

CHARTER OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (MWPAAC)
adopted May 28, 2008

I. Statutory Basis

RCW 35.58.210

If a metropolitan municipal corporation shall be authorized to perform the function of metropolitan water pollution abatement, the metropolitan council shall, prior to the effective date of the assumption of such function, cause a metropolitan water pollution abatement advisory committee to be formed by notifying the legislative body of each component city and county which operates a sewer system to appoint one person to serve on such advisory committee and the board of commissioners of each water-sewer district which operates a sewer system, any portion of which lies within the metropolitan area, to appoint one person to serve on such committee who shall be a commissioner of such a water-sewer district. The metropolitan water pollution abatement advisory committee shall meet at the time and place provided in the notice and elect a chairman. The members of such committee shall serve at the pleasure of the appointing bodies and shall receive no compensation other than reimbursement for expenses actually incurred in the performance of their duties. The function of such advisory committee shall be to advise the metropolitan council in matters relating to the performance of the water pollution abatement function.

II. Mission and Purpose

The Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee (MWPAAC) will advise the King County Executive, the King County Council, the Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) and the County Council's standing committees on all matters relating to abatement of water pollution throughout King County's wastewater service area. MWPAAC's advice and recommendations will reflect the overarching goal of providing the most cost effective regional wastewater treatment and disposal service while protecting public health and the natural environment and accommodating the region's growth. MWPAAC's advice and recommendations will reflect the interests of the customer within the county's wastewater service area.

III. Reporting Relationships

RCW 35.58.210 reflects the initial governance structure for the metropolitan wastewater system, under which the metropolitan council was the sole governance entity. Metro's merger with King County means the system is now governed in accordance with King County's home rule charter. The county charter imparts governance responsibilities for metropolitan functions to both the King County Council and a directly elected King County Executive. Full realization of MWPAAC's advisory function therefore requires that MWPAAC will advise the County Council, the council's committees and the executive.

MWPAAC will communicate with the Executive through staff of the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) of the Department of Natural Resources and Parks—throughout the formulation of County Executive proposals. MWPAAC will report recommendations to the executive, the RWQC, the County Council, and the council’s standing committees as appropriate.

WTD will keep MWPAAC informed about the status of wastewater system programs and projects including, but not limited to, reports prepared for the County Council and/or the general public.

IV. Specific Goals and Objectives

MWPAAC will review and formulate recommendations related to various activities including, but not limited to, the subjects described in this section.

Planning and Capital Program

MWPAAC will make recommendations to WTD on scope of comprehensive system planning efforts such as the Regional Wastewater Services Plan, WTD policies, and future amendments thereto. MWPAAC will review assumptions (such as projected population and flow) used in such planning efforts and will make recommendations to WTD throughout plan and policy development. MWPAAC will make recommendations to the County Executive, the RWQC, the County Council and the council’s standing committees regarding final plans or policies and plan or policy amendments.

MWPAAC will review implementation plans such as operational master plan updates, asset management plans and conveyance system improvement updates. MWPAAC will review the annual wastewater capital program and the project prioritization process employed in the development of that program.

Finance

MWPAAC will review and evaluate financial policies and WTD assumptions used in determining King County’s established sewer rates, capacity charge, operating budget and capital programs. Following its review, MWPAAC will provide recommendations to the County Executive, the RWQC, the County Council and the council’s standing committees as appropriate.

General

MWPAAC will review existing and newly proposed programs, policies, processes, technologies, rules, regulations and other matters relating to performance of the water pollution abatement function.

V. Process

MWPAAC will adopt and maintain by-laws to govern its internal processes and conduct. The bylaws shall provide for election of officers, the functioning of its meetings and the establishment and functioning of any subcommittees it deems necessary and appropriate to carry out MWPAAC’s responsibilities.

The Chair of MWPAAC will be the spokesperson for delivery of MWPAAC's recommendations to the County Executive, the RWQC, the County Council and the council's standing committees. MWPAAC may also designate a vice-chair to perform the functions of the chair in the chair's absence. MWPAAC may also designate alternative spokespersons for specific subjects.

MWPAAC, in consultation with WTD, will prepare an annual Work Plan with timelines to be adopted by the membership that will identify subject areas for review and formulation of recommendations. MWPAAC will undertake various reviews in accordance with the annual Work Plan timelines.

WTD will provide such information as shall be essential for the completing of MWPAAC's work program within the timelines specified. WTD will provide information in as timely a fashion as is practicable to keep MWPAAC informed and enable it to provide its recommendation to the County Executive, the RWQC, the County Council and the council's standing committees.