

the MWPAAC REPORT

Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee  MEMBER PACKET

October 2007

MEMBERS:

Alderwood Water and Wastewater District
City of Algona
City of Auburn
City of Bellevue
City of Black Diamond
City of Bothell
City of Brier
City of Carnation
Cedar River Water and Sewer District
Coal Creek Utility District
Cross Valley Water District
Highlands Sewer District
City of Issaquah
City of Kent
City of Kirkland
City of Lake Forest Park
Lakehaven Utility District
City of Mercer Island
Midway Sewer District
Northeast Sammamish Sewer District
Northshore Utility District
Olympic View Water & Sewer District
City of Pacific
City of Redmond
City of Renton
Ronald Wastewater District
Sammamish Plateau Water and Sewer District
City of Seattle
Skyway Water and Sewer District
Soos Creek Water & Sewer District
Southwest Suburban Sewer District
City of Tukwila
Val Vue Sewer District
Vashon Sewer District
Woodinville Water District

NOTICE OF MEETING

The MWPAAC Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, October 3, 2007, in the East Building, Room E144 - the Board Room at Lake Washington Technical College located at 11605 132nd Avenue NE, Kirkland, Washington. Lake Washington Technical College is located near I-405. From the North, take Exit 18 and from the South, take Exit 20. The meeting is from 10:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

All MWPAAC members are encouraged to attend the meeting. Lunch will be served promptly at 11:30 a.m. Luncheon is Herb Encrusted Pork Roast and the alternative dish is Vegetarian Panini. There will be no cost for representatives, alternates or guests. Please RSVP to Valerie Garza at 206-263-6070 or valerie.garza@kingcounty.gov by 10/02/07.

AGENDA FOR OCTOBER 3, 2007

10:30 AM – 1:00 PM MWPAAC Meeting

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| 1. Chair's Report | Dave Christensen
MWPAAC Chair |
| 2. WTD Director's Report | Lorraine Patterson
WTD Assistant Division Director |
| 3. Investment Pool Update | Dennis Barnes
WTDStaff |
| 4. RWSP 2006 Comprehensive Review and Annual Report | Debra Ross
WTD Staff |
| 5. Wastewater Program Governance 1958 - 2007 | Bob Hirsch
WTD Staff |
| 6. Subcommittee Reports by subcommittee chairs | |

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**Members, Alternatives
& Guests Present:**

Walt Canter
Mark Cassell
Dave Christensen
Lynne Danielson
Don Davidson
Tony Fisher
Gary Hajek
Vicky Henderson
Don Henry
Ken Howe
Neil Jensen
Wes Jorgenson
Andrew Lee
Erin Leonhart
Arne Lind
Ron Little
Bill Looney
Sheldon Lynne
Pam Martin
Gwenn Maxfield
Steve Moye
Steve Ohlenkamp
Tom Peadon
Bill Pelozo
Dave Phelps
Randy Reece
Greg Reed
Dan Repp
Trish Rhay
Cheryl Scheuerman
Ron Sheadel
Lorraine Snyder
Ron Speer
Karen Steeb
Scott Thomasson
Bill Tracy
Art Wadekamper
Margaret Wiggins

King County Staff:

Jamie Foulk
Bob Hirsch
Lorraine Patterson
Christie True
Laura Wharton

SEPTEMBER MEETING MINUTES

Chair's Report – Dave Christensen

The meeting was called to order, introductions were made and the September 5, 2007, meeting minutes were approved.

WTD Director's Report – Christie True

Christie reported that the Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) recently earned the National Biosolids Partnership Platinum level status for our Biosolids Environmental Management System. This is a program that documents, monitors, and optimizes the management of wastewater solids and biosolids throughout the entire process and you have to meet or exceed regulations that protect public health and the environment. WTD is 1 of only 12 agencies in the country that received this award. Biosolids management is an incredibly important part of the process, recycling solids. We manage the solids for a lot of small utilities by transporting their solids to South Treatment Plant. Some of our partners in the distribution include: Boulder Park Soil Improvement Project in Douglas County, Natural Selection Farms in Yakima County, the Hancock Forest Management, the State Department of Natural Resources, Ramco and GroCo, who produces the composted product. She also mentioned that WTD has been making a number of organizational changes, and we will be filling a number of leadership positions in the Capital Program. We will be hiring a manager and assistant manager for the West Point Treatment Plant.

Question: Not recorded. **Answer:** When Brightwater comes on-line, a huge amount of the flow that is coming to the South Treatment Plant (which is getting close to capacity) will then be released and go to Brightwater. There's a lot of growth in south King County and running up to or at their capacity. During the month of November, both plants ran at capacity consistently. There is always one pump being out of service or used as back-up; we try and time our major maintenance during summer months not during winter months, because we want them to be on standby.

MWPAAC Website – Jamie Foulk

Jaime gave a presentation on the new MWPAAC website and went the features involved. The committee approved the launch of the website and posting of the MWPAAC minutes.

