



## METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

### MEETING SUMMARY

**Mercer Island**

**Community Center**

**Room 104**

**Wednesday, February 25, 2015**

**Start 10:00**

**Meeting adjourned**

**11:40 am**

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

- a. Welcome and Introductions
- b. Quorum
- c. Approval of January meeting summary (action item)

#### **2. Subcommittee Reports**

- **Engineering and Planning Subcommittee**
  - CSI Program Update: conceptual projects to address identified capacity needs
  - Fish consumption/toxics reduction comment letter
- **Rates and Finance Subcommittee**
  - Sewer rate discussion
    - 2016-17 Operating fund estimates
    - 2016 sewer rate assumptions
  - Bond refunding overview
  - RWSP Policy Review (I&I Treatment Plants)

#### **3. Letter from MWPAAC to Ecology regarding water quality standards and House/Senate on toxics regulation**

Members reviewed and edited the comment letters to the Department of Ecology supporting the draft rulemaking on chapter 173-201A WAC for the state's proposed amendments to the Water Quality Standards for human health criteria and implementation tools.

Members also provided their input on House Bill 1472 and Senate Bill 5406 supporting the Toxics Reduction Act to reduce the use of chemicals that are environmental pollutants or hazardous to human health.

Both letters were voted by majority to proceed with signature.  
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**4. RWSP policy review-treatment plants & I/I**

Lisa Tobin, Engineering and Planning Subcommittee Chair, reviewed with members, the RWSP policy for treatment plants and I/I. There were no substantial changes made to the policies.

**5. Wastewater Treatment Division Director's Report- Pam Elardo, P.E., Director, Northwest Flower and Garden Show**

WTD Staff and other volunteers staffed the Loop booth at the Northwest Flower and Garden Show, from Wednesday Feb. 11 through Sunday Feb. 15. Volunteers gave away nearly 5,000 free sample bags (or about three cubic yards) of GroCo compost made with Loop® and brochures describing biosolids, uses and benefits of GroCo, and comparisons between types of soil amendments. This is one of our best public events of the year for Loop®.

**Barton Pump Station Upgrade Project**

The Barton Pump Station Upgrade Project entered the commissioning period earlier this month after over two and a half years of construction. Since construction began in 2012, the site has seen the construction of a temporary pump station followed by the complete demolition of all equipment in the over fifty-year-old structure. The mostly underground station was then expanded on both ends to house a backup generator and improved odor control equipment. All new equipment has been installed throughout the station. With the new pumps, capacity of the station has increased from 26 to 33 mgd.

**Fremont Siphon Replacement Project Update**

We recently issued a Notice-to-Proceed to Stellar J Corporation to construct the replacement of the Fremont Siphon as well as construct an odor control facility. The construction contract is approximately \$21.7 million. WTD will replace the existing Fremont Siphon, a major sewage conveyance pipeline running under the Ship Canal between Fremont and Queen Anne.

Fremont Siphon has provided safe, reliable sewer service to north Seattle and other cities in north King County for decades. Sewage and stormwater from more than 100 square miles are conveyed through the Fremont Siphon for treatment at the West Point Treatment Plant. During storms, the pipe carries up to 220 million gallons per day, making it one of the most heavily used pipes in the regional sewer system. The existing Siphon is nearly 100 years old and has reached the end of its of service life.

## **6. Update on regional negotiations discussion**

Alison Bennett and Ron Speer, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Advisory Committee of Sewerage Disposal Contracts gave an update on the regional sewer contract negotiations. Discussed were the issues to date along with the issues still up for discussion. Other topics that were addressed were the guiding principles, governance, Our Waters, reclaimed water, innovation, capital projects and planning, local vs. regional, service area expansion and the next steps in the process.

***The next full MWPAAC meeting is March 25, 2015, at Mercer Island Community Center***