

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

General Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams Meeting

Wednesday, January 28, 2026

**Start 10 a.m.
Adjourned 11:47 a.m.**

1. **MWWPAAC Chair's Report – John McClellan**

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of December Meeting Summary (Action item)
- Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Update
- Elections: MWWPAAC Chair and Chair of Rates and Finance Subcommittee (Action item)

Chair John McClellan welcomed MWWPAAC members to the meeting.

A quorum was in attendance, and the December 2025 meeting summary was approved as written by voice vote.

Chair McClellan reported on the January 7 RWQC meeting. The following briefings were provided:

- DNRP Director John Taylor reported on flood impacts
- A vice chair was elected – Laura Mork, City of Shoreline, will continue for a second year
- Introduction to the Regional Water Quality Committee and the Regional Wastewater Treatment System
- Regional Wastewater Services Plan Policy Framework

Chair McClellan announced elections as the next order of business.

Elections

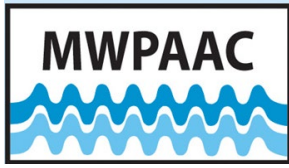
Nominating Committee Chair Maria Coe led the elections process for MWWPAAC Chair and Rates and Finance (R&F) Subcommittee Chair. Maria reviewed the two nominations that were sent out with meeting materials. John McClellan, Alderwood Water and Wastewater District, submitted a letter of interest for reappointment to MWWPAAC Chair and Matt Hobson, City of Bellevue, submitted a letter of interest for Chair of the Rates and Finance Subcommittee. The Nominating Committee met and reviewed the letters of interest. Both members are qualified with one being an incumbent. Maria asked for any additional nominations from the floor. No nominations were put forward.

MWWPAAC Chair

Maria Coe, Nominating Committee Chair, made a motion to nominate John McClellan for MWWPAAC Chair. Adib Altallal, City of Tukwila, seconded the nomination. John McClellan was unanimously reelected as MWWPAAC Chair by voice vote.

Chair McClellan thanked members for their support.

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Rates and Finance Subcommittee Chair

Maria Coe, Nominating Committee Chair, made a motion to nominate Matt Hobson for Chair of the Rates and Finance Subcommittee. Adib Altallal, City of Tukwila, seconded the nomination. Matt Hobson was unanimously elected as Chair for the Rates and Finance (R&F) Subcommittee by voice vote.

Maria gave special thanks to Gregg Cato, Alderwood Water and Wastewater District, for backfilling the R&F Chair position over the last year.

Matt Hobson, R&F Chair, echoed Maria's sentiment for Gregg's work and looks forward to working with MWWPAAC.

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

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director, reported on the WTD Sewer Rate process. During early 2026, WTD will be engaging with MWWPAAC in the rate process. Today is the first presentation and will focus on the goals, schedule, and assumptions for the 2027 sewer rate. The 2027 rate represents the first of the double-digit rate increases based on the forecast. The King County Executive, Council, RWQC, MWWPAAC members, and individual cities have expressed concern about the sustainability of the rate. WTD recognizes the affordability challenge the forecast presents and the need to balance those concerns with ensuring WTD meets regulatory requirements, as well as capacity and asset needs.

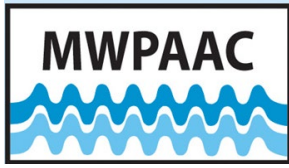
Next week at the MWWPAAC Rates and Finance Subcommittee meeting WTD will share rate scenarios that WTD was asked to develop with pros and cons. WTD needs to make sure the scenarios presented are doable. The scenarios required WTD to look at how costs could be reconfigured – with capital projects, WTD can't just turn the spigot off and on when the work has started. There are also added costs if projects are delayed.

WTD has a lot of work to do for this rate process and it's going to be more complex than past years. WTD is working to create a spectrum of scenarios and will produce a rate recommendation to review with MWWPAAC and RWQC and will be doing that as transparently as possible. The stacking problem remains the biggest issue with multiple demands from regulatory obligations, WTD's contractual obligations, and Asset Renewal and Replacement. There's a lot of focus on the regulatory obligation and the potential for renegotiating some of those things. WTD will start conversations with regulators, including the CSO Consent Decree, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits, and the pending nutrients permit.

