

METROPOLITAN WATER POLLUTION ABATEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Meeting Summary

**Tukwila Community Center
Banquet Room A&B**

Wednesday, January 27, 2016

Start 10:00 a.m.

**Meeting adjourned 11:40
a.m.**

1. MWWPAAC Chair's Report – Scott Thomasson

- a. Welcome and Introductions
- b. Determine Quorum
- c. Approval of December meeting summary

Scott informed the committee that Debra Ross and Marla Oughton will be working with agencies to update agency representation. Twenty-five agencies (out of 34) are current. The December meeting summary was approved as written.

2. Wastewater Treatment Division Director's Report - Pam Elardo, P.E., Division Director, Wastewater Treatment Division

WTD awarded two Puget Sound Energy Grants

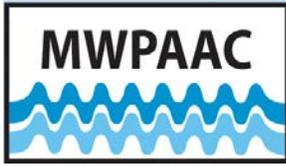
- We just received two energy efficiency grant contracts from Puget Sound Energy (PSE) for projects currently underway---one for the South Plant Aeration Diffuser Membrane Replacement, worth \$226,547, and another for the South Plant Raw Sewage Pumps/Motors/Drives Replacement, worth \$894,970!
- This grant money – \$1,121,517 in total – will fund a portion of each of these project's capital budgets, each of which will save energy for WTD and reduce our operational costs.
- The South Plant Aeration Diffuser Membrane Replacement will result in 755,157 kilowatt hours per year of energy savings, and approximately \$52,000 per year in electricity cost savings.
- The South Plant Raw Sewage Pumps/Motors/Drives Replacement will result in 1,978,960 kilowatt hours per year of energy savings, and approximately \$135,000 per year in electricity cost savings.

2016 State Legislative Session – two bills we are watching closely

House Bill 2386 relating to biosolids

- Bill requires any food or food products being offered for sale and which have been grown in sewage, sewage sludge, biosolids, or compost containing human waste to be labeled as "Grown in Sewage Sludge."
- For processed foods grown in sewage sludge, biosolids, or compost containing human waste, the food product must be labeled "Produced with Ingredients that were Cultured, Produced or Grown in Sewage Sludge." It contains a similar requirement for seeds that are offered for sale.
- Compost or soil amendments containing human waste must be labeled and cannot be used for certified organic gardening.

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- There is an exemption for alcoholic beverages that do not contain remnant material from the originating fermented plants.
- The Wastewater Treatment Division recycled approximately 116,000 tons of biosolids last year. The cost of alternatives such as disposal or incineration would be significantly higher than the costs associated with land application.
- In its Strategic Climate Action Plan, King County government as a whole has committed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 25% by 2020, 50% by 2030, and 80% by 2050. Eliminating the land application of our government's biosolids would be a significant setback to this goal.

Senate Bill 6191 relating to wastewater treatment

- Bill requires new facilities discharging into waters of the state after Jan. 1, 2017, to remove a minimum 80% of pharmaceutical or personal care product chemical constituents from wastewater.
- It also would require wastewater facility upgrades to include enhanced biological nutrient removal or combination of other treatment technologies to achieve the 80% minimum reduction.
- Finally, the bill requires Ecology to include nutrient removal or other treatment technologies to achieve the 80% reduction as a condition of permit renewal.
- Wastewater utilities throughout the state could face significant costs impacts from this bill. Currently, many of these chemicals, if they are measurable at all, are only measurable at very low levels in influent. None of the personal care product chemicals have approved EPA methods for measurement.
- Bill would impact wastewater utilities in the state by requiring additional treatment technology requirements to address constituents even though this should only occur when waterbodies are impaired or water quality standards (numeric or narrative) are violated.

Follow-up regarding Confined-Space Entry

There was a follow-up regarding the Wastewater Treatment Division's recent discussions with Labor and Industries regarding confined space entry requirements.

3. Subcommittee Chair's Reports

a. Engineering and Planning Subcommittee (01/07/16 subcommittee meeting)

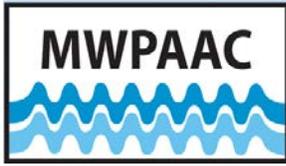
- i. Side Sewer Insurance Information
- ii. History of Infiltration/Inflow
- iii. Joint Project Agreement for Ship Canal Water Quality Project (joint topic with Rates and Finance Subcommittee)

b. Rates and Finance Subcommittee (01/07/16 subcommittee meeting)

- i. Review of DRAFT 2017-18 Operating #'s

c. Advisory Committee on Sewage Disposal Agreements

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- i. There was no meeting in January.

