

Committee Business:

- Members would like to be kept informed by e-mail with attached documents for reference/review. Additionally, the documents should be posted to the website.
- The various committees will be developing their workplans for the upcoming year; are there any thoughts on what they would like discussions on? Please send suggestions to Scott.
- Committee letters of response and recommendations will be put to a vote (bylaws stipulate the Chair has the responsibility to call for votes) and minority opinions will be written; otherwise the Committee will strive for consensus.

WTD Director's Report Summary:

- WTD has elected to participate in the International Standards Organization program in place of the Environmental Management System program sponsored by the National Biosolids Partnership. This model will initially be used for the solids program and then eventually be applied throughout the Division from collection to products (reclaimed water, biosolids, and energy recovery).
- Sewage overflowed from a stormwater pipe into the Ravenna Creek basin over a 10-day period. The City of Seattle alerted the County to the event after their monitoring equipment detected unusually high flows. The County mistakenly diverted wastewater into the stormwater pipe during a County project to repair a wastewater sensor. The Ravenna Creek flows were diverted into the wastewater treatment system. In addition, vacor trucks were brought in to remove sediments from the slough.
- The County has taken responsibility for the incident. The Department of Ecology has assessed a \$30,000 fine; WTD is considering an appeal and asking that the monies apply to an environmental project within the area. WTD has undertaken corrective measures by identifying the problem and placing it on the priority list. As-builts will also be drawn up and confirmation from the local agency where a diversion should go will be obtained.
- The County is entering into an agreement with wastewater utilities in Thailand to assist in the development of wastewater treatment plants. The United States Agency for International Development will underwrite expenses for WTD employees to assist with that project.
- Legislation regarding the adoption of the MWPAAC charter by King County Council should be transmitted this month.
- The documentary "Liquid Assets" will be aired on the local PBS station in the fall. "Liquid Assets" explores the history, engineering, political, and economic challenges of our water infrastructure, and engages communities in local discussion about public water and wastewater issues.
- Results from the local agency survey have lead to the following actions undertaken by WTD's management team: following an incident or overflow there will be a single point of contact to do follow-up; community relations staff will also

follow-up with the local agency; and we are also looking at increasing participation for next year's survey.

- The sewer rate and capacity charge were adopted in June. WTD is preparing the budget submittal. There are very few changes, and those include fuel costs, cost of living increases, and the conversion of West Point to hypochlorite instead of chlorine.
- EPA has released new emissions standards. Information will be posted to the MWPAAC website. The focus of that is related to human health. Information is available on water quality but very little on wastewater.
- A request for information has been issued for the biosolids program to look at potential alternatives for technologies and opportunities for biosolids. WTD may issue a request for proposal based on information received. The Biosolids program is highly valued, and we need to address concerns about product reliability.
- The announcement was made that Bob Hirsch is retiring as the WTD's Government Relations Administrator after 30 years.

WTD Director's Report Questions and Answers:

- As a result of bankruptcies, districts write-off customers' water and sewer bills. Is there any provision whereby we can deduct our costs to you? WTD will get a response to this question.
- Is the sewer rate a two-year rate? Yes, although the County Council will still have to adopt the rate next year.
- Is the County Council reserving the right to raise the rate next year? The Council is expecting it to be a two-year rate. But with the economy the way it is, the Council understood that we may come back the next year with a different rate.

Engineering & Planning Subcommittee Report:

- The Committee received briefings on the 2008 CSO Plan update, Biosolids program update, development of the Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan, and Initial I/I project update.
- The CSO program is utilizing existing facilities as much as possible for storage and treatment. Real-time flow data will be available on the web and will allow for the first opportunity to look at "real-time" data outside the plants. The website is <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/WTD/cso/status/index.htm>. The program's next steps are: moving forward with project(s) pre-design and engaging E&P input on the development of the CSO comp plan review.
- KC has 38 CSOs and Seattle has 90 CSOs? Are Seattle CSO projects impacting the County's program? I'm not sure we have an affirmative no; there are some things that may take more flow. I didn't get the impression that it translates to higher capital costs but I'm not sure how it affects O&M.
- The EPA audit has been completed but the County has not received feedback.
- Do you have a sense on when you're going to get a letter? September or October, they were here the first week of January; they reviewed an extensive number of records.

