

**Members, Alternates  
& Guests Present:**

**Pat Brodin**

Walt Canter  
Gary Cline  
Dave Christensen  
Don Davidson  
Bob Elwell  
Wes Jorgenson  
Gary Hajek  
Don Henry  
Laura Keough  
Arne Lind  
Sheldon Lynne  
Steve Ohlenkamp  
Bill Pelozo  
Randy Reece  
Greg Reed  
Paul Sentena  
Ron Sheadel  
Ron Speer  
Bill Tracy  
Art Wadekamper  
Bobbi Wallace  
Margaret Wiggins  
Fanny Yee

**King County Staff:**

Greg Bush  
Sharman Herrin  
Peggy Lenoard  
Jeff Stern  
Christie True

Tamie Kellogg,  
Facilitator

## MAY'S MEETING NOTES

### **MWPAAC Chair's Report:**

- A. Introductions were made.
- B. Meeting minutes for April were approved.

### **WTD Director's Report:**

- A. The National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA) selected WTD to receive a 2009 National Environmental Achievement Award for excellence in the Public Information Education – Printed Publication category for its Ratepayer Report Newsletter.
- B. Rate and Capacity Charge proposal (one-year rate) is before the committee, it will be sent to full council following a committee discussion.
- C. Local Agency Audits have revealed two concerns with capacity charge reporting and winter averaging. Some agencies do not report new connections to WTD in a timely manner. Also, there is an issue with the eligibility of accounts for winter averaging. Christie asked the Advisory Subcommittee on Sewage Disposal Agreements to provide recommendations to WTD on both of those issues. The contract specifies that WTD is to be compensated for what is going into the sewer system.
- D. "Ragging" is a current problem, resulting in clogged pumps in the Juanita, Kirkland and Shoreline areas. Christie asked if agencies would be willing to inform their customers of the problem; agencies are also free to use any WTD web links or printed information.
- E. One tunnel has been completed on Brightwater with three left to complete. The tunnel machine in Kenmore is experiencing significant wear resulting in maintenance stops. WTD is working with the contractor to resolve the issue.

In response to a question regarding a change in the minimum billing threshold for contaminated industrial stormwater, WTD staff offered to check into how the change was made (by rule or policy).

### **Subcommittee Reports:**

- A. Engineering & Planning Subcommittee Chair's Report:
  - 1. Lower Duwamish Feasibility Study
    - Letter to EPA and Department of Ecology was approved as amended.
    - Letter to King County Executive Kurt Triplet was approved as amended.
    - Agencies are encouraged to send in letters individually.
  - 2. Update on Regional Infiltration and Inflow (I/I) Control Initial Projects:

The committee had a comment on the Skyway project; one of the objectives of the project was to get a sense of the effectiveness of I/I control on private laterals. How do you assess the effectiveness of the laterals and then the main sewer lines?

Several questions were asked on the position of side sewers. Wes commented that the E&P hasn't spoken on the issue. Walt commented that the Washington Association of Sewer and Water Districts (WASWD) will have a subcommittee reviewing the issue. Ron Speer commented that the idea behind legislation on side sewers is that a sewer inspection would be required when a home is sold. Questions were raised concerning when and how it would be done and who would conduct the inspection.

**B. Rate and Finance Subcommittee Chair's Report:**

Development of Proposed Work Plan for RWSP Financial Policies Work Group. The subcommittee met on May 7; the focus of their discussion was the RWSP financial policies that should be reviewed. Beth Mountsier, RWQC staff member attended and spoke on the process. The subcommittee suggested that the financial policies workgroup look at asset management, who pays for reclaimed water, Culver funds, the "growth pays for growth" principle, capacity charge methodology and central overhead charges. Options for membership of the work group were also discussed.

**C. Advisory Subcommittee on Sewage Disposal Agreements Chair's Report:**

Members were asked to review the Quarterly Sewerage Report Form and send any suggested revisions to Ron or Sharman. Development of List of Contract Issues for Discussion. At the next meeting, subcommittee members will be asked to identify contract issues that can be resolved through either a change in the contract or a process change. Issues will be listed, prioritized and discussed issue by issue in the subcommittee. If consensus is reached on an issue or group of issues, it will move to full MWPAAC. If MWPAAC makes a recommendation relating to contract issues, a recommendation letter will be sent to the WTD Director.