4. Officer Elections

- a. Chair of Committee – Pam Carter was voted unanimously to serve as Chair.
- b. Rates & Finance Subcommittee Chair – Jack Broyles Jr. was voted unanimously to continue as Chair.

Pam and MWWPAAC members recognized and thanked Scott Thomasson for his many years of service as Chair and commitment to MWWPAAC.

5. State of Utility, Pam Elardo, P.E., WTD Director

Pam shared accomplishments in 2015 and a look ahead for 2016. Highlights included:

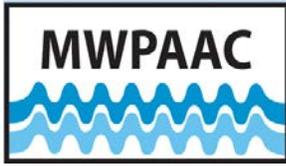
Plant Operations

- 2015 marked the 50th Anniversary of the regional wastewater system; several activities marked this occasion, including booths at Seafair events, and special events at the treatment plants.
- Received several Peak Performance Awards from the National Association of Clean Water Agencies, or NACWA, for outstanding compliance with its NPDES effluent limits. To date, South Treatment Plant has attained 17 years of 100 percent permit compliance with its effluent limits, and West Point Treatment Plant has attained 13 years of compliance. King County's Vashon and Carnation treatment plants received Gold awards from NACWA for 100 percent compliance for effluent limits in 2015, and, Brightwater Silver award.
- WTD will save an estimated \$33,000 each year in energy costs thanks to a grant from Puget Sound Energy that funded the installation of energy-efficient lighting at the South Treatment Plant in Renton. PSE's \$224,639 grant funded a large portion of the project, which replaced fluorescent lighting with more-efficient LEDs. It will reduce the division's energy consumption by about 480,000 kilowatt hours each year.
- The division initiated the WTD Operator-in-Training Pilot Program with the University of Washington.

Capital Improvement Projects

- Achieved substantial completion on Barton Pump Station, Barton GSI CSO Control Project, North Beach CSO control project, and South Magnolia CSO control project.
- [Fremont Siphon](#), South Plant [Raw Sewage Pumps](#) and Drives, and [North Creek Interceptor](#) started construction – three of our most technically challenging projects.
- Developed a joint project agreement with [Seattle Public Utilities](#) for the [Joint Ship Canal Water Quality Project](#) that is pending approval at King County Council.
- Construction is wrapping up on a new 48-foot environmental research vessel to replace the 40-year-old Liberty.

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- WTD celebrated completion of the Barton Pump Station Project. Upgrades, including new pumps to boost capacity to serve the growing population while protecting Puget Sound and Fautleroy Creek from overflows of stormwater and sewage during heavy rains. The updated station also features new electrical equipment, emergency backup power, quieter operation and improved odor control. The station has been in operation since 1958.
- Construction began on the Fremont Siphon project.
- Work continued on a project to upgrade and replace three sewage pumps and drives at South Plant.
- Construction is underway on the North Creek Interceptor and scheduled for completion in 2016.
- Projects in planning and design include:
 - Sunset/Heathfield Pump Station and Force Main Replacement
 - Lake Hills and NW Lake Sammamish Interceptor
 - North Mercer Island and Enatai Interceptors
 - Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station
 - Green stormwater infrastructure planning to control combined sewer overflows at 11th Ave NW, University, and West Michigan/Terminal 115

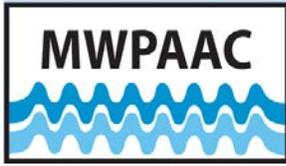
Finance, Administration, and Policy

- Moody's and Standard & Poor's affirmed their respective ratings of WTD's sewer revenue bonds at Aa2 and AA+, citing the utility's strong management practices, consistent financial performance and bright regional economic outlook.
- Refinanced over \$720 million in bonds that will save \$160 million over the next 30 years.
- In December, the Washington State Court of Appeals affirmed a 2012 jury verdict awarding King County \$144 million in damages and attorney's fees after finding a Brightwater tunneling contractor defaulted on key contractual obligations. Contractor has appealed the decision to the Washington State Supreme Court.

Education, Outreach, and Community Relations

- WTD's Community Services staff received more than 1,000 customer inquiries in 2015 with an average response time of less than one business day.
- In 2015, WTD guided more than 15,000 community members and students through Brightwater's exhibit hall as well as tours, lectures and workshops.
- The division pilot tested a high school internship program to interest local youth in wastewater careers.
- WTD launched a new blog in June 2015 that is getting well over 1,000 hits a month and steadily growing in audience.
- In June, WTD launched a new eNewsletter that now has over 4,000 subscribers, providing

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news and information to the public and connecting new audiences to our work. People can sign up or opt out any time through the WTD website, and it's been a great, waste-free way to get the word out about the division's work.

