great opportunity to highlight this facility and talk about investments in Seattle. Seattle Public Utilities leadership also joined.

On September 27, staff from Public Health – Seattle & King County toured West Point. WTD works frequently with Public Health on topics from overflow events to effluent testing to working together on PFAS.

West Point Power Quality Improvement Project Update

The Power Quality Improvement Project building is now up and running and WTD celebrated the milestone with an event on September 13. Attendees included EPA Region 10 Director Casey Sixkiller, King County Executive Dow Constantine, King County Councilmember Jorge Baron, Seattle City Councilmember Dan Strauss, and staff from U.S. Representatives Jayapal and DelBene offices. This

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is a very unique project, and it was delivered in record time – in three years versus five to seven years – and will help WTD ride through power fluctuations.

RWSP Working Group

The RWSP working group has been empaneled with MWWPAAC leadership and had a kick-off meeting on October 9. The working group will serve as a forum for MWWPAAC and RWQC member staff to work directly with WTD's RWSP project team. WTD also followed up on MWWPAAC's interest in a full Charter in lieu of Guiding Principles with anticipated completion by the end of the year. The Charter will provide a framework for collaboration and will include several components - shared values and guiding principles, roles and responsibilities, major topics and policy areas to be addressed, a high-level working schedule, and a process for how information will flow.

Kamuron thanked the MWWPAAC Executive Board for their time at the Executive Board Retreat, noting that it was a successful retreat.

3. September 4 and October 3, 2024, Subcommittee Reports

Jaclyn Knoth, Engineering and Planning Subcommittee Chair provided a brief summary of the September 5 Joint Subcommittee Meeting and October 3 Comprehensive Engineering and Planning Subcommittee meeting. Gregg Cato, Rates and Finance Subcommittee Vice Chair provided a brief summary of the October 3 Rates and Finance Subcommittee meeting. Meeting summaries were included with the meeting materials.

4. Stormwater: Understanding the Problem, Megan Smith, Environment and Water Quality Policy Manager, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP), and Angela Gallardo, Managing Supervisor, Environmental Program, DNRP Water and Land Resources Division

The full presentation can be found [here](#). The update included the following topics:

- Stormwater Management: Relationship to Wastewater Treatment
- Regional Stormwater Goals
- Stormwater Regulatory Framework
- Updated Municipal General Stormwater Permit
- Stormwater Funding
- Regional Collaboration Next Steps

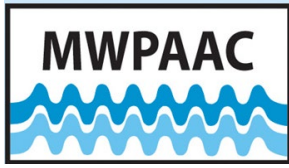
Questions/Answers:

Q: Why use PCB as contributor for models – are you looking at halogenated CECs?

A: Will consult with the Water Quality Benefits (WQB) on the evaluation tool and why they chose the PCB as a proxy and will get back to you.

C: Stormwater parks, love the idea. The PCBs are going to accumulate. These are underserved areas and not sure that's the most benefit.

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A: Yes, the contaminants are directed towards the facility the stormwater park exists around and we remove contaminants. (Presented an example of park that was built in collaboration of the community.)

Q: Have you looked at benefits of removal of 6PPD-qs to the wastewater system?

A: We've had conversations with other wastewater practitioners, rainwater, have not gotten into detail about wastewater treatment system. As a next step, will be looking at the Water Quality Benefit Evaluation (WQBE) toolkit.

Q: Are you able to quantify how much you are removing from what otherwise would be going to the wastewater?

A: Full pollutant load would not be removed. For Ecology approval, we have to meet 91% of removal.

Kamuron Gurol: Interested in other agencies work with stormwater and would like to continue the dialogue on this topic.

Q: Goals, participated in summit, are these broad regional goals that required Seattle to implement or are these County goals covered by the stormwater permit? Where is the funding coming to achieve the goals?

A: For early work on emission reduction commitments, we worked together as a region. If we look across the region, what would it take to get it done? Here's the scope of impact, what are the pieces we can carry forward as jurisdictions and which do we carry forward for changes in state law.

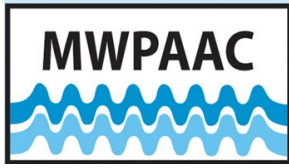
Q: Is there a possibility of having a technical session where King County can share more information with agencies? Also, hold a strategic meeting to discuss installation in other cities?

Q: Help us define the nexus to us as contract agencies. Some of us are not in the stormwater management business. It may be part of source control. Where and when will we identify policy issues that we have a role in and other primarily cities take care of their role? Agencies are a convenient source of funding for actions taken under other venues.

Kamuron Gurol: We have heard in general a strong interest at RWQC and MWWPAAC to note that we should treat water and understand how we manage water resources. Part of our system is combined so we are treating stormwater. Stormwater creates capacity needs and contaminants that need to be removed. What comes in the pipe matters to all of us. Everyone ends up paying for it when it comes into the regional system. The problem we have is color of money. Where do you fix it? Our general philosophy should be managing as upstream as possible, so we are not dealing with it at the end of the pipe – it's very expensive. We are trying to be responsive to both.

C: There's value in hearing from the stormwater folks at a higher program level to help inform our upcoming future discussions and the RWSP update that will include policy discussions.

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5. Regional Wastewater Services Plan Early Code Changes, Jim Simmonds, Supervisor of the Combined System and Utility Planning Group, WTD

Jim Simmonds, Combined System and Utility Planning Group supervisor, presented an update on the Regional Wastewater Services Plan Early Code Changes. The full presentation can be found [here](#).

The updated included the following topics.

- Draft Schedule
- Scope
- Next Steps

Questions/Answers/Comments:

Q: Is the redline document the extent of the early code changes?

A: Yes, generally housekeeping changes.

Q: How are these different than what was shared with RWQC in July?

A: WTD shared a list of 13 and have reduced the changes since then. We removed any thought to be potentially controversial, which shrank the list to eight.

Q: With respect to pilots and reports that were deleted; there will be questions as to what the results were and what are the next steps.

A: Will be included in comprehensive review and will not be stricken.

Q: Is this the entire universe of technical changes?

A: Correct.

C: When you open up something for technical change that's not always where it goes. What does the group gain by reviewing? What are the benefits of doing it now?

A: It's an early win in collaboration with the Executive, RWQC, and MWWPAAC. It puts us on a good foot forward.

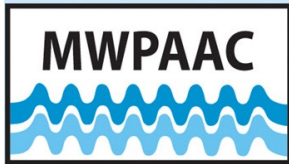
C: The work on the Charter will support that effort (collaboration). Technical correction not a good faith builder.

C: More of a personal opinion. Brightwater needs to be expanded for additional capacity. Haven't discussed the technical aspects of that.

C: Doesn't make sense to adopt the early code changes when we are already going to do a large comprehensive review. Can have unintended consequences with the process.

C: In agreement with other comments. Perhaps WTD takes to the E&P subcommittee to make a recommendation as to how to move this forward.

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A: The early code changes have been presented at RWQC multiple times, hesitant based on this conversation alone to make a change on how to best move forward.

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

Chair McClellan asked for any new business or future topics items. He reminded members they can reach out to him, any Executive Board member, or Olivia Robinson if they have topics they want to hear about.

A suggestion was made to bring the topic of Inflow/Infiltration and AI tools to a future E&P subcommittee meeting.

7. General Announcements and Meeting Adjournment

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:46 a.m.