

Summary of Engineering and Planning (E&P) Subcommittee February 4, 2016 Meeting for MWPAAC General Meeting on February 24, 2016

Long-Term Flow Monitoring Program

Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) staff explained the history and purpose of their decennial flow monitoring and hydraulic modeling program. The program helps identify changes in wastewater flows throughout the service area (growth, commercial discharge changes, infiltration/inflow, etc.), which are used in planning for future capacity needs. The next monitoring program is scheduled for 2019-2021. Future E&P Subcommittee meetings will explore whether King County's flow monitoring can be expanded to include more of the component agencies' service area, how the additional costs of such expanded flow monitoring and modeling would be addressed, and how climate change (larger, more frequent storms) may impact how the modeling results are incorporated into future capacity planning.

2016 Work Plan for Evaluating Infiltration/Inflow Options

WTD staff provided a project overview of I/I Reduction Concepts that WTD plans to discuss with E&P over the next several months. A copy of the overview will be on the E&P Subcommittee website, and all interested members are invited to join us at the upcoming meetings to discuss I/I.

Industrial Waste Rates and Code Changes (joint topic with Rates and Finance Subcommittee)

King County Industrial Waste is proposing to revise the fee structure for their industrial customers to match the broad industrial base, recover their costs, simplify the tracking system for greater efficiency and flexibility to meet future needs, and provide for a more stable revenue stream and predictable customer rates. The customer fee schedule would last for 5 years from the time of issuance, and the local sewer agency would continue to collect the monitoring and administration fees and surcharges. WTD is soliciting feedback from the MWPAAC membership, plans to develop legislation to transmit to the King County Executive, and hopes to have new rates in effect by July 2016.

Update on Cost-Estimating Technical Work Group (joint topic with Rates and Finance Subcommittee)

The Technical Work Group (TWG), facilitated by Value Management Strategies (VMS), has completed initial analysis and identification of issues relating to project cost estimating performed by WTD prior to the baseline cost estimate (35% design). VMS will be conducting a series of workshops with WTD staff during the first half of 2016 to develop specific solutions, recommendations, and strategies. TWG realizes that using the term "cost estimate" and assigning it a specific value years or even decades before the scope of the project is defined leads to misperceptions that the original "cost estimate" was inaccurate. They will be developing better methods to convey information to decision-makers about future projects from initial planning to project delivery.

Questions?

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