- WTD's social media channels (Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, YouTube) continue to gain new followers and meet growth targets of 5-10 percent per quarter.
- In 2015, WTD kicked off its year-long 50th Anniversary celebration with exhibits at Seafair's Pirates Landing at Alki and the Summer Festival in Genesee Park.

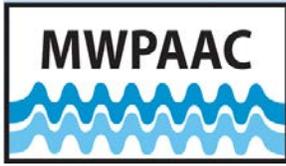
Environmental Cleanup and Pollution Control

- In 2015, WTD awarded \$100,980 in funding to Duwamish area community projects in 2015 through the division's sunseting Green Grants program. The grants were part of a settlement agreement with Puget Sound Clean Air Agency (PSCAA) to resolve issues stemming from the West Point treatment plant's raw sewage pump engines.
- Seventy-two local industrial facilities earned environmental awards from King County's Industrial Waste Program for dedication to business practices that protect regional water quality in 2014. Three facilities received Commitment-to-Compliance Awards for meeting permit requirements every month for five consecutive years with no violations of any kind. Forty-seven earned Gold Awards for compliance with wastewater discharge regulations every month in 2014 with no violations, and 25 earned Silver Awards for having no King County monitoring discharge violations in 2014. Since 1969, the Industrial Waste Program has required industrial facilities to pretreat wastewater before discharging it into the sewer to protect the King County's treatment system and its workers as well as the environment and public health.
- The Industrial Waste program group also updated the surcharge calculation for industrial users requiring permits to discharge to the sanitary sewer system, and streamlined the Industrial Waste Construction Stormwater Permit to reduce staff time needed to issue permits and to make the process easier for customers.
- WTD continued its engagement with EPA, City of Seattle, Port of Seattle, and Boeing on the Lower Duwamish Superfund Cleanup.
- The division continued its successful partnership with Seattle Public Utilities on the RainWise Program.
- WTD is ensuring the principles of equity and social justice are represented in our operation, project planning and decision making.

Resource Recovery, Energy and Sustainability

- In response to customer interest in recycled water during the severe and historic 2015 drought that put stress on King County ecosystems, WTD entered new agreements to provide recycled water to the Lake Washington Youth Soccer Association's play fields at 60 Acres Park and the City of Kirkland for its municipal uses.
- The division recycled more than 116,000 tons of Loop biosolids, which was used for fertilizing commercial Douglas-fir forests in King County and dryland wheat farms in Douglas and Yakima

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counties, and as an ingredient in GroCo compost.

- WTD expanded the use of biosolids onto agricultural fields owned by the state Department of Natural Resources that is leased by private farmers.
- The division funded research projects by University of Washington, Washington State University, Oregon State University, the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service, and the Water and Energy Sustainable Technology Center at the University of Arizona. The projects were designed to evaluate the use of biosolids in conservation tillage agriculture, land reclamation, bioretention soil mixes, eastside forests, and biofuel crops.
- WTD completed a feasibility study for a King County-owned composting facility that would be designed to recycle Loop biosolids.

Continuous Improvement and Lean

- WTD celebrated the third successful year of the Bright Ideas program, which creates a space for continuous improvement, employee engagement, and efficiencies that save our ratepayers money. Over half of the 168 ideas submitted over the last year were approved. The division's focus on increasing efficiencies through Bright Ideas and Lean programs will be a priority in 2016 and beyond.
- The division will continue supporting Executive Constantine's efforts to reduce waste and create efficiencies through Lean, Continuous Improvement and Bright Ideas. In 2015, employee generated efficiencies have saved \$325,000.

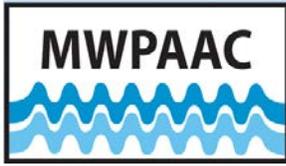
Safety and Training

- There were no workplace fatalities or serious accidents to report in 2015, though diligence to promote a safe workplace will remain a priority.
- Operations and Maintenance staff participated in a number of drills and training exercises to ensure system reliability, prepare for emergencies and respond to hazards.

