



**District of Columbia  
Water and Sewer Authority**

**Board of Directors**

**Retail Services Committee**  
*Thursday, December 17, 2009*

*11:00 a.m.*

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Committee Members Present**

Joseph Cotruvo, Chairman  
Howard Gibbs  
David J. Bardin

**WASA Staff Present**

George Hawkins, General Manager  
Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager  
Avis Russell, General Counsel  
Linda Manley, Board Secretary

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Dr. Cotruvo called the Retail Services Committee Meeting to order at 11:50 a.m.

**II. WATER QUALITY MONITORING**

**1. Coliform Testing:**

Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager, reported that three (3) samples had tested positive for coliform in the month of November; and as of the meeting date, zero (0) samples had tested positive in the month of December.

**2. LCR Compliance Testing:**

Mr. Kiely provided an update on the status of the Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) compliance testing activities. He reported that WASA has completed its second semester sampling and analysis. Of 103 1<sup>st</sup> draw samples having been collected and analyzed, one (1) 1<sup>st</sup> draw sample exceeded the EPA Action Level of 15 ppb; and the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile for 1<sup>st</sup> draw samples was 7 ppb. It was noted that the current phosphate dosage used in the treatment process is 2.3 mg/L.

**3. Nitrification Issue Follow Up:**

Mr. Kiely gave a follow-up presentation to the Committee concerning nitrification within cast iron mains in the DCWASA distribution system. He briefly described the issue and the potential impacts associated. He also graphically compared data for 2008 and 2009 to indicate that the problem is getting worse. Mr. Kiely reviewed the steps that WASA has taken to address the issue, including a meeting with members of the Technical Expert

Working Group (TEWG). The TEWG participants included (among others): EPA Region III, Cadmus (an EPA contractor), HDR (under contract to DCWASA), USEPA Cincinnati (biofilm specialist), and other subject matter experts.

The consensus was that there is a nitrification event taking place in some parts of the District's distribution system; and they recommended an extended change in secondary disinfectant to free chlorine for up to four (4) months. Mr. Kiely reported that WASA Staff agrees with the TEWG recommendation; and noted that this approach must begin in colder weather to reduce disinfection byproduct formation. WASA Staff recommended an extended change in secondary disinfectant, from chloramines to free chlorine to take place from February 1, 2010 through May 17, 2010. Mr. Kiely also outlined additional steps associated with this approach that WASA will be undertaking, including: notification of customers in the January 2010 billing cycle, notification to critical care facilities; and a press release in January 2010. This would be a temporary return to treatment similar to what was used prior to the chloramines conversion. The water quality consequences (including lead and disinfection byproducts) will be carefully monitored.

The Committee briefly discussed other alternatives to the use of free chlorine, including the use of chlorite, more frequent flushing of the lines, and replacement of cast iron watermains. The names, affiliations, and credentials of the TEWG members who participated in the discussion were requested. Also, a request was made to ensure that all Board of Directors (BOD) Members receive the information on this issue before the next BOD Meeting in January.

### **III. FIRE HYDRANT PROGRAM**

#### **1. Service Status:**

Mr. Kiely provided the Committee with a handout outlining the status of the fire hydrants in the District. The current number of "out-of-service" (OOS) fire hydrants stands at 135. Of these, four (4) are categorized "temporarily out-of-service", 15 are categorized as "new construction", 33 are considered "obstructed", and 83 are considered "defective". The current percentage of hydrants that are inoperable and need repair or replacement is 0.9%. Mr. Kiely also provided the Committee with a map illustrating the location of the current OOS hydrants which indicates general distribution around the District.

A Committee Member suggested that two additional presentation improvements can be made: a.) relocate the last bullet (Percentage of OOS) in section two (2) – Breakdown of Public Hydrant OOS of the handout into its own section/heading to clarify that 0.9% refers only to the "defective" hydrants (83) and not to all of the "out-of-service" hydrants (135) out of a total of 9,092 public hydrants, and b.) define what "OOS" means on the map.

