

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

Microsoft Teams

Wednesday, February 22, 2022

Start 10 a.m.
Adjourned 12 p.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

Chair John McClellan welcomed MWWPAAC members to the meeting.

Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, took attendance by roll call. A quorum was in attendance.

The January 2023 meeting summary was approved as written by voice vote.

Chair McClellan reported on the February 1 RWQC meeting. Councilmember Claudia Balducci is the new chair and began the meeting with an introductory statement and the following briefings were provided.

- Implications of Emerging PFAS Regulatory Direction – materials can be accessed on the RWQC website
- Puget Sound Toxics Report – an initial report for toxics in wastewater

The next RWQC meeting is on March 1.

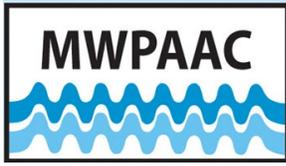
Chair McClellan noted that on today's agenda, MWWPAAC will hear a continuation of the 2024 rate-setting policy direction and operational and capital investments. He'd like to entertain questions as they come up during the presentation. Members may also use the chat to ask questions. Olivia Robinson will help track the chat questions.

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

Kamuron Gurol, WTD Director, announced that this will be the last meeting with Jack Broyles. Jack has been the chair of the Rates and Finance Subcommittee since 2014. We will miss his experience and voice in sewer rate discussions and we wish him the best going forward.

Kamuron reported that WTD is working through the process of the sewer rate. What MWWPAAC will hear today is the same information that was presented at the February 2 Rates and Finance Subcommittee. WTD is committed to transparency and appreciates the dialogue and comments we've received thus far. We are still working on responses to questions asked at the last subcommittee meeting. As a reminder, the March subcommittee meetings have been moved to March 7, which will allow us to have a full discussion on WTD staff's 2024 rate proposal.

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Kamuron provided a couple of updates on bills WTD is tracking in the State Legislature.

- SB 5245 related to PFAS in Biosolids – as of last week, this bill has been referred to the Rules Committee. WTD still has concerns and will keep MWWPAAC apprised. We are looking at implications.
- HB 1047 which address PFAS and other chemicals in cosmetic products – this bill is moving swiftly through the legislature, and we expect it to pass.

Members may contact Olivia Robinson or Sharman Herrin in WTD Government Relations if they have questions about the bills.

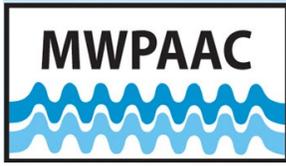
Kamuron reported on WTD's resiliency and recovery program and seismic risks given the recent earthquakes in Turkey. In 2018, WTD's consultant, HDR, completed a resiliency study and made recommendations related to capital improvements and how to modify facilities to either survive natural hazards or reduce recovery time following an event. A MWWPAAC task force also reviewed and provided feedback on the recommendations. The report looked at impacts to life safety, public health, consequences of damage, and environmental impacts with an Equity and Social Justice lens. There were over 50 recommendations to increase resiliency – 36 capital improvement projects, 5 programmatic strategies, and 10 targeted studies. Recommendations are being managed by the curator of the resiliency category through WTD's capital portfolio management processes. Fifteen of the recommendations are in the 6-year CIP (2022-2027). An example of that work includes the West Point Primary Sedimentation Area Roof Structure. This was a big project in a tight space. Kamuron commended WTD staff for their good work.

Kamuron reported that over the last year WTD experienced a higher number of power quality interruptions. Last year, WTD experienced about 163 power outages with 161 generator starts. This year, there have been about 30 power outages and 29 successful generator starts. This includes one on Monday, Feb. 13, when a Seattle City Light power interruption disrupted the pumps at the Barton Pump Station in West Seattle near Lincoln Park. Out of an abundance of caution, WTD posted closure signs at Cove and Lincoln Park Beaches until water quality testing confirmed the water was safe. WTD also reported the overflow to health and regulatory agencies. The beaches were reopened on Feb. 17 after consecutive days of water testing confirmed safe conditions.

Kamuron responded to a question regarding WTD's response time to system issues. He reported that WTD crews respond quickly and most issues are resolved within a couple of hours. Olivia Robinson, WTD Government Relations, shared that overflow information is also reported on the Operational Performance Metrics webpage. MWWPAAC members may view data on that site. The [link](#) to the site was provided in chat.

Chair McClellan asked about resiliency and if WTD participates in any early earthquake warning notice systems. Kamuron is not aware that WTD is participating in any, but will follow-up and confirm. Chair McClellan shared that some members are participating in the shake alert system initiated by United States Geological Survey (USGS) and universities in the northwest.

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In response to a question, Kamuron reported on recruitment efforts for the 96 new FTEs. There is a priority system that is being used and some positions have been recruited. WTD also hired a consultant to help with recruitment sourcing. Kamuron will check on how many of the 96 have been hired to date. Our goal is to have all recruitments completed by Q3 2023.

Kamuron thanked MWWPAAC members for their level of engagement in the rate briefings. He observed that new information often solicits more questions and noted that if we don't get to some of the questions today due to time constraints, we can follow-up at an upcoming meeting. We all recognize we have an affordability problem and the rate drivers aren't going away. One of the issues is about the right debt cash ratio. WTD is trying to exist between two viewpoints in favor and not in favor of debt. Outside revenue may be needed to solve this problem and we will need to make the case for state or federal funding to help with the cost issue. WTD's Finance section works with state and federal programs to take advantage of funding opportunities. Kamuron will continue conversations with the RWQC chair and MWWPAAC and would like to solicit help from other agencies.

3. Subcommittee Reports

February 2, 2023, Rates & Finance:

- Preliminary 2024 Rate-setting Policy Direction and Operational and Capital Investments

February 2, 2023, Engineering & Planning:

- Forecasting the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) Capital Improvement Program (CIP)

4. Preliminary 2024 Rate-setting Policy Direction and Operational and Capital Investments, Devin ViBarnes, Rates, Capital & Debt Management Manager, Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD), and Crystal Fleet, Capital Portfolio Planning and Analysis Unit Manager, WTD

Devin ViBarnes, Rates, Capital & Debt Management Manager, presented on the Preliminary 2023 Rate-setting Policy Direction and Operational and Capital Investments. The full presentation can be found [here](#). The presentation included the following information:

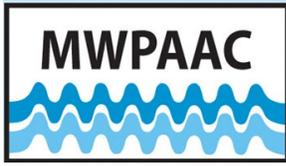
- Current Status
- Drivers for 2024 sewer rate and 10-year forecast
- Comparison of 2023 and preliminary 2024 Sewer Rate Forecast
- Financial practices, policies, assumptions, and sensitivity analysis options
- Appendix A: Operations Investments
- Appendix B: WTD Debt Balances and Coverages
- Appendix C: Debt Service Savings Through Refinancing and Defeasance

5. New Business/Future Topics, John McClellan, MWWPAAC Chair

Chair McClellan shared a couple areas of business that he'd like to bring back to MWWPAAC.

- MWWPAAC Work Plan

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- I/I and the SPU presentation (continuation)

Members are also welcome to reach out to any of the Board Members to make a recommendation for new business or future topics. We want to make good use of time and discuss topics that are of interest to members. He encouraged members to reach out if they are not seeing what they'd like to see.

Kamuron noted that the March 1 RWQC meeting is a workshop type of meeting. Time will be spent discussing the Work Program for the coming year. Once they've completed their work, we may want to bring it back to MWWPAAC to better understand their role in relation to MWWPAAC's role and see how the two bodies work programs are best aligned to complement each other.

6. General Announcements

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 12 p.m.