

MWPAAC Comprehensive Engineering & Planning Subcommittee

February 5, 2025 Meeting Summary

Agenda:

1. Welcome & Introductions – 9:40 am (5 min)
Jaclyn Knoth, Engineering & Planning Subcommittee Chair

2. Nutrients Update – 9:45am (5 min)
Jacque Klug, Nutrients Management Coordinator, WTD

Jacque provided an update on the status of the nutrient general permit processes, ongoing evolution of the permit outlook, and recent collaboration efforts with Ecology. Highlights of the update included:

- Ecology announced that they are moving away from the nutrient general permit.
- The plan is to issue individual permits with facility specific nitrogen limits.
- This does mean the loss of the bubble permit approach, Ecology has stated they are not opposed to the bubble permit as a method but has not yet identified a way to incorporate that into the individual permit approach.
- Ecology will modify permits to adjust nitrogen limits, ideally limits will be within current capabilities of facilities.
- WTD's top priorities are understanding how nutrient limits will work in concert with projected growth, and the ability to maintain sustainable operating conditions.
- Ecology will not proceed at this time with the long-term nitrogen reduction plan but will perform additional evaluations and create coordination opportunities to finalize a long-term plan.
- Some current concerns:
 - Ensuring “current” loads and flows are calculated with considerations for non-standard events. (i.e. Westpoint reductions during Covid due to impacts on the areas served by the plant)
 - Working through inconsistencies between permit writers.

Follow up questions or requests:

N/A

3. Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) 101/Current Conditions: Climate Impact Preparedness and Natural Hazard Resiliency – 9:50am (45 min)
Janice Johnson, Darren Greve, John Abdalkhani, Nicole Smith, Heidi Sowell, Livia Spencer, and Emily Coleman, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD)

As part of the RWSP Update process and in support of the development of conceptual actions for capital investment categories, each of those categories provides a “101” presentation to anchor MWPAAC, RWQC, and other stakeholders in the current conditions and existing efforts.

Several WTD representatives participated in a shared presentation covering multiple focus areas under the umbrella of climate impact preparedness and natural hazard resiliency.

The presentation covered three major groupings: Natural Hazard Resiliency, Climate Preparedness, and Climate Change Mitigation. In each of the categories the presenters introduced the topics and described why these are important focuses for WTD, relevant policies, and the progress and accomplishments to date related to these topics.

Some of the highlights include:

- Completion of the Natural Hazard Resiliency study which includes a review of seismic, flooding/tsunami, landslide, and severe weather vulnerability in the current system for both underground and vertical assets with corresponding risk quantifications.
- Long-range outlook on climate changes in King County and an evaluation of the impacts to WTD’s infrastructure.
- Development of the 2025 Strategic Climate Action Plan (SCAP) which includes strategies and future investment plans to support climate preparedness.
- Future focus on climate mitigation policies and commitments to addressing topics such as energy efficiency, waste diversion, biogas optimization, emissions reductions, and alternative fuels.

This presentation was recorded and will be provided in the library of “101” presentations in coordination with the RWSP update process.

Next steps for the climate and natural hazard resiliency topic in the RWSP process are:

- April: Working group evaluation of policy questions and draft conceptual actions.
- May: Present draft actions to MWPAAC.
- June: Present draft actions to RWQC.

Follow up questions or requests:

Some group discussion and Q&A around coordinating capital investments in climate and natural hazard resiliency with asset management end of life upgrades.

4. Engineering & Planning Adjournment

10:55am

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

The Meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m.