### **IV. LOW IMPACT DEVELOPMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN**

Dr. Mohsin Siddique, Department of Engineering and Technical Services (DETS) Environmental Planning Supervisor, gave a presentation to the Committee concerning the proposed plan to implement the Board's Low Impact Development (LID) Grant Initiative. Dr. Siddique provided the background of this initiative and how grant funds would be used for LID projects in the District's public space to reduce runoff to the combined sewer

system. The project that is being recommended to utilize the grant funds is a joint project with DDOE and DDOT (among others) and involves the installation of a combination of LIDs in the Piney Branch sewershed. Dr. Siddique noted that the effectiveness of the project will be monitored both pre- and post- construction and the benefits will be quantified

The General Manager, stated that this is the right project; and it is the right time and in the right place. He commented that the project is a true, scientific experiment with application to WASA and other utilities; and data collected will be utilized to enable WASA to make principled, measured evaluations of LIDs and their potential relationships with other projects (e.g., design of the LTCP Piney Branch tunnel). Also, he noted that if the project is measured as successful, it could lead to additional grant funding opportunities. He therefore recommends going forward to spend the \$1 million that the Board provided years ago, rather than reconsidering and using the \$1 million to help meet current budget needs.

The Committee requested that a data collection be maximized for documentation so that the project can be accurately evaluated, and that presentation/report on the LID Grant initiative be made available for the full Board of Directors (BOD), and that cost share information be included in the proposed Board action item.

## **V. REVIEW OF REVISED FY 2010 AND PROPOSED 2011 BUDGETS**

### **1. Action Items:**

#### **A. Proposed Fiscal Year 2009-2018 Capital Improvement Program (Alternative 1)**

#### **B. Proposed Fiscal Year 2009-2018 Capital Improvement Program (Alternative 2)**

Mr. Olu Adebo, Acting Chief Financial Officer, presented two (2) potential alternatives for consideration with respect to the revised FY2010 and proposed FY2011 Budgets. Mr. Adebo outlined the differences between the two options in terms of spending and the specific projects each option would be able to accomplish. He also highlighted the potential risks associated with not completing the priority capital improvement projects (CIP) – Lists A, B, and C (with List A the highest priority) from the presentation.

Leonard Benson, Acting Chief Engineer, in response to a question asked at the Environmental Quality and Operations Committee meeting that preceded this meeting, reported that if all recommended joint use projects in Alternative 1 were implemented, the additional debt service cost for the DC retail customers, when compared to Alternative 2, would be approximately \$150,000 per year. This equates to an additional \$0.01 per week per average DC retail residential customer. He also reported that if Alternative 2 was chosen, WASA Staff believes it could still operationally handle the potential risks associated with not proceeding with the recommended projects; however, this alternative could result in an increase in unplanned maintenance costs - a relevant example being the recent sewer break in the National Arboretum. Mr. Benson advised the Committee that deferring needed capital projects e.g., as in Alternative 2 increased the risk of increased service interruptions that could result in damage to DCWASA' reputation, associated quality of life issues such as parking and general traffic congestion, a well as, perceived water quality and health risks. He noted an inherent risk of legal action to compel

infrastructure improvements if over time our unplanned water system outages or associated health issues, or sewer system overflows or failures, are perceived as being a result of failure to timely and properly address infrastructure issues.

Following a brief discussion, the Committee agreed to recommend modified Alternative 1, with the change in pay-go financing – to the BOD for consideration, with the understanding that additional discussion between Board members will occur prior to adoption of the final budget. The Committee did not examine Joint-Use issues inherent in shifting \$100 million from the Wastewater (TN) capital program to the CSO LTCP capital program or related issues.

## **VI. ACTION ITEMS – NON-JOINT USE**

### **1. Contract No. 090120 – Proshot Concrete, Inc.**

The Committee agreed to recommend approval.

### **2. Contract No. 090250 – Sagres Construction Corporation**

The Committee agreed to recommend approval.

## **VII. EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS**

There was mention of the WAD project advisory water quality and potential treatment needs which will be scheduled for the next meeting. The chairman handed out background information and suggested the need to include health scientists on the group since risk assessment was basic to the activity.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 1:07 p.m.