

**METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

General Meeting – Agenda

**Bellevue City Hall,
RM 1E-108**

Wednesday, December 8, 2010

9:00 – 11:00 am

1. Chair's Report – Scott Thomasson, MWPAAC Chair

- A. Introductions were made.
- B. The October meeting summary was approved.
- C. Update from Nominating Committee
 - The following positions are up for election in January 2011: Vice Chair of the Committee, Chair of the Advisory Subcommittee on Sewage Disposal Agreements, and the Chair of the Engineering and Comprehensive Planning Subcommittee.

2. Housekeeping – Tamie Kellogg, Facilitator

- A. Jennifer Hays was introduced as support staff for MWPAAC and its subcommittees.

3. Director's Report – Pam Elardo, Division Director

Trivia Question

The Wastewater Treatment Division (WTD) works really hard, but we also can get creative. Our latest creative exercise was to hold a contest to rename the fifth floor conference rooms. The answers to the questions are what the rooms are now named; hopefully this won't confuse you when you visit.

Q: What is the name of oldest sewage system in Rome?

Hint: The name means "greatest sewer" and it was constructed around 600 B.C.

A: Cloaca Maxima is now the name of the old 5-B conference room.

Q: What city was unearthed in the Indus river valley containing the world's first known urban sanitation systems?

A: Harappa is now the name of the old 5-C conference room

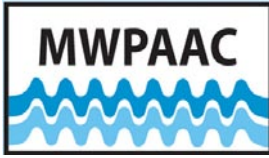
Q: Who invented and patented the aerobic bacteria sewage treatment apparatus in 1970?

A: Howard Peasley, 5-F is now called Peasley conference room.

For obvious reasons, room 5-E has been named Confined Space.

Lower Duwamish Superfund Site

Jeff Stern will be briefing you today on the Lower Duwamish superfund cleanup. The Draft Final Feasibility study was released in October. The comment period ends soon on Dec. 23, 2010. You have a draft letter that has been circulated for your review and approval today.



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Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) Beach Projects

WTD is close to a decision and announcement on the siting of the combined sewer overflow (CSO) projects for the Murray and Barton basins in West Seattle. The recommended project for the Magnolia basin will also be announced soon. *Note:* Since the Dec. 8 meeting, recommended projects for these three basins have been announced. For more information, please go to

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wtd/Construction/Seattle/BeachCSO.aspx>.

Productivity Initiative Update

This is a ten-year program that started in 2001 and expires in 2011. Over the life of the program, it has saved rate payers about \$70 million. The County plans to start a new program that is more transparent and successful with a rollout in 2012.

Q: Will MWWPAAC have a chance to provide input on the new program.

A: Yes, there are two reports to distribute. WTD staff will brief the Rates and Finance subcommittee prior to new program launch.

The King County Executive is very involved in performance measures. There is high interest in the County Executive's office to continue the program in WTD and build a program throughout the county.

Budget

Q: Now that King County has adopted its budget, what is the impact?

A: The Brightwater Education Center is not going to be fully staffed; it will have one .75 FTE (position) rather than two .75 FTEs. It is a more restricted budget. County employees will not receive a cost of living adjustment (COLA) for 2011.

4. Subcommittee Reports

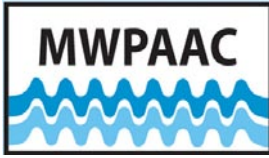
A. Engineering and Planning Subcommittee Chair's Report

Wes Jorgenson handed out a "Brief Summary of Engineering and Planning meeting on November 17, 2010." The PowerPoint presentations from the meeting are located on the website.

- Update on Reclaimed Water Strategies Legislation:

County staff provided a status report that included the following:

1. Update on the comprehensive plan Step 3 decision. County staff shared its recommendation on the strategies under review by the Executive with the subcommittee. Three strategies are being considered and those are the Redmond/Bear Creek basin centralized strategy, skimming or policy strategy and the Renton/Tukwila centralized strategy. More information can be found



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at the following website:

<http://www.kingcounty.gov/environment/wastewater/ReclaimedWater/CompPlan/Legislation.aspx#1>.

2. WTD staff has been reaching out to interested parties and getting their feedback on the strategies. The City of Redmond submitted a letter noting concerns regarding reclaimed water use and the City's potable water supply. The City of Auburn is interested in reclaimed water and the Soos Creek basin for managing water in those areas.
- Briefing on the North Beach CSO Project:
County staff provided an update on the project status. There were nine alternatives evaluated with three selected for detailed analysis. The recommended project is Alternative 1B, which is the lowest cost alternative. The Blue Ridge community that is impacted by the project supported this alternative. A draft facility plan will be submitted to the Department of Ecology by December 31, 2010 and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review will occur in the spring of 2011.
- Briefing on the Lower Duwamish Remediation Project:
The Draft Final Feasibility Study was released on October 18, 2010. The alternatives are aimed at reducing risks within EPA's target range for a five-mile stretch of the Duwamish River. All alternatives result in similar levels of risk (i.e., meet EPA's targets for risk), but have significantly different end dates to meet objectives. However, none of the alternatives meet Ecology's target risk range under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) due to ongoing inputs from upstream, which means even after clean up the water body will remain impaired. MWPAAC may wish to send a letter to EPA and Ecology regarding the study. A draft letter is being circulated now for comments.

The committee discussed the economic impact of the alternatives, the struggle with source control and the inability to control what happens upstream.

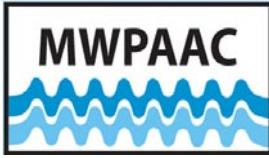
Q: What water quality level can we achieve?