Awards

- Brightwater Education & Community Center, 2015 Public Education Program of the Year; WasteReuse
- West Point Treatment Plant Energy Purchasing Partnerships, 2015 Outstanding Case Study Award; Sustainable Purchasing Leadership Council
- South Magnolia CSO Control Gravity Sewer Pipeline, Honorable Mention 2015 New Installation Project of the Year; Trenchless Technology
- Carnation Treatment Plant, 2014 Outstanding Wastewater Plant Award; Washington State Dept. of Ecology
- Vashon Treatment Plant, 2014 Outstanding Wastewater Plant Award; Washington State Dept. of Ecology
- South Treatment Plant, 2014 Outstanding Wastewater Plant Award; Washington State Dept. of Ecology

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Ecology

- West Point Treatment Plant, Peak Performance Platinum Award (for 2014 calendar year); National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)
- South Treatment Plant, Peak Performance Platinum Award (for 2014 calendar year); National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)
- Brightwater Treatment Plant, Peak Performance Silver Award (for 2014 calendar year); National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)
- Carnation Treatment Plant, Peak Performance Gold Award (for 2014 calendar year); National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)
- Vashon Treatment Plant, Peak Performance Gold Award (for 2014 calendar year); National Association of Clean Water Agencies (NACWA)
- Willows Run Golf Course (partner with WTD), 2015 Green Globe Award: Leader in Beneficial Use of Recycled Water; King County

What's Ahead for 2016

WTD will stay focused on succession planning, implementation of new scheduling standards, inclusion of green building and equity/social justice principles in capital projects, cash flow and budget development in support of the 2017 rate, capital project streamlining, and advancement of Lean philosophy and tools.

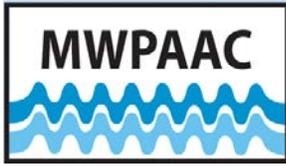
Education, Outreach and Community Services

- WTD's Industrial Waste Program group will launch a survey of 50,000 businesses to better inform compliance with discharge permit requirements.
- In 2016, community members will be able to pursue funding for grassroots environmental projects through the new [WaterWorks Grant Program](#), which will make up to \$850,000 available for environmentally beneficial projects within King County Wastewater Treatment Division's service area.
- WTD will complete its update of the rate structure for the Industrial Waste regulatory program.
- The division will continue its emphasis on streamlining the environmental permitting process under Lean.

Capital Improvements/Project Planning and Delivery

- WTD will complete property acquisitions for projects that include the Georgetown Wet Weather Treatment Station, the Kent-Auburn Conveyance Improvement Project, and the Sunset/Heathfield Pump Station Upgrade.
- The division will work with its Lower Duwamish Waterway Group partners to implement a

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sediment remediation pilot project using activated carbon in certain areas of the Duwamish Superfund site.

Finance, Policy and Administration

- WTD will continue working with the Regional Sewer Contract Negotiations Team and our MWWPAAC partners as well as the King County Council toward developing new sewage disposal contracts.
- Other priorities include:
 - Manage the successful adoption of the 2017 sewer rate and capacity charge.
 - Successful adoption of WTD's 2017-18 biennial operating and capital budgets.
 - Recommend and implement financial policies that benefit ratepayers.

Continuous Improvement

- Division staff will pursue process improvements through Lean exercises and other approaches to increase efficiency.
- WTD will remain committed to increasing the integration of equity and social justice into community engagement and project development activities and develop approaches to increase environmental compliance during construction.
- The Industrial Waste Pretreatment Program will further enhance its customer service in 2016 by conducting an industrial user survey and implementing procedural changes to reduce processing time of applications

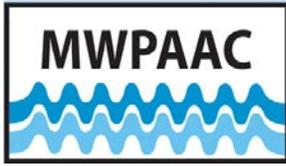
Safety and Training

- To maintain a safe, efficient workplace, the division will reinforce the importance of safety as a key cultural value by pursuing the following goals:
 - Eliminate lost-time work injuries.
 - Improve WTD Workplace Violence Prevention Protocols
 - Continued training and education for employees who enter construction sites or operational facilities, and enforcing and improving protocols.

Equity and Social Justice

- WTD will launch a tool that incorporates community demographics into the process to prioritize WTD's capital improvement projects.
- WTD will establish an internal WTD volunteer employee "cultural ambassador" program to augment existing community outreach on capital projects in diverse neighborhoods.
- Employees will consult with national equity experts to establish best practices and metrics for

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equitable outreach.

- WTD outreach staff will make efforts to expand education and outreach into diverse communities, with specific focus on career opportunities in environmental careers.

6. Emergency Communications, Sharman Herrin, WTD

- Sharman is working with WTD's Public Information Officer, Annie Kolb-Nelson to compile a list of Public Information Officer/communication specialists from our local agencies. Having such a list will be helpful in the event of overflows, emergencies, etc. MWPAAC members were asked to send Sharman their agency's contact information.

7. General Announcements

None.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:40 a.m.