Report on Discussions with Local Agencies – Christie True

Major Findings at the conclusion of the meetings and after reviewing all the meeting notes, the Director came up with these three major findings:

1. King County's decision-making processes aren't well-understood or well-communicated. In general, members don't appear to have a solid understanding of the role of MWPAAC, the RWQC, the King County Executive and the County Council in making decisions, or how to develop or take advantage of processes that could be used to influence decision-making.

2. MWPAAC, in its current state, is not an effective advisory body. MWPAAC members view the organization as not effectively influencing all decisions related to their interests. The County is perceived as either unwilling to listen, or unable to get the advice it needs from component agencies.

Continued 3. The County's service levels are highly rated, but there are concerns about rising costs of these services.
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Director's Recommendations - After receiving and considering these comments, the WTD Director came up with seven recommendations:

1. Develop a real charter for MWPAAC. State law and MWPAAC by-laws don't really establish what the committee is supposed to do. A charter would need to include developing annual work programs for both the subcommittees and the whole committees. The structure should allow adequate time for the committees to weigh in on County programs and address inter committee communications. The County and MWPAAC should work together on this program so that it coincides with what is happening in the wastewater program.
2. Restructure MWPAAC meetings.
 - Restage the meeting so it doesn't have the appearance of a luncheon.
 - Hold a meeting (food can still be provided) that includes a networking time.
 - Members only at the table, observers in a gallery
 - Hire a professional, independent facilitator to establish order in the meetings.
 - Establish ground rules to promote constructive discussions and ensure that legitimately differing perspectives are heard.
 - Eliminate the members-only meeting. If members want to caucus without the County, they can schedule, staff, and locate it within member-hosted venues
 - In the meantime, follow bylaws.
3. Establish clear processes for making recommendations to the Executive, Council and RWQC. Get a dialogue going between MWPAAC and RWQC members; report what happens at RWQC and the County Council to committee members.
4. Create a caucus of MWPAAC members to meet with and inform RWQC members that represent them. Work out a plan that is coordinated with RWQC and use the authority in the committee to advance policy discussions.
5. King County and MWPAAC work together to create a new member orientation.
6. Develop public information and communications about rates, services and capacity charges. We have already begun working on this.
7. Develop a reclaimed water comp plan. The program needs more focus and clarity on where it's going. The policies are conflicting, and there are many questions that still need answers. A deliberative process will enable all of our customers and interested parties to have a say in the decision-making process. I have recommended this to the Executive – if he agrees, we will move forward quickly. I also recommend that we form a MWPAAC Reclaimed Water Subcommittee and/or have members participate in other stakeholder committees that will need to be formed.

Question: Thank you for your very excellent report. RWQC and the caucus that you're talking about, I think the RWQC needs to understand what their role is, so that when they do meet and caucus, there will be a joint understanding of each other's roles. Without that background we won't all get what are we supposed to do. The RWQC is bigger than sanitary sewer and I have really tried to get an answer to this. We go there with funding with the

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sewer organization but there's not funding from these other groups. I think on my part there is some misunderstanding on what the roles are. Dave does an excellent job of reporting on what we've talked about here, at least from my point of view. **Answer:** That's a good comment. Part of the orientation piece should happen for RWQC members. I have a meeting with the Chair and I'll talk about the same report and what we might be able to do in the RWQC. Certainly a lot of people come to the RWQC without necessarily having the background either and get into some pretty substantive policy issues that they're not familiar with. A lot of people don't understand our form of government and it's something that we need to work on.

Question: Are we going to reorganize MWPAAC in the meantime or delay those recommendations? **Answer:** I think we need to get MWPAAC on good ground. It's essential to lay new groundwork on how to work together, to be able to handle some of the other issues. That's why I would like to set a goal and try to figure that out by the end of the year, so we are starting a work program next year with our revitalized committee. The reclaimed water comprehensive plan is something we would start in 2008. The feasibility study will be completed by the end of the year. The feasibility study shouldn't be viewed as the end-all or as a substitute for a comprehensive plan.

Question: There be no capital projects during that period of time that have to do with reuses. But there are talks of a backbone system? **Answer:** I see that as continuing to move ahead.

Question: I thought we already had a contract committee and a chair of the committee established for that process. **Answer:** There is consistent agreement I heard that the contract subcommittee of MWPAAC should negotiate on behalf of all the agencies.

Question: Recently you had your boss leave, and that gets into policy setting and direction. Pam had certain direction, and so how is the Department change going to affect where the Department is heading and things you have to think about? Full menu of things, reclaimed water, she was very supportive of, but the current Director? How is that position changeover going to change policy? **Answer:** One of the fundamental things, the policies that basically govern our program are established by the Council as a result of discussions with the Executive. We are still obligated to follow all of those policies and certainly, the Department Director is responsible for implementing those policies.

Comment: The Suburban Cities Association (SCA) and the City of Seattle have wastewater issues very low on their agenda as do the few city representatives that come to MWPAAC, so I think it's important to consider MWPAAC rather than the SCA as being up to speed and interested in technical wastewater issues. Coming back to the contract committee, I'm not sure how you bring everybody to the table to move this forward.