Cost Management

Kamuron reported on WTD's Costs Management efforts. WTD takes the concern of rate affordability very seriously and is making some changes internally to address cost management. Managing costs is now a key component of how WTD plans and delivers work with every division

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section contributing to this effort. Kamuron recently communicated this directly to WTD staff and WTD is working to find efficiencies in capital projects and cutting back on overhead costs, including food and travel expenses - all the things that may be perceived as potentially wasteful. WTD will also be looking for opportunities to grow in-house skills and reduce the use of consultants and contractors, where appropriate. This is a multi-year journey that will evolve, and WTD will keep MWPAAC informed of internal efforts.

Nutrients Update

Kamuron provided a brief update on Nutrients. There has been some news on the nutrient front that is encouraging but not definitive. The Department of Ecology (Ecology) will not move forward with the Nutrient General Permit but will issue individual agency permits as part of the NPDES permits. Nutrient permit conditions will be similar to the Puget Sound Nutrients General Permit – including the yearly nitrogen limit, optimization, monitoring and planning for nitrogen upgrades through the submittal of the Nutrient Reduction Evaluation. Ecology also announced that they will not proceed at this time with finalizing the proposed long-term nitrogen regulatory framework outlined in the draft Puget Sound Nutrient Reduction Plan. Ecology will likely start with the West Point NPDES permit. WTD is having good conversations with other agencies including Alderwood Water and Wastewater District, the City of Tacoma, and others to bring the utility perspective to Ecology. WTD along with other Puget Sound utilities view this announcement as a positive and productive development.

With the sewer rate process, WTD will stay in touch with member agencies to keep them informed. WTD's communications team has reached out to schedule meetings with public information officers or similar staff from each agency and WTD will also be providing briefings to some member utilities.

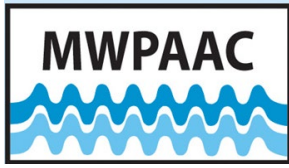
Lastly, WTD received word last week that King County received direct rebate checks from the Internal Revenue Service in the amount of \$4.76 million for the West Point Solar and Battery Storage. Kamuron acknowledged the good work of staff on this project.

3. **Subcommittee Reports**

January 8, 2026, Joint Subcommittee Report

- Director's Report
- Regional Utility Summit Discussion
- Recommendations for Independent Oversight and Update on Progress

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4. **Review of WTD Financial Modeling, Ed Cebron**

Ed Cebron, MWPAAC Consultant, presented the Status of WTD Financial Planning. The presentation was recorded and can be found [here](#). The presentation included:

- Scope of Effort
 - Review WTD Financial Planning Tools and Methods
 - Review Key Assumptions
 - Review Extent of Risk Assessment
 - Develop Practical Forecast Metrics

Ed also provided background on his professional experience and past work with MWPAAC.

5. **WTD 2027 Rate Strategy Discussion, Caitlyn Hall, Interim Chief Financial Officer, WTD**

Caitlyn Hall, Interim Chief Financial Officer, presented the 2027 WTD Rate Strategy and baseline assumptions. She noted today's presentation won't go into a great amount of detail as that will be shared next month. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The presentation included:

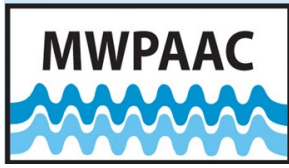
- Agenda & Calendar
- Goal for 2027 Sewer Rate Development
- 2027 Summarized Sewer Rate Schedule
- 2026 Adopted Sewer Rate and Financial Forecast (review)
- Key Drive: CIP and Regulatory Requirements (2026 Adopted Sewer Rate)
- Assumption and Scenarios
- Sewer Rate Model Inputs and Assumptions

6. **Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) Update - Policy Analysis Schedule for RWQC, Janice Johnson, RWSP Update Manager, WTD, and Darren Greve, Government Relations, WTD**

Darren Greve, WTD Government Relations, presented an RWSP Update on the Policy Analysis Schedule for RWQC to bridge what is happening at RWQC. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The presentation included:

- RWSP Policy Analysis for RWQC
- Policy Analysis Schedule
 - Policy Analysis #1 (March 2026) – will deliver a policy memo to RWQC and will be shared with MWPAAC as well

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Janice Johnson, RWSP Update Manager, added that WTD will continue to utilize the RWSP work group to help develop the policy memos, and MWPAAC will have a chance to review materials before WTD shares with RWQC.

Darren shared that MWPAAC is having an Executive Board Retreat on Friday, January 30 and a discussion topic will be to look at the MWPAAC work plan and its alignment with the RWSP schedule.

7. General Announcements, New Business, and Meeting Adjournment

No general announcements or new business items.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

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