**MWPAAC General Business:**

Alternative Uses and Market Opportunities for Biosolids (Proviso Report)

Presentation is available at: <http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/MWPAAC/Committees/MWPAAC.aspx>

Peggy Leonard, WTD's Biosolids Program Manager, gave a presentation that summarized the results of a recent *Request for Information (RFI)* for biosolids management services. She highlighted the RWSP biosolids policies that guide the operation of the current program and showed a map with the current distribution of the county's biosolids: 70% to agriculture in eastern Washington, 26% to forests and 4% to compost in King County.

There were 12 proposals in response to the RFI. These proposals represented 4 use categories: biosolids as fuel, compost, fertilizer and soil builder. The advantages and disadvantages of each category were presented. Estimated cost for alternative programs was also presented; land-based programs averaged about \$60/wet ton, while drying options ranged from \$72 to \$96/wet ton.

*Continued from Pg. 3*

Greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration/storage was also calculated for each type of proposal. This carbon analysis revealed that the emissions from trucking biosolids was far less than expected and that carbon storage from land application was greater than expected. Land-based options were found to be superior in carbon storage and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions.

Overall finding by staff evaluation team was that the current program (of land application, R&D and pilot projects) best meets WTD's needs at this time. It is reasonably priced and provides multiple environmental benefits. Over the next 2 years, WTD will continue to evaluate other options and strategies through the development of a strategic plan for biosolids.

This presentation will also be made to the RWQC on June 3, in response to a budget proviso that requires the division to report on the results of the RFI evaluation.

In response to a question, Peggy answered that biosolids designated "Class A" have been treated to be essentially pathogen-free (an example would be compost or dried pellets); WTD produces "Class B" biosolids that are anaerobically digested to significantly reduce pathogens. More complete pathogen die-off occurs after field application.

Members had the following suggestions for managing biosolids: employ best management practices; network with other agencies to utilize biosolids; ensure the product fits Ecology's definition for amended soils; and identify mercury as industrial.

A question was asked about the texture of biosolids, Peggy answered it's a semi-solid, similar in appearance to black oatmeal. After dewatering, biosolids is 25% solid materials and 75% water.

Peggy responded to several questions on the distribution process, 100% of the biosolids are recycled or beneficially used. They are delivered by truck, then unloaded, and a farmer distributes the product in his field by manure spreader. The soil then is tilled. In forest applications, it isn't tilled. On eastern WA farms, applications are done in the spring and fall and the biosolids are stored on the fields over the winter.

Peggy answered a question on drying; it's an expensive process, and a 2005 study showed that the cost to retrofit West Plant or South Plant would be at least \$38 million in capital costs.

A question was asked about the production of biosolids at Brightwater; Peggy replied that it may increase the supply by 1-2 truckloads.

In response to a question on biosolids, Peggy said the current compost product, GroCo, is made with three parts biosolids to one part sawdust; there is a lot of demand for sawdust, and the price has doubled. An alternative supplier of compost would be Cedar Grove; they have a ready supply of food waste and urban wood.

*Continued from Pg. 4*

A question was asked about salt and heavy metal build-up and product liability. Peggy answered that biosolids doesn't cause a build-up of salt in our climate, and that the concentration of metals in KC biosolids are 80% below the current regulatory limits. WTD has full liability for the quality of its biosolids.

Questions were raised regarding the possibility of rail shipping. Peggy said that there would be additional costs associated with purchasing proper equipment for loading and unloading at the plant as well as at the destinations. Part of the dilemma with using rail is the handling of material, the product needs to be cost competitive and there are higher costs associated with loading and unloading along with rail capacity limitations.

Peggy explained that current biosolids projects are not eligible for carbon credits because they are ongoing long-term projects, not new improvements on global carbon balance.

Peggy answered several questions on cost; the proviso report will be available on the website and will include appendices. WTD is responsible for producing and managing solids. Landfilling is not a viable option for biosolids management: the state of Washington recognizes biosolids as a valuable commodity and has a strong and statutory preference for beneficial use. Landfilling of biosolids is permitted only under emergency or temporary conditions. The costs for beneficial use of the biosolids are borne by the ratepayers. However, WTD's agricultural customers pay the county a fee (per ton) for biosolids. This fee is similar to the amount they would pay for chemical fertilizers. But it doesn't cover the costs of production and biosolids management.

A question was asked about the possibility of using biosolids in Westside agricultural markets. Peggy answered that a large portion of the agricultural land is around Enunclaw, where the soil is high in nitrates from use of manure. Also biosolids application isn't completely odor free and would be an issue for land located in suburban or even some rural parts of King County.

Peggy also mentioned that WTD has an agreement with the city of Everett to use the asphalt pad beside their lagoons as emergency storage. WTD used this for a few days in January 2009 when the mountain passes were closed.