Answer: The SCA is a party that selects their members for the RWQC and the District association selects their members. MWPAAC does not select members for the RWQC. The SCA plays an important role in regional government. You have to bear in mind that there are three regional committees — on water, transportation, and regional policy. The SCA places members on those three committees. They have two votes divided by four members. They have more members participating as part of those committees. The districts sit on one regional committee. There's far more exposure for cities on King County government, because they also get a number of other services from the County. I'm not surprised that SCA, a number of them view that as their place to participate in the County. I don't see all of sudden that the SCA will see MWPAAC as dealing with the County when they have many other dealings. I think there is more opportunity to engage there. I think it would be very hard to supplant something that the SCA has been engaged with for a long period of time. With respect to the contracts, I think that Seattle is very different. They are the largest agency. I wouldn't expect it would come to MWPAAC to negotiate a contract with King County. They have multiple issues. With the rest of the agencies, a lot of the cities and

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districts will negotiate directly with the County. I'm not hearing a consistent approach. We are certainly open to a facilitated process with people. But frankly, I'm not hearing that all of you want a subcommittee to negotiate your contract. I got a letter from one city that wanted a MWPAAC-focused process.

Comment: I would like to comment on contracts. There are too many variables from water districts, municipalities — we all have various problems to deal with. The City of Auburn is negotiating its own contract. We won't use this body to negotiate the City of Auburn's contract. I can see good use out of this committee for the smaller entities but I cannot see this for a large municipality. I think this committee can do good for the small entities on negotiating but not for the larger entities. **Comment:** So when you talk about large jurisdictions, it isn't necessarily a city.

Comment: In the process of creating a new charter and annual work plan, it makes sense to look at both. It sounds like you're already planning to do that because that relationship will still grow and evolve into a single charter or asking questions about comparative roles. Maybe that means the new workers that you have identified for creating the new charter for MWPAAC but also I realize that they are not completely overlapping. When you talk about restructuring the meetings, can you describe that a little bit more? **Answer:** First off with respect to a new charter. The RWQC has a charter committee of the King County Council, so its authority is established by public vote, which took place during the Metro-King County merger. There is a charter review commission. The only way to make changes to the RWQC charter is to make a change to the County charter. It would take a public vote on the King County charter. That's one of the things that, for example, if we had done it by ordinance and framed it in the context of policy, would have to actually be approved by a vote. I would like to explore that with the group. I think that there is one place of rigor and that's identity for membership in MWPAAC. That's established in state law, and that is supposed to be somebody appointed by your legislative body and, in the case of sewer districts, an elected official. It's so open; it's really hard to tell who the member is that is speaking for that jurisdiction. It's basically open to anyone who comes, and anybody can comment, and this is part of the dynamics at MWPAAC. It's really hard to make sure you're hearing from everyone. I think a cabinet advisory committee, having the committee members at the table and a gallery for visitors, might be one direction to explore.

Comment: I depend upon my management and staff to inform me about things that I'm not aware of that I don't have hands-on experience with, so the combination of the two makes me very comfortable. When it comes to a decision, we take a vote. You can call for a vote.

Comment: I look forward to working with you on your goals, and if we can't reach a process that works, you'll get a report back definitely, I've heard all of those same statements. We all have the best interests of the public in mind, and we need to work together because we're all public servants.

Comment: I don't have a problem with only members speaking during the meeting. But I would like my staff to be close by to communicate with them, so I wouldn't want them in some gallery. **Answer:** Let's work on that.

Comment: I would like to see us eliminate the members' meeting and commingle with KC, and we would gain a lot more knowledge and work out our problems together. I think that I would like to start. The next step is a real challenge. If we can begin today to eliminate some of the factions and move ahead with MWPAAC as we charter it. I think I would like to so move.

Comment: Essentially, the reason that the members' only meeting started was that it was our executive session to strategize. Most of what I do doesn't need to take place there. That's not a problem. It's really the contracts. It's hard to come up with negotiating strategy with the people in the room, and we established the primary pur-

Continued from Pg. 5 pose that we created a separate time to meet after the County left. Depending on subject matter it may be that over time it will need to continue.

Motion – To eliminate the members’ meeting. Commingle and not have separate meetings. Motion by City of Auburn, seconded by City of Renton. The motion failed.

Comment: Christie, you talked about taking a look at the charter to organize MWPAAC. Is there a schedule? If so, we’d better get on with it.

Answer: Yes, we would like to have a plan before you in December. I need to know who will want to participate.

Comment: How many members do you think is appropriate? I propose large, small, medium.

Answer: It’s good to have broad representation.

Subcommittee Reports

Chair’s Report – Dave Christensen

The taskforce committee was established with seven member agencies: three members each from the cities and sewer districts, with one alternate and the City of Seattle.

E&P Subcommittee Report – Scott Thomasson

The committee made a few language recommendations to the CSI recommendation and the County accepted the language changes. The committee recommends that MWPAAC support the policies.

Motion: To approve the Conveyance System Improvement Program recommendation.
The committee voted and unanimously approved that the letter be sent to Executive Sims.

Contract subcommittee - Ron Speer

Please contact Ron Speer, Chair, for additional information on the negotiations.