

# METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## General Meeting Summary

**Microsoft Teams Meeting**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2026**

**Start 10 a.m.  
Adjourned 11:56 a.m.**

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

- Welcome and Introductions
- Determine Quorum
- Approval of January Meeting Summary (action item)
- Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) Update

Maria Coe, MWWPAAC Vice Chair welcomed members to the meeting. Vice Chair Coe chaired the meeting on behalf of Chair John McClellan today.

A quorum was in attendance. A motion was made and seconded to approve the January 28 meeting summary as written. The motion carried.

Vice Chair Coe provided a summary of the January 4 RWQC meeting. The following briefings were provided:

- An Overview of Water Quality in Puget Sound
- Wastewater Treatment Division's Preliminary 2027 Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge
- Discussion of 2026 Regional Water Quality Committee Work Program

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

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

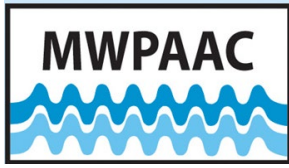
#### **Sewer Rate and Forecast**

Today MWWPAAC members will hear WTD's presentation on the 2027 sewer rate and forecast including additional rate scenarios as requested by RWQC and the County council. This year's process reflects the strong interest in financial sustainability and ratepayer affordability articulated by those groups, MWWPAAC members, and the Executive. The affordability challenge comes primarily from the increases to WTD's capital program driven by the Big 3 Drivers - regulatory and legal obligations, capacity improvements to meet contract requirements, and priority asset renewal and replacement needs. As WTD has described, multiple high-cost projects required during the same time period continue to lead to the 'stacking effect' and result in higher sewer rates.

WTD's financial staff and capital projects teams have worked hard to develop a spectrum of scenarios to illustrate the policy choices in front of us. A couple of things to keep in mind as this discussion gets underway:

- As of today, WTD doesn't have a division-proposed rate and all scenarios are illustrative only, they do not represent actual concrete proposals.

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- WTD's schedule shows a division proposal in March and the Executive's proposed rate at the end of April. The County Council needs to approve a rate for 2027 by the end of June and WTD is working to complete the analytical work, help inform discussions here at MWWPAAC, and working with the Executive's Office to get it done on time.

The scenarios allow WTD to look at how the timing of capital project expenditures could potentially be adjusted, to review pros/cons and tradeoffs, and to see at a high level where each would change the rate and/or reduce or create risk. The spectrum of scenarios is intended to address the required and suggested options WTD has heard. It's WTD's hope not to develop additional ones given the significant staff work involved in creating each scenario.

Any adopted rate and forecast will have real implications, projects will go forward or not, and risks will be addressed and compliance will be achieved, or not. And unfortunately, individual capital projects are not very nimble; WTD cannot just turn the spigot off and on without resulting large costs and complications. A lot of the CIP program by its nature is challenging to adjust. Deferring a project now may save costs now but will cost more in the future. One of the scenarios includes different timing for some of our CSO obligations, and I'll talk more about that during the presentation.

WTD's schedule will show WTD sharing a division proposed rate and forecast at the Rates and Finance Subcommittee next week. WTD expects to receive comments on the division proposal and encourages those comments and questions. That will be followed by a briefing with the Executive.

On Monday, WTD attended a City of Pacific meeting and is scheduled to meet with the City of Bellevue, and Seattle Customer Review Panel to provide rate briefings. Collectively WTD wants to take on this challenge together.

#### **Sewer Rate and Capital Work Plan**

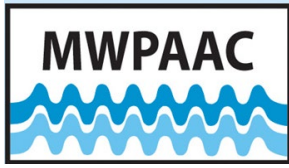
Kamuron provided highlights regarding WTD's progress on the Sewer Rate and Capital Work Plan. The status report will be sent out to MWWPAAC.

The work plan calls for King County to hire an independent third-party consultant to review WTD's capital program, including larger projects. The MWWPAAC Executive Board selected Ben Marre, Engineering and Planning Subcommittee Vice Chair, to participate in the consultant proposal and interview process. The RFP for the review is proceeding on schedule. WTD staff held a pre-proposal meeting earlier this month with 24 attendees representing six firms. WTD anticipates consultant selection and contract execution by June 2026 as scheduled. WTD will develop a detailed work plan for first-year priorities before the consultant begins work in July 2026.

