

Summary of Engineering and Planning (E&P) Subcommittee December 3, 2015 Meeting for MWPAAC General Meeting on January 27, 2016

Proviso #1 – Planning and Cost Estimating Workgroup Update

Objectives are to make recommendations about processes to: 1) establish and update planning level costs estimates from project identification through 30% design, and 2) reconsider projects as they move from project identification to 30% design and establish a baseline budget to benchmark project adherence to budget. Have formed a Cost Estimating Technical Work Group and hired a consultant (Value Management Strategies or VMS) to facilitate and provide expertise. Progress:

- 11/2/15- Project kickoff meeting
- 11/3-29/15 – VMS conducted surveys and interviews
- 11/30-12/4/15 - Workshop to review survey results, interview notes, industry comparison and gap analysis, and issues prioritization

Anticipate 8-10 meetings throughout 2016, and will report periodically to County Executive, Council, RWQC, and MWPAAC, with project completion by December 2016.

Water Quality Assessment Update

Purpose: Evaluating water quality in Elliott Bay, Duwamish River, and Lake Union/Ship Canal to ensure that future Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) projects are well-planned and timed to improve water quality. Formed a national Science and Technical Review Team to conduct literature review, gap analysis, and assessment report. The bad news: bacteria is the biggest human health issue in both Elliott Bay and Lake Union/Ship Canal. Contaminants in sediment include polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), PCB, metals like mercury, and phthalates. Found these and flame retardants and DDT in shellfish. Found low dissolved oxygen and saltwater intrusion in Lake Union/Ship Canal. The good news: bacteria levels are declining, CSO projects have reduced amount of contaminants, and King County and Seattle are coordinating well to work on the CSO issue. Report should be complete by the end of 2016.

Industrial Waste Surcharge & Construction Dewatering Project Updates

Industrial Waste Surcharge – King County has updated the fee for discharge of wastewater containing high solids and organic material. Basis of fee emphasizes using Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) in addition to flow, and based on current data. Proposed rates for BOD will double from \$0.183/lb to \$0.361/lb and TSS will increase from \$0.316/lb to \$0.37/lb. These rates are generally less than the rates charged by similar agencies. KC will notify its customers about the upcoming rate increase during the period January through May 2016, and fees will go into effect July 2016. Changes will occur over a 4 year period, and will be updated every 5 years.

Revision of the Construction Dewatering Permit Process: The objective was to simplify the construction dewatering permit process for smaller projects. At E&P, the component agencies requested additional discussion about how they should administer construction dewatering permits (e.g., should construction water discharge into the sewer system be allowed under certain defined conditions, or should it be used only as a last resort?), E&P will be discussing this topic in 2016.

2016 Work Program Development

The 2016 work program is expected to have a number of topics of joint interest with the Rates and Finance Subcommittee, including the Water Quality Assessment, Capital Projects review, Resiliency Program, and CSO.

Questions?

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