- Seattle and County have different SSO standards; I'm curious what the EPA thinks of that. I don't think they would find that acceptable – their standard is 0.
- Biosolids, it's a great program, but fuel costs are an issue. Predominant use of biosolids is on the east side and they need to expand and develop western Washington options. Another issue is that sawdust used for composting is expensive and scarce --- new composting recipes or alternatives need to be developed.
- I/I update: the cost for rehab is higher; there are two basins (Issaquah/Bellevue) that still appear to have a positive cost-benefit. For Skyway, the hydrology and rate of those transfers to the County did not translate into cost-effectiveness. The district may be willing to contribute funds to the project cost in order to achieve cost-effectiveness. The committee raised the following questions: Are we going to achieve I/I reduction in the long-run? How do local agencies have to deal with that? Does this merit dealing with the whole process, or do we need a higher level of cost-benefit? What do they want to recommend?
- Capital Prioritization Process: they break them down into three categories; Asset Management, Major Capital, and Planning; they have one committee for each project category to score projects. The committee thought it was a very thorough process; they have a fairly well-designed process and were satisfied with how they have done the prioritization.

E&P Committee Report Questions:

- EPA audit, is there any news on the state audit? KC has several audits underway related to performance and construction and that is County-wide. Do you know the timelines? It's a huge audit; it can take six months.
- RH2O comp plan: I know one of the things that the committee has done, we have set some time aside to deal with this on an on-going basis. We have held the first meeting of the month that we are dedicating to the plan development.
- Did you mention the Feasibility Study letter since the last meeting?

Development of the RH2O Comp Plan:

- The initial process will take two years and it started the first of July. The plan is to engage the local agencies through the E&P subcommittee on a monthly basis. The project team would work through E&P to bring issues to full MWPAAC. The County is available to speak to individual agencies that want to discuss reclaimed water.
- The regional participation strategy is to work individually with stakeholders and then when certain milestones are reached, workshops will be scheduled to disseminate more information. The first workshop will be scheduled for October. The other individual groups that we will be contacting to ask what people issues are in reclaimed water in the region. The development of the plan will look at reclaimed water 30 years into the future. In mid-2009, the plan team will create and evaluate system alternatives based on participant input. In 2010, they will release a draft plan for additional review and input.

- There may be interest from MWPAAC on the study. Agencies that have developed reclaimed water have done so around a specific objective: lack of water and discharging requirements.
- The purpose of the comp plan is to identify your growth, funding, customers and provide direction; the comp plan will not be completed in 2011.

Development of the RH2O Comp Plan Questions:

- You mentioned the workshops for all stakeholders. Everyone at MWPAAC will be invited to the workshop? Yes, we're not going to be able to have a committee that's large enough to cover everyone's interests.
- What is the total that will be spent on RH2O? \$28M – they are not expanding the program till 2012.

Brightwater Project Update:

