Metro/King County Wastewater Treatment: Then and Now

Presented to Metropolitan Water Pollution Abatement Advisory Committee
April 23, 2014
provision in the law under which the county could do the
work or which would allow them all to band together in a
common effort.

At the urging of the Municipal League, Seattle’s Mayor
Gordon Clinton and the King County Board of
Commissioners appointed a 48-member citizens
group—the
Metropolitan
Problems Advisory
Committee. With Ellis
as its chair, the
committee went
looking for the
answer.

Raw sewage rising from an outfall pipe clouds
the water at West Point in 1963. The
pollution ended after Metro built a treatment
plant at the site to replace the outfall.
Establishment of Metro

- 1956 – League of Women Voters and Municipal League form study committee
- 1957 – State Legislature approves enabling legislation allowing formation of Metropolitan Municipal Corporations
- 1958 – Voters reject activation of Metro powers for transportation, water pollution abatement, and comprehensive planning
- 1958 – Voters approve formation of Metro for water pollution abatement
Early days of Metro

* 15 member Metro Council adopts comprehensive water pollution abatement plan – initial phase $125M ($1960) over 10 years
* 10 sewage plants discharging into Lake Washington to be closed, Elliot Bay and Duwamish raw sewage discharges to end
* Metro signs initial sewage disposal agreement with City of Seattle in 1961 and others follow
* Construction begins on 110 mile regional conveyance system with five treatment plants: West Point, Renton (South), Alki, Carkeek and Richmond Beach
West Point Treatment Plant construction, 1965

South Treatment Plant construction, 1965
1977 – State Legislature enables County-Metro merger
1979 – Voters reject merger
1989 – Nationally lawsuits arise surrounding the principle of one person one vote
1989 – Similar lawsuit filed against Metro Council
1990 – King County and Cities meet regarding regional governance
1990 – Federal Court rules makeup of Metro Council is unconstitutional and orders revision of council selection method by April 1, 1992
Metro King County Merger

* April 1991 – First merger vote fails lacking support in the suburban areas
* April 1992 – County and City delegates reach consensus on revised proposal, including establishing regional committees
* November 1992 – Voters approve merger
* 1994 – Metro King County merge occurs
Regional Water Quality Committee (RWQC)

- One of three regional committees of the King County Council
- Suburban Cities, City of Seattle, Sewer Districts and King County Council represented on RWQC
- Purpose: Develop, review and recommend ordinances and motions adopting, repealing or amending County-wide policies and plans relating to regional water quality
- Robinswood Agreement Executed in 1998
- Regional Wastewater Services Plan Adopted in 1999
2008 King County Charter Amendment

- Reduced the number of King County Councilmembers on RWQC from 6 to 3
- Established a vice-chair position to be filled by a non-King County Councilmember
- Authorized regional committees to initiate legislation
- Authorized regional committees to adopt their own work program without the need for Council approval
2014-2030 Planned Conveyance

- [CSI] Issaquah Creek Highlands Relief
- [CSI] Issaquah Storage
- [CSI] Sammamish Plateau Diversion
- [CSI] Sammamish Plateau Storage
- [CSI] Soos Alternative 3A(3) - PS B w/ Conveyance
- [CSI] Soos Alternative 3A(3) - PS D w/ Conveyance
- [CSI] Soos Alternative 3A(3) - PS H w/ Conveyance
- [CSI] Swamp Creek Parallel - Section 1B
- [CSI] Thornton Creek Interceptor Parallels
- Algona Pacific Trunk Stage 1
- Algona Pacific Trunk Stage 2
- Auburn Interceptor - Section 3 Inline Storage
- Auburn West Interceptor Future Improvements
- Black Diamond Storage
- Bryn Mawr Tank Storage
- Coal Creek Pump Station and Trunk Parallel
- Eastgate Inline Storage
- Factoria Pump Station and Diversion
- Garrison Creek Trunk
- Heathfield/Sunset Pump Station Replacement and For Issaquah2 Trunk
- Issaquah Creek Highlands Storage
- Juanita Force Mains
- Kent Auburn Conveyance Improvements (Phase B)
- Lake Hills Trunk Replacement
- Lower North Creek Interceptor Parallel
- Medina Storage
- North Creek Trunk
- North Mercer and Enatai Interceptors
- Northwest Lake Sammamish Interceptor
- Northwest Lake Sammamish
- Richmond Beach Storage
- South Renton Interceptor Parallel
- ULID 1 Contract 4
- ULID 1/5 Relief Sewer

CSO Projects

- 11th Ave NW
- 3rd Ave West
- Barton
- Brandon
- Chelan
- Connecticut
- Hanford
- King Street
- Lander
- Michigan
- Montlake
- Murray
- North Beach
- Terminal 115
- South Magnolia
- University
- West Michigan
MWPAAAC serves as an advisory committee to WTD, the King County Executive and Council.

WTD serves 17 cities and 17 sewer districts to provide wastewater treatment for an estimated 1.5 million people.

WTD facilities include 5 treatment plants, 350 miles of conveyance pipes, 19 regulator stations, 42 pump stations, and 38 CSO outfalls.
South Treatment Plant, Renton

West Point Treatment Plant, Seattle
WTD’s Future
WTD’s Mission: Protect Public Health and Environment through Wastewater Treatment and Resource Recovery

To Our Customers:

* Be a good neighbor
* Continue efficiency and excellence
* Be responsive to diverse customer needs
* Continuously improve products and services
WTD’s Mission: Protect Public Health and Environment through Wastewater Treatment and Resource Recovery

**Finances**

- Meet or beat financial targets
- Maintain stable rates and charges
- Maximize cost effectiveness in all programs and projects
- Maintain high bond rating

**Business**

- Recycle 100% of wastewater products
- Operate our system to avoid overflows and meet environmental standards
- Partner with other agencies, seek collaboration
Working with Local Sewer Utilities to Serve the Ratepayers for the Next 50 Years

- Building Capacity to Serve Growth in the Region
- Maintaining the Region’s Wastewater Treatment Assets and Investments
- Sewage Disposal Contract Extensions
For the Upcoming Discussion with Sewage Disposal Agreements Task Force, the County commits to:

- Articulation of Core Interests
- Transparency
- Openness
- Idea Sharing
- Successful Outcome
- Building Better Relationships with Local Agencies
Questions?