



**District of Columbia
Water and Sewer Authority**

Board of Directors

Retail Services Committee

Thursday, January 21, 2010

11:00 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present

Howard Gibbs, Acting Chairperson
David J. Bardin
Brenda Richardson

WASA Staff Present

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

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Gibbs called the Retail Services Committee Meeting to order at 11:45 a.m.

II. WATER QUALITY MONITORING

1. Coliform Testing:

Mr. Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager, reported that zero (0) samples had tested positive for coliform 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 submitted its 2009 Second Semester Report to EPA on January 8, 2010; that there was one (1) exceedance of EPA's action level (15 ppb) for the semester; and that the 90th percentile for 1st draw samples was 7 ppb. The Committee briefly discussed the current 2010 Sampling Plan; and whether or not WASA should move toward reduced monitoring in the future.

3. Nitrification Issue Follow Up:

Mr. Kiely updated the Committee on the status of activities relating to the nitrification in unlined cast iron mains in the DCWASA distribution system. He reported that a change in secondary disinfectant to free chlorine will take place on February 1, 2010, and will run through May 17, 2010. Mr. Kiely noted that WASA did not request reduced LCR monitoring

this year (2010) because of the upcoming disinfectant change. WASA felt it was in their best interest, as well as the best interest of all stakeholders, to monitor for the entire year. The Committee discussed the public outreach aspects relating to the potential nitrification “issue”; and the steps WASA has already undertaken to notify the public, including: Mr. George Hawkins, WASA General Manager, meeting with various media outlets, publishing of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs); and training call-center personnel. Mr. Kiely clarified that water quality parameters with respect to nitrification are well within regulatory limits, and that the proposed disinfectant change was precautionary.

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 132. Of these, four (4) are categorized “temporarily out-of-service”, 16 are categorized as “new construction”, 26 are considered “obstructed”, and 86 are considered “defective”. Mr. Kiely also provided the Committee with a map illustrating the location of the current OOS hydrants. This map incorporated the requested changes noted by the Committee during last month’s meeting.

IV. WATERMAIN BREAKS – STATUS AND RECENT HISTORY

Mr. Kiely updated the Committee on the status of activities relating to watermain breaks throughout the District. He reported that within the past 30 days, WASA repaired 112 main breaks. There are currently 27 breaks/leaks that are pending completion. Mr. Kiely noted that these are not “typical”, active main breaks (i.e., requiring immediate repair because of disruption of water service or ground surface damage), but rather smaller leaks that have been identified and will require repair, including some critical pipelines (e.g. cross-town main). If the main can be isolated and not disrupt service to the customers, repairs will be made to these 27 watermains.

Mr. Hawkins briefed the Committee on the exceptional efforts of WASA Staff in assisting with the repair of the main break at St. Elizabeth’s Hospital. Although it was not part of their system, WASA Staff worked over the weekend to help prevent a more lengthy disruption of water service to the hospital. The Committee commended WASA Staff for their efforts with respect to watermain break repairs. The agenda item concluded with a discussion of the recent watermain break caused by an independent DDOT contractor in Dupont Circle.

V. FURTHER REVIEW OF REVISED FY 2010 AND PROPOSED 2011 BUDGETS

Given that the Retail Services Committee Members were in attendance for the presentation by Mr. Olu Adebo, Chief Financial Officer, to the Environmental Quality and Operations (EQ&Ops) Committee earlier in the day – please see the meeting minutes from the

EQ&Ops Meeting – it was decided that it was not necessary to give the presentation again. The Committee discussed the General Manager’s current recommended budget (alternative #3), and focused on the distinction between “non-joint use” and “joint-use” projects. In terms of “non-joint use” projects, it was reported that if the Board votes to approve this alternative, they are voting to include in the CIP every project that is recommended through 2018, i.e., no project has been dropped. Mr. Hawkins reported that the current proposal (alternative #3) and its consequences on both the capital-side and operating-side will be made to the Finance and Budget Committee. Although the current proposal includes changes to the operational-side of the budget from previous versions, it is not anticipated that there is any effect on water quality operations.

A Committee Member requested that WASA Staff prepare a report detailing the lifetime budget for “non-joint use” water projects/costs, “non-joint use” sewer projects/costs, and Washington Aqueduct projects/costs. The agenda item concluded with a discussion of the long-term control plan and equivalent residential units (ERUs).

VI. ST. ELIZABETH’S WATER TOWER STATUS UPDATE

Mr. Len Benson, Acting Chief Engineer, presented the Committee with a status update on the St. Elizabeth’s Water Tower Project. Mr. Benson provided an overview of what has been completed to date; and he reported that the project is in the historic review process. He graphically depicted for the Committee site design features and various water tower design concepts. Mr. Benson concluded his presentation by providing a schedule for future milestones for the project.

Ms. Brenda Richardson commended the WASA Staff for the recent meeting in Ward 8 to discuss the St. Elizabeth’s Water Tower Project. The same presentation that was made to the Committee was provided to the attendees of this meeting. Ms. Richardson noted that the meeting had huge turnout; and the postcards and graphics (especially the visual representation of the tower views from the roadway) created by WASA Staff were very well received.

VII. ACTION ITEMS – NON-JOINT USE

None.

VIII. EMERGING ISSUES / OTHER BUSINESS

None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 12:45 p.m.