A: We should achieve water quality standards, but some criteria like PCBs under the human health criteria may not be achievable in an urban water body. We need to ask is whether this is a realistic goal.

- The December 1, 2010, subcommittee meeting was canceled. The December 15, 2010, meeting is also canceled.

B. Rates and Finance Subcommittee Chair's Report

- Industrial Waste Fee Structure:
Despina Strong, Program Manager, provided an overview of charges and fees for sending industrial wastewater to the King County sewer system at the last subcommittee meeting. Industrial Waste fees are adjustments based on existing



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formulas. The proposed fees are based on WTD's previous year's budget and following year's budget, and are approved at the WTD director level.

- Status on WTD's Recommendation to Manage Bond Reserves:
The subcommittee discussed whether there should be separate short-term and long-term investments. There is \$5.6 billion in the pool as of last week. Keeping large amounts of money invested in short-term investments pushes rates down because of liquidity requirements. This issue will be revisited in three to six months with King County's Executive Finance Committee. It will also stay on the subcommittee's work plan for 2011.
- Update on Analysis of the Definition of Residential Customer Equivalents (RCEs):
Based on WTD staff's research and information from Seattle Public Utilities, consumption is less than 750 cubic feet. High-level statistics shows consumption at 12 to 15 percent lower than the benchmark. At one time, the conversion factor was 900 cubic feet. This was lowered to 750 almost 20 years ago. Changing the factor to something less than 750 would require not only a change in King County Code, but also an amendment to the Basic Sewage Disposal Agreements. Such a change would have a greater impact on those utilities with a large commercial component in their customer base.

Q: Would the County consider a contract amendment to only change only the RCE conversion factor?

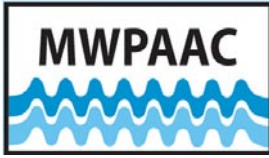
A: Regardless of the County's position, all of the local sewer utilities would also have to agree to the amendment.

C: If consumption is lower, then the cost should be lower for a single family residence. The rate would change. There would be a reduction or increase in cost depending upon the customer base for the area.

Q: What should we do with the issue for now?

A: The subsidy of non-residential customers should not be ignored. The long-term goal should be that any change to the King County Code and contracts would also periodically recalculate the conversion factor. There was a general consensus to table the issue for now.

- Update on 2011 Budget Process and Preliminary 2012 Rate Schedule:
The 2012 rate should be the same as 2011 since it was adopted as a two-year rate. This past Monday, the King County Executive, King County Council and most labor unions agreed there would be no cost of living adjustment for 2011. The subcommittee will spend more time looking at details behind the assumptions in the rate because there is less to review as part of this year's rate process. The focus should be on the 2013 rate.



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- The December 9, 2010 meeting has been canceled.
 - The next meeting is January 13, 2011, 9:00-10:30, Bellevue City Hall, Rm. 1E-120.

C. Sewage Disposal Agreements Subcommittee Chair's Report

The subcommittee continued its discussion of the process WTD uses to prioritize its capital projects and the best way for MWPAAC to be briefed on the results of this process.

The subcommittee also reviewed the provisions that are the core of the Basic Sewage Disposal Agreement. These provisions are very similar for each local utility. It was suggested that provisions unique to a local utility should be in a separate agreement. This would create greater transparency.

- The December 9, 2010, meeting is canceled.
- The next meeting is January 13, 2011, 10:45-12:15, Bellevue City Hall, Rm. 1E-120.

MWPAAC General Business

A. Briefing on the Lower Duwamish Remediation Project – Jeff Stern

To view this presentation, please go to

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

Jeff provided a brief history of the milestones for Lower Duwamish Waterway Group (LDWG). There are a series of clean-up options or alternatives for EPA's and Ecology's consideration.

Q: Will WTD prepare a white paper on which sites are subject to the early action cleanup?

A: Yes, WTD can provide an executive summary of sites and locations impacted by the early action cleanups.

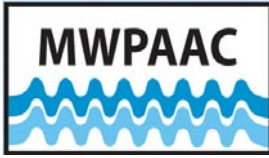
Q: Where does the waste from the dredging go?

A: It is disposed of at sites in Eastern Washington (Klickitat) and eastern Oregon.

Q: What is the best way to look at the range of costs for dredging?

A: About two-thirds of the site gets dredged and the cost is between \$210 million and \$1.35 billion, plus or minus.

C: All of the alternatives meet cleanup goals; it's really about timing of the cleanup process.



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Q: About how many people are out there fishing on the Duwamish?

A: It's hard to tell how many people are fishing on the river on any given day, but it's our observation that there are approximately 50 people most times.

C: With cleanup costs so high, it may be worth paying people to get their seafood elsewhere.

Q: What is the County's share of the cost for the clean up?

A: We are part of a group of potentially responsible parties. There is a formal allocation process to apportion costs among the responsible parties that comes later. However, not all parties will participate. So everybody will have to pay the orphan share for those companies that are no longer around to pay.

C: The County's piece of the pie is small relative to parties. That cost though is obviously dependent on the clean up alternative.

C: MWPAAC would like to have a discussion of the allocation process as it gets closer.

Q: Will the firms that are selected for cleanup be local or national?

A: There are only a couple of dredge teams nationally. The lower end choice among the clean up options that involves more monitoring (natural) would likely employ local firms.

B. Approval of Comment Letter to EPA and Ecology (Action Item)

- Committee approved a letter, as amended, to the Washington State Department of Ecology and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regarding the Draft Final Feasibility Study.
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