

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY**

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**WATER QUALITY AND WATER SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**MEETING MINUTES**

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2015**

**Present Board Members Present D.C. Water Staff**

Rachna Butani, Committee Chair George Hawkins, General Manager

Matthew Brown, Board Chairman Randy Hayman, General Counsel

Alan Roth Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager

Howard Gibbs for Customer Care and Operations

Linda Manley, Secretary to the Board

**I. Call to Order**

Ms. Butani called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m.

**II. Water Quality Monitoring**

1. **Total Coliform Testing (TCR)**

Charles Kiely, Assistant General Manager for Customer Care and Operations, reported that there were zero positives in November and so far in December. That is always good news.

1. **Lead and Copper Rule Monitoring**

For Lead and Copper Rule Monitoring Mr. Kiely stated that 110 samples have been analyzed to date and they are again at historical lows. He indicated that the year will be finished at 3.7 parts per billion. They will continue the process and the report will be filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)on January 9, 2016. Mr. Kiely noted that they have done very good this year.

Mr. Gibbs asked Mr. Kiely about the frequency of reporting which is now every six months and if EPA has come up yet with new rules and regulations. Mr. Kiely said that EPA has no yet issued its new rules. He believes that with the exception of twice yearly reporting done by D.C. Water does on a voluntary basis, EPA will adopt mostly everything else that D.C. Water is doing. As soon as the new rules are certified, Mr. Kiely assured the Committee that they will conform to them. He noted that he expects them to finalized shortly.

**III. Fire Hydrant Upgrade Program**

Mr. Kiely reported that they are again continuing with historical lows in the number of fire hydrant out of service, now at .45 percent. This is far below the 1 percent set by the Board. He noted that they will shut down regarding hydrant maintenance for repair and replacements and switch over to winter operations. Their primary goal is to make sure the system is dry. If there are other hydrant leaks or other emergencies, they will revert resources to do that. Mr. Kiely reported that generally they shut down in December on the Fire Hydrant Upgrade Program and pick up again when the weather changes somewhere around March 15. He stated that the Committee may see an uptick in hydrant reporting in the next month or two.

Ms. Butani asked if there is anything on the map that is significant. She asked that they design a better map that is more legible. Mr. Kiely agreed and stated that they will work on that for 2016. They will continue to coordinate regularly with the Fire Department and Emergency Management Services.

Mr. Roth congratulated them for getting the 120 day out of service hydrants numbers down and even the 90 days. Mr. Kiely stated that they have brought those resources in house, instead of contracting for them. He noted that this is a reflection of the people doing the work.

**IV. Emergency Management Multi-Agency Functional Exercise**

Mr. Kiely stated that he was on the agenda to make this presentation but would defer to Jonathan Reeves, Manager of the D.C. Water Office of Emergency Management. Mr. Hawkins reported that Mr. Reeves was the 2014 winner of the GM’s Employee Performance of the Year award.

Mr. Reeves stated that they are in the middle of their first Multi-Agency Functional Exercise. This is the first time D.C. Water has actively engaged the federal/local utility partners, including the District, and done a physical field exercise. Mr. Reeves stated that they activated the incident management team that created an incident action plan. They met on December 17 with about 14 external agencies who are out in D.C. Water’s system sampling. Those samples will be returned back to six laboratories, including the EPA Fort Meade Facility. Testing will be done on standardized samples and the result will be compared.

Mr. Reeves said they have full participation from all D.C. Water departments—Engineering, Water Services, etc. They implemented a full incident management team and that is about 25 people, including legal people. Mr. Reeves reported that they have the external stakeholders, including the Aqueduct, EPA Region III, and the water security people from EPA Headquarters sent to observe. EPA is planning a national level roll out of an incident management team in utilities and think D.C. Water has one of the best models in the country. Participating are also the City’s Emergency Management agencies and the Civil Support Team, which the City’s final line of chemical and biological response. Mr. Reeves stated that they come out of the National Guard.

Mr. Reeves reported that they are trying to achieve documentation management. He stated that here at D.C. Water everyone does an excellent job of operationally responding but some of the past challenges have been around documentation and tracking of information. That was one of their chief objectives of the exercise. Mr. Reeves indicated that they have so far been very successful in making sure the information has been tracked and developed. He stated that they also wanted to make sure they could deploy external resources into the City to support a contamination event.

Ms. Butani asked if objective of the exercise was to make sure the processes were under control and if it was about testing—getting all the stakeholders together that are involved in testing. Mr. Reeves replied that it is about more than testing and is a real-time event. The pipes got moved around, the documents created were sent to the departments, and the financial information was forwarded to Finance. The data that they provided back was real-time data. What happens during these three days will actually happened during an event. There were very few pieces that were simulated and most of that was with external agencies. Mr. Kiely stated that most utilities and agencies do desktop exercises and go off in a room and simulate all this. This was a real-time event. The samples tie into what they suspected last year about a possible contamination of fuel within the distribution system. They had some struggles with the external partners that they described to the Board earlier, specifically with the laboratories, Department of Health, and CDC. That is being simulated in this exercise. If those problems earlier identified are successful here, it will show that these challenges have been corrected.

Mr. Hawkins agreed that this was a very important exercise because the next time there is an incident the partners will all know how to handle everything. Participating in the exercise is an infrastructure reporter for the Washington Post, Ms. Schaefer, who has been monitoring a lot of this because D.C. Water wants her to see what is being done and what, where, and how it is monitored. She may do an article about this in the Post but even if she does not, this will raise her knowledge and the partners’ performance.

**V. Other Business**

Ms. Butani stated that the General Manager informed her that consideration of the Fort Meyer contract would be postponed until the Committee’s next meeting. The purpose is that Management wants to come and brief the Board on how most contracts are overseen and managed. She indicated that there have been a couple of issues that she and Alan Roth have brought to the Board’s attention where it seems like the projects had gone well beyond the scope of time and were contributing to concerns by the community. Ms. Butani asked Mr. Roth to speak about what his issues were so that Management clearly understands them.

Mr. Hawkins indicated that they want to do it in three stages. One is a general presentation about how the contracts are managed, good and bad. They will take some of those concerns brought to their attention by the Board in the last few weeks and then they will discuss the specific Fort Meyer contract after that. He stated that they regularly update the Environmental Quality and Sewerage Services Committee regularly on the whole Capital Program and they want to do the same with this Committee. Mr. Hawkins said that he wants to propose that they come to the Committee and update on the contract work being done on water and sewer, District only. He indicated that he will talk to the Committee more about this later. Mr. Hawkins stated that Mr. Roth has raised very serious allegations and that they want to address them with the Committee as soon as their investigation is completed. They are going to come back and present how the contracts are managed. He apologized to Mr. Roth for not having contacted him to discuss his concerns earlier but indicated that they will do their fact finding, investigate what has occurred, and then respond. Ms. Butani said that they will look forward to the presentation. She notified Linda Manley that they will have the January meeting in-person. Ms. Butani asked the Committee members to respond to the email so that they know it has been received. Since Mr. Roth will be unable to attend the January meeting, Ms. Butani stated that she will ask plenty of questions but asked him to call in, if possible.

Ms. Butani asked the Committee members if they had other questions or concerns. There being none, she adjourned the meeting at 12:15 p.m.