- Actively in construction are the Treatment Plant; North Creek; Portal 44; Portal 5; Portal 19; the outfall.
- Brightwater Accomplishments: Completed negotiations of guaranteed construction cost with Hoffman Construction for the liquids stream facilities. Awarded a contract to Kiewit-Pacific for the solids/odor control facilities. Completed site preparation for the solids/odor control center. Completed Brightwater Operation Center tenant improvement contract. Completed construction of the North Mitigation area. The County entered into an agreement with the City of Shoreline to create a community park at the Richmond Beach Pumping Station. The County also signed a land transfer agreement with the City of Kenmore to create a park. Received a \$675K state grant to complete green design and interior design of Environmental Education Community Center. Obtained all building permits from Snohomish County for treatment plant site.
- Launched the tunnel-boring machine from Kenmore to North Creek to the treatment plant. Completed the Swamp Creek micro-tunnel; it was difficult because it went through a dense neighborhood. Completed mobilization and began tunnel machine boring fabrication for the West Tunnel.
- Seven cost estimates have been completed; the first three were based on siting, the next two were based on the draft and EIS. In 2005, and 2007-2008 updates were made to the budget. The current estimate is \$41.8M, a \$35M increase or 2% of the January cost estimate. In 2004, two baseline assumptions (3% and 5%) were made for inflation. Commodities increases were seen in steel, cement and plastic products. Primary drivers of cost changes are higher-than-anticipated bids for the treatment plant; solids contract; liquids contract; additional engineering service costs for construction management.
- Our influent pump station – low bid (design-build-contract) was \$20 million higher than expected. Conveyance cost increases were largely offset by a reduction of \$12 million in project contingency.
- Risks have been reduced, 98% of construction contracts have been awarded; mitigation agreements have been negotiated and are on schedule. Property acquisition and permitting are largely complete and legal challenges largely eliminated.

- Uncertainties are change orders and claims associated with the projects; primarily in the tunneling area. Seven major construction projects are happening simultaneously, and managing those interfaces between the contractors so they are not tripping over one another; making sure that we have the right engineering services support during construction; we want to make sure that we have additional support in those areas.
- Accomplishments are all the items have been completed; liquids contract is in the process of completion. On East Tunnel we have a challenge because the contractor is behind schedule --- we have a specific date for the other contractor to get in there. On West tunnel, we are running into fabrication problems; on IPS the outfall is way ahead of schedule --- we are scheduled to drop the outfall in September;
- East Tunnel is on the critical path towards completion. Previously, we were behind by 3.5 months, we are now behind by 1.5 months. They are both for the completion of the East Tunnel; we wanted a window between the two contracts; we can do a no-cost change order --- we stretched that time out, and the revised date is 1/14/09 (the last date it can be completed); jointly undertake the pace of construction; on the East tunnel, the construction is underway. Non-critical, West tunnel is raising flags, because the machine was due to be here three months ago. The machine from Lovett is a little problematic. The West Tunnel contractor, Lovett, is overbooked; he was taking the information from the East tunnel, and he utilized a considerable amount of time.
- The hydraulic completion (testing of water) is scheduled for February 2011 and sewage treatment beings in May 2011.
- New OMC Recommendations: an engineering firm is overlooking the project and inquiring how the process works and making sure those strategies are in place as work is completed. They've reviewed estimates for staffing and consultant needs and suggested that staffing needs be reviewed. They've monitored progress of the tunnel construction and suggested review of contracts to identify any potential delays and risks/cost impacts.

Brightwater Project Questions:

- What trouble did you have with the micro-tunnel in the neighborhood? They wound up being in a closely-packed neighborhood; it had streets but no sidewalk. We had to close off the entire street. Mail service was blocked off. We had unfortunate accidents in terms of sewage backups, but the neighbors put up with us. It was challenging in terms of community-relations activities;
- Are penalties included in the contract? There are liquid damages of \$24K per day, but it's far more important for us to get the tunnel in place. We need to get the influent tunnel contractor in place. The schedule for this project does not have a lot of float days.
- You indicated it was a joint effort for the weekend and maintenance work? The Contractor has taken it on; and they have some of those maintenance stops. They understood how important it was to the County and expressed their desire to do everything to complete it.

- There is a concrete business in Kenmore. Is that affecting you? Concrete is purchased from them and Rinker.
- In May 2011, you start receiving sewage? There are carryover pieces to think of – the way they start up as they become ready. We start testing the system and begin a limited process in February and then continue to expand it. The reality is for a full-blown operation in summer/winter 2011. They want to be dealing with low flows to test out the system before they start getting into October.