#### **Staffing Updates**

Kamuron shared his screen and provided a short staffing update.

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As members may remember, WTD's Operations and Maintenance Section Manager, Rebecca Singer, moved over to Solid Waste to become their Division Director. Last year, Tom Bauer accepted the position of Operations and Maintenance Section Manager. Many of you may have met Tom on West Point tours, as he formerly served as the West Point Plant Manager. He left big shoes to fill, and WTD is happy to announce that Julio Rodriguez accepted that position in January. Both Tom and Julio have worked their way up through WTD. Tom started at West Point as a utility worker in 2006 and Julio went through WTD's Operator-in-Training Program in 2016. Kamuron also reported WTD has selected the new OIT cohort. WTD sent acceptance offers to 12 participants who will start in March. This is an on-the-job training program that is getting very popular. WTD had 634 applicants from all over the country. WTD is excited to see these new participants grow.

### 3. Subcommittee Reports

#### **February 5, 2026, Rates and Finance Subcommittee Report**

- Wastewater Treatment Division's Preliminary 2027 Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge

#### **February 5, 2026, Comprehensive Engineering and Planning Subcommittee Report**

- Nutrients Update
- Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) 101/Current Conditions: Climate Impact Preparedness and Natural Hazard Resiliency

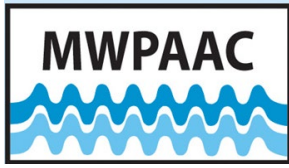
Matt Hobson, Rates and Finance Subcommittee Chair, shared the schedule for the MWWPAAC rate letter. The Rates and Finance Subcommittee will receive a briefing on March 5 on WTD's 2027 Proposed Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge. The Executive Board will reach out to member agencies for feedback and draft MWWPAAC's letter between March 18-23. The draft letter will be reviewed at the March 25 General meeting for approval.

### 4. **Wastewater Treatment Division's Preliminary 2027 Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge, Caitlyn Hall, Interim Chief Financial Officer, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD), Luke Slaughterbeck, Senior Financial Analyst, WTD, and Peter Sutton, Capital Portfolio Analyst, WTD**

Caitlyn Hall, Interim Chief Financial Officer, provided a briefing on the 2027 Preliminary Sewer Rate and Capacity Charge. She noted, this briefing is almost identical to the presentation that was given to Rates & Finance Subcommittee earlier this month. WTD will present WTD's proposed rate at next week's Rates and Finance Subcommittee meeting. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The briefing included information on the following:

- Calendar
- Assumptions for 2027
- Capital Scenarios
- Rate Forecast and Financial Analysis

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- Summary and Next Steps

Gregg Cato, Rates and Finance Subcommittee Vice Chair shared that he'll be sending out an email towards the end of this week with some general questions to respond to the Executive Board. There are four general questions.

1. Do you have a position?
2. Do you have a general position on trade-offs?
3. Is there any additional information you'd find helpful in the March meetings that could be presented by WTD.
4. Are there any other key messages that would be helpful to convey the region's response to the proposal.

The Executive Board is looking for general feedback. The letter from last year will be included for context. Vice Chair Coe added that final edits need to be made in advance of review on March 25.

- 5. Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) Update – Separated System Conveyance Policy Questions & Policy Options: Infiltration/Inflow, Population Growth, and On-site Septic**, Janice Johnson, RWSP Update Manager, WTD, Darren Greve, Government Relations, WTD, Johnson Nguyen, Separated System Conveyance Program Manager, WTD, Katie Stanchak, Separated System Conveyance Program Manager, WTD

Janice Johnson, RWSP Update Manager, introduced the RWSP topic – Separated System Conveyance Policy Questions & Options and WTD staff that would be presenting today. She reminded members, the Plan is for 2030-2060 and will help to shape future rates. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The briefing covered three Separated Conveyance policy questions and associated policy options.

1. Policy questions related to the management of inflow & infiltration (I/I)
2. Policy questions related to population growth and conveyance capacity
3. Policy questions related to conversion of on-site septic systems to sewer

**6. General Announcements**

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:56 a.m.

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