

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Engineering and Planning Subcommittee

Meeting Summary – May 20, 2009

King Street Center, 9:00 am – 12:00 am

MWPAAC members in attendance:

Dennis Cheung, City of Issaquah

Dave Christensen, City of Renton

Bob Elwell, City of Auburn

Wes Jorgenson, City of Bellevue [Subcommittee Chair]

Paul Sentena, Northeast Sammamish

Art Wadekamper, Ronald Wastewater District

Others:

Vicky Henderson, Roth Hill Engineering Partners

Jeff Lykken, Tetra Tech

Facilitator: Tamie Kellogg, Consultant

Staff:

Greg Bush, DNRP/WTD – Environmental & Community Services

Sharman Herrin, DNRP/WTD – Director's Office

Erica Jacobs, DNRP/WTD – Project Management

Becky Spithill, DNRP/WTD

Laura Wharton, DNRP/WTD/PAM – Comprehensive Planning

1. Regional Infiltration and Inflow Program Update – Erica Jacobs, Project Management

Erica presented an overview of the I/I project for Skyway, Eastgate and Issaquah and provided subcommittee members with the projects schedule (see Initial I/I Projects Schedule). The subcommittee was also provided with a copy of the Executive Summary of the Initial Infiltration and Inflow Reduction Project Alternatives Analysis report (see Executive Summary).

The project includes the following phases: Pre-design, final design/rights of easement collection, bid period and construction at three sites. The project will run through late 2012. Erica noted that pre-design phases for the three areas will be commensurate and are scheduled for completion in January 2010. In February, Project Management staff will present the results to the E&P Subcommittee and seek formal approval from the Capital Assistance Team. Currently, staff is conducting field survey work and plans a mailing to residents apprising them of the project. As part of this preliminary work,

residents may be surveyed. Erica will contact local agencies about meeting in early June to discuss the project process.

Exact phasing and staging of the project elements continues to be under consideration as staff weighs cost/benefit of concurrent construction versus tracking the effectiveness of specific project components to reduce I/I.

Subcommittee members discussed a pending Attorney General Opinion (AGO) on the use of public funds to do work on private property. in light of King County's plans to use sewer revenues to repair side sewers. They considered the possible affect if the AGO determines that such expenditures are not constitutional even in cases where the expenditure has a correlative public benefit or public purpose.

Wes requested that staff apprise the E&P Subcommittee if and when significant issues arise that has a significant affect on the project. In addition, the subcommittee will be interested to know of the AGO when it is issued.

2. Review of letters of support to EPA and Ecology re: Draft Feasibility Study of the Lower Duwamish Waterway (LDW) – Wes Jorgenson, Chair

The subcommittee agreed unanimously to present to the full MWPAAC the draft letters to EPA and Ecology and to Kurt Triplett, King County Executive at the May 27th meeting. Reference to Kurt Triplett will be changed to indicate his being named county executive. Wes expressed the hope that the full committee could review the letter as it was projected during the meeting, and edits could be made and the letter finalized and approved that day.

Wes emphasized that the letters call for adaptive management approach that will continuously be informed by the results of experience.

The question the subcommittee grappled with was how best to facilitate full MWPAAC discussion? At the suggestion of staff, the feasibility study key points will be presented in a one-page overview that will synopsise the discussion guide to the Executive Summary (see Executive Summary of the I/I). Staff will be on hand to answer questions as they arise. Wes and county staff will develop the one-page overview.

Greg informed the subcommittee that King County had begun holding public forums on the feasibility study. In unofficial communications on the Internet, the Duwamish Cleanup Coalition (DCC) charges that the study is flawed and is recommending that community members not offer comment. The DCC works with EPA and Ecology and has legitimate standing, and during public meetings, its opposition is not significant or specific. On the Internet, however, its attacks are highly charged and not presented with substantiating evidence.

3. Final comments

Wes reiterated the hope that the E&P Subcommittee could schedule a Brightwater tour, that would include a tour of one of the tunnels. Wes will recommend to the full MWPAAC that a tour be scheduled for July 1st, as the subcommittee will likely need to address substantive issues at its July 15th meeting. Staff will ensure that the July 1st date is appropriate for the Brightwater construction, etc. Inquiry to full MWPAAC. – will announce at full MWPAAC meeting.

The E&P Subcommittee is scheduled to meet again on June 3rd. It's second meeting in June is scheduled for the 17th.

Materials

1. Initial I/I Projects Schedule, King County Initial Infiltration and Inflow Reduction Project, May 19, 2009
2. Executive Summary of the Initial Infiltration and Inflow Reduction Project Alternatives Analysis report
3. Draft letter to EPA/Ecology
4. Draft letter to Kurt Triplett, King County Executive