

**Members, Alternates
& Guests Present:**

Pat Brodin
Gary Cline
Don Davidson
Bob Elwell
Trisha Erickson
Wes Jorgenson
Laura Keough
Arne Lind
Ron Little
Mike Mactatis
Joyce Nichols
Ron Nowicki
Steve Ohlenkamp
Paul Sentena
Mary Shustov
Scott Thomasson
Bill Tracy
Art Wadekamper
Bobbi Wallace
Margaret Wiggins
Fanny Yee

King County Staff:

Sharman Herrin
Gunars Sreiber
Christie True

Tamie Kellogg,
Facilitator

APRIL'S MEETING NOTES

- I. Chair's Report – Scott Thomasson, MWPAAC Chair
 - A. Introductions.
 - B. Meeting Summaries for February and March were approved.
- II. Housekeeping – Tamie Kellogg, Facilitator
- III. WTD Director's Report – Christie True, Director
 - A. A letter went out notifying agencies of Industrial Waste's new billing protocols. There are two billing options: the local agency can directly bill and recover their costs or defer the billing to WTD in which case the agency will not recover their costs. 2 RCEs will be the minimum fee established.
 - B. The sewer rate has been transmitted to Council but the trend report (details the Brightwater cost estimates) has not been transmitted to Council. The trend report is still in the Executive's office.
 - C. West Point Permit still has not been issued from Department of Ecology (DOE). United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) did an audit and inspection and has been carefully scrutinizing the permit; questioning how much secondary versus primary flows there are; in response WTD will supply flow documentation to EPA.
- D. EPA Audit: the report will likely not be issued until Administration transition is completed which should be soon.
- E. South Plant Permit: the application has been deemed complete; DOE will set up a public comment period. An issue that may be raised is nutrients within Puget Sound. DOE is currently conducting a nutrient study of South Sound, examining the amount of nutrients that are being discharged from the Renton Treatment Plant, which has a deep outfall and southerly currents. They are also reviewing whether there should be statewide or individual standards established for nutrient loading. A statewide water coalition is advocating a stakeholder process on the standard as well evaluating the process that Ecology is utilizing.
- F. The Draft Feasibility Study for the Lower Duwamish Waterway Superfund Cleanup will be coming out shortly.
- G. Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC) has adopted a work plan; the Vice-Chair has worked hard to align MWPAAC's work plan with theirs. RWQC received briefings on the Brightwater project and CSO program. RWQC may form a financial policies workgroup to examine the various rate equity issues.

- H. West Point Treatment Plant: a Seattle Times article reported sand used during winter storms was causing problems at the plant, notably a sedimentation basin removed earlier than usual for cleaning. WTD was aware of the possibility and has been working with Seattle to remedy the situation.
- I. Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan (the Plan): constructive feedback was received from Bellevue, and the team is spending more time articulating the problem statement to provide more detail about the process.
- J. Reclaimed Water Proviso: a status update on the existing Reclaimed Water Program was requested by the King County Council upon adoption of the WTD operating budget. The proviso is due to the Council by June 1, 2009. The Plan is where new policies and programs will be discussed.
- K. Several questions were asked about WTD's financial situation. Christie responded that wastewater is being affected by reductions in commercial RCE's. Revenues are coming in as predicted, but adjustments were made to operating and capital projects to stay as close as possible to the projected rate. Other county departments and divisions that depend on sales and excise taxes are having the most difficulty.

IV. Subcommittee Reports

A. Engineering & Planning Subcommittee Chair Report

The committee met April 1 and 15 and discussed the following:

1. Overview of Lower Duwamish Superfund Clean-up Feasibility Study

The study was released April 24. Seven early action areas have been identified consisting of the more contaminated areas and the Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG) has completed or is in the planning stages for 5 of those sites. Discussed the range of future cleanup alternatives (five with variations between them ranging from \$220 million to almost \$1.3 billion) and an explanation of the process. EPA/Ecology will select the alternative and determine cost allocations. Monies currently being spent by the county will be credited against their ultimate obligation. The committee wanted to know how the county will determine the costs between them. An area of concern is the contaminated upland sites because tidal action may mean that recontamination will occur. The question "how clean is clean" was asked. The intended cleanup should be an acceptable level for an urban stream environment. Two letters will be brought to full MWPAAC in May: a letter of support for LDWG's suggested adaptive management approach to EPA/Ecology and a separate letter to the county regarding an equitable distribution of costs.

2. CSO Beach Projects and Hydraulic Modeling

Modeling reevaluation of the conveyance system based on current conditions, previous work was done 10 years ago. MWPAAC stressed to the county that they should field-verify prior to starting a project.

3. Update on Reclaimed Water Comprehensive Plan

The county developed a map of potential reclaimed water users identifying approx. 1600 users down to 550. The team is meeting with agencies to verify information gathered which will be

In response to a question on the committee's influence on the Plan, Wes said that members' input is making the team reassess their plan. Based on meetings with interested agencies, they are gathering sound information on uses appropriate for the application they are using.

A question was asked if pharmaceuticals were contributing to contamination in the Duwamish. Wes replied they are resolving historical contaminants and current stormwater contaminants. Also, it's difficult to test for the presence of some pharmaceuticals and this is an emerging area.

B. Rate and Finance Subcommittee Chair's Report

The committee did not meet in April but will meet May 7 to discuss the financial policies the subcommittee wants revisited. Committee submitted recommendations to the Executive and assisted in keeping the 2010 rate the same as this year.

C. Advisory Committee on Sewage Disposal Agreements Chair's Report

The committee will meet May 7 to discuss the revised Quarterly Sewerage Report Form as well as a process for discussion of contract issues.

V. MWPAAC General Business

A. 2010 Rate and Capacity Charge Recommendations to Council – Tim Aratani

The presentation can be accessed at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/MWPAAC/Committees/MWPAAC.aspx>

In response to a question on the length of the bond term, Tim answered 30 years.

In response to questions on the rate increase and forecast, Tim said that in 2009 the focus was on rate stabilization while planning for expansion, this was done in the context of a five-year plan.

Tim replied to a question that industries have the ability to control their water usage and as a result there has been a loss of business because of that resulting in fewer RCEs reported for the non-residential sector.

B. Brightwater Update – Gunars Sreibers, Brightwater Section Manager

The presentation can be accessed at:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/MWPAAC/Committees/MWPAAC.aspx>

In response to a question on the penalty for missing a construction milestone, Gunars replied that there are liquidated damages to be assessed.

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On the specifics of the tunneling delay, Gunars said that it was a combination of issues: variable soils, machine repairs due to wear and tear on the front end of the machine resulting in downtime to enter and exit the

machine during repairs.

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Gunars responded to questions on the sinkhole and stream sedimentation. He said air pressure migrated upward causing air to bubble into the creek. WTD worked with Ecology on the stream sedimentation issue. No fines were assessed but a series of actions was required. Regarding the sinkhole, over-excavation through sand and gravel caused it; temporary repairs were done quickly. We brought in additional experts; we are doing partnering with the contractors.

Regarding cost increases, Gunars answered that there are contingency funds.

In response to a question on change order oversight, Gunars said that is based on dollar amounts for hierarchy from the Program Manager to Supervisor to Section Manager to Christie True. All change orders are also reviewed by a Construction Project Control Office. Christie is consulted on each change order and the County Council also provides additional oversight.