



METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Bellevue City Hall
Room #1E-108

Thursday, May 22, 2013

10:00 –11:30

1. Chair's Report – Scott Thomasson

- a. Introductions
- b. Approval of April meeting summary (action item)
 - April 24 meeting summary approved unanimously

2. Wastewater Treatment Division Director's Report – Pam Elardo, P.E.

Lower Duwamish Update-

Pam thanked MWPAAC for their work on the Lower Duwamish comment letter to EPA.

Overflow from King County Pump Station located in downtown Kirkland- On May 2nd, an estimated 68,000 gallons of wastewater discharged for about an hour through an emergency outfall into Lake Washington near Marina Park, which prevented backups of raw sewage into homes and businesses. The overflow was caused by an unusual combination of circumstances that occurred when a transmitter failed to signal two of the station's pumps to begin operating. A third pump that normally engages when water levels rise experienced a clutch failure. An upgrade to this King County pump station is underway which will increase pumping capacity to accommodate growth from 6 million gallons per day (mgd) to a peak capacity of 9.4 mgd.

King County and Seattle/CSO flows-

SPU and WTD are continuing to work cooperatively as we discuss future projects required by our respective consent decrees.

Update on legislation at King County Council-

The CSO policy revisions were approved by Council this week. Pam thanked MWPAAC for their input and suggestions provided to WTD staff during the development of the revisions. Also approved were the fees for rental of the meeting spaces and rooms at the Brightwater Environmental Education and Community Center for private events.

The 2014 sewer rate was before the Budget and Fiscal Management (BFM) committee on May 21st. A copy of MWPAAC's letter to the Council was distributed to the Councilmembers at the meeting. The rate is expected to be recommended for approval by BFM at its next meeting in early June. The legislation will go to full Council for approval by the end of June.

WTD has legislation pending at Council that makes a number of changes to the code relating to the administration of the capacity charge. The legislation revises terms for consistency (e.g., property versus structure). It also clarifies the criteria for getting a credit when a structure is

torn down and more units are constructed its place. It also codifies existing policy regarding the application of credits when multiple structures are torn down for a large redevelopment project.

The capacity charge legislation also includes two substantive changes related to the discounted payoff amount and zero discharge structures. Rather than a fixed discount rate of 5.5% annually, the legislation amends the code to allow an annual discount rate to be determined each year (in December) reflecting fifteen-year mortgage and ten- and twenty-year investment rates. For zero discharge structures, the legislation defines these structures as an on-site wastewater treatment system that is designed to function independently of and not discharge to the public sewer system. Such systems are eligible for a modified capacity charge. If there is a discharge to the sewer system, the owner of the structure will pay a quarterly invoice or three months of the capacity charge. A single discharge event may not exceed 90 days. If there are three discharge events during any fifteen year period, the owner will pay the full capacity charge applicable in the year of the third discharge.

Upcoming FOG Conference

AS an FYI - Fat, Oils, Grease (FOG) conference will be held Wednesday, June 12 at the Tacoma Convention Center.

3. Subcommittee Reports

a. Engineering and Planning Subcommittee

- Status of the Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Water Quality Assessment and Monitoring Study (WQA)
The new project manager, Erica Jacobs, was introduced. WTD has put together the scope of work and a cost estimate for the WQA which will go Council in the next few weeks for approval. A Science and Technical Review Team will be assumed following approval of the scope. The Team will be comprised of local, regional and potentially national scientists. Water and Land Resources Division staff will be involved while WTD will manage the project.
- Presentation on the Regional Wastewater Services Plan (RWSP) and Conveyance System Improvement (CSI) Program Assumptions
-WTD staff discussed the planning assumptions WTD uses to forecast future flows. The background, purpose and need for the assumptions were discussed at the subcommittee. A briefing schedule was also reviewed as detailed discussions of the CSI update are planned through the summer and fall.
- Report on Options for a Summary Document (input requested)
At the May 2 subcommittee meeting, WTD staff, Debra Ross, presented the various options for the format of a summary document which were discussed and outlined during subcommittee discussions. The options include 1) a conventional large report; 2) a matrix document, and; 3) a web-based approach. There was a consensus from the subcommittee that the web-based approach would best meet their needs.

MWPAAC members offered a few comments in support of the web-based approach. There were also technical comments on the draft report. WTD staff will update the committee if there are substantive changes to the report as it moves through the Executive legislative process. Members discussed whether they would offer further

comment and it was suggested that MWPAAC offer any support or comments on the report verbally to the Regional Water Quality Committee once the report is at Council.

b. Rates and Finance Subcommittee

- MWPAAC recommendation letter to Councilmember Larry Gossett, Chair, King County Council regarding the 2014 sewer rate
MWPAAC's recommendation letter went to Council. The subcommittee still has some concerns with the 85% completion rate; the other 15% needs to be accounted for within the budget.
- Update on CSO Sequencing Proviso
Proviso requires WTD to explore the potential impacts of re-sequencing and/or accelerating projects since rate/costs are low. WTD staff is evaluating the financial impacts as well as the potential impacts and coordination with other projects. The analysis will include rate impacts and any associated regulatory, staffing, coordination, or human and environmental health benefits.

c. Advisory Subcommittee on Sewage Disposal Agreements

- No meeting was held

4. **Overview of the Executive's 2014 rate proposal** - Tom Lienesch, WTD Economist – (Informational)
Tom Lienesch discussed the 2014 sewer rate. The 2014 rate will again be \$39.79 per month. There is no increase from the 2013 rate. The capacity charge rate will be \$55.35 per month which is a 3.5 percent increase from 2013 to 2014, 3% thereafter.

Committee members had a number of questions regarding the components of the rate. It was suggested that the slide presentation be revised to show more clearly the use of the rate stabilization reserve.

5. Meeting Summation – Robert Tovar, WTD Facilitator

Robert summarized some of the follow up work needed to be done as a result of questions and comments during the meeting. Among the items:

- WTD Staff will pull together a "White Paper" to share with MWPAAC members outlining key elements on the newly opened *Bullitt Center – A Living Building Challenge* and its agreement with WTD regarding accessing our system and arrangements on the Capacity Charge.
- WTD staff will compile a list of non-CSO capital projects and format the document in a fashion similar to the CSO project list recently shared with members.
- WTD staff will revise the 2014 Rate Proposal presentation shared with members on 5/22 to ensure details regarding the Brightwater Debt and Rate Stabilization are more transparent and understandable.
- Reminder to members about the FOG conference scheduled for June 12, 2013 at the Tacoma Convention Center.

- Robert also acknowledged that the meeting went longer than scheduled and recommitted to keeping each of the topics to the amount of time on the agenda while still balancing the need for members to ask the follow-up questions on topics and issues of interest to them.