



Jeffrey Wright  
Commissioner

DRAIN COMMISSIONER'S  
WATER & WASTE SERVICES' ADVISORY COMMITTEE

and

SURFACE WATER MANAGEMENT'S ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES OF MEETING  
Wednesday, August 15, 2018

MEMBERS PRESENT

David Arceo, Brad Barrett, Scott Bennett, Mike Boskee, Mark Emmendorfer, Paul Fortino, Steven Fuhr, Larry Green, Karen Miller, Karyn Miller, Diane Nowak, Terry Peck, Keith Pyles, Mary Ann Price, Jakki Sidge, Paula Zelenko.

OTHERS PRESENT

Jeff Wright, Drain Commissioner; John O'Brien, Director WWS; Kevin Sylvester, Deputy Drain Commissioner- PR & Communications; WWS; Jim Gerth, Director SWM; Brian Ross, Senior Assistant Director WWS; Chris Gehringer, Clayton Township.

Meeting called to order at 9:03 AM. Attendance roll was called. Motion was made and supported to approve minutes as presented from the meeting of May 16, 2018. The vote was called and passed unanimously.

**Water and Waste Services Advisory Committee**

**Old Business:** None

**New Business:** Director O'Brien began the meeting with a presentation on the new Lead and Copper Rules and what these new changes mean for the communities. In 2020 the action level will decrease from 15 ppb to 12 ppb, we are currently sitting at 1 ppb so that rule won't really affect us. The other two changes are the new tier system, to identify the sample collection sites, and the asset management. The new tier system is as follows:

**Tier 1:** Used to be lead services, now it is full or partial lead services. A lot of communities have lead to the curb stop then copper in or lead all the way. The second is copper plumbing with lead solder. The new part of the tier is lead plumbing inside the homes past the meter. Basically, we now need to find out if there is lead plumbing inside the homes now. The thought process is that each community has a building department, so when people take out permits to do work inside their homes the community will have record of it. If we do not know the material, we are required to check the box "unknown" and have to treat the customer as one with lead plumbing and send them letters regarding the danger of lead plumbing. Any multi-family residence of 20% or greater in our service area does not apply to us as none of our communities have over 20%.

**Tier 2:** Building or manufacturing lead plumbing or copper plumbing.

**Tier 3:** Single Family Residence built before 1983.

The majority of our customers fall into this tier. Most of our housing stock is pre 1982, so we are really limited in the number of areas where we actually get to collect lead samples. So the key is tier one lead plumbing sites. We have to go in and verify internal plumbing. To be clear, the County does not have a building department that has ordinances that give us the authority to go into someone's private home. The State is looking at each individual community to do this, not WWS. So WWS will end up relying on the Wholesale and Retail customers working with their building departments to evaluate internal plumbing. As it sets right now, each individual community has to inspect each home themselves to determine what kind of plumbing they have, then turn that information over to the State, not to WWS.

**Sample Collection Methods:** This is also a new part of the rule, if there is a lead service: You now have to collect the first sample, dump 4 liters, and then take the 5<sup>th</sup> sample. Basically, any lead service site you have to have 2 samples from them.

**Asset Management:** By the end of 2020, we have to submit a preliminary inventory of the distribution system and building stock in our system. So we have to go through all of our facilities and identify the material, if there is any asbestos and a laundry list of other things we need to verify if it's in our system or not. By 2025, we have to have the inventory completed on all the water services and plumbing in the homes. WWS has estimated that 8000 inspections will need to happen per year to meet that goal in plumbing. Then, every five years we will need to update that inventory.

There is no funding through the State for this, the rule was made by the DEQ and approved by the Governor, and there was no legislative action. One thing not mentioned in the presentation, because it does not really affect us, relates to the lead service line replacement program. Municipalities are required to change out that service line all the way to the meter, on private property funded by the local municipality. Another item of the rule, the State is establishing a water council and each municipality is required to have one. WWS was hoping to use Advisory Board as our water council, but the problem is the council must have at least one non-governmental member. Discussion ensued on how these new rules affect the municipalities, the new processes and what needs to be done.

In 2017 our wastewater permit expired and we are currently working on a draft permit. One of the issues the State has with our permit is blending. During storm events, 5 times a year, we do primary treatment and blend around the secondary and discharge into the river. They say we are the last community still doing using this method. The State is proposing a new permit from 2018-2023, and over the next 5 years they want us to establish the capacity of the plant and establish excess treatment. Right now we are doing about 25 million gallons a day, and we know we can push about 60 million gallons through the entire plant before we bypass fully treated. Last year, in February, we hit 140 mgd, so we had to bypass 80 mgd around the secondary and re-blended it. We will need to identify the wet weather events for our system, which is difficult with our large area. So we are looking at setting up rain gage systems in all of our basins, because the argument has been with the storm drain system right now, we have areas that can't handle a 10 year storm. When there is a 10 year storm, and we don't have land drainage, we have flooding which causes water to go into the sewer system.

They want us to treat 100% of all flow coming to the plant and either store it or we get aggressive on removing I & I. The problem with removing the I & I is we believe the majority is coming from sump pumps. This means we have to get into people's homes and disconnect those sump pumps, which again is a local jurisdiction issue not a County one. The MDEQ is looking at developing a general permit for wholesale customers to get your own NPDES permit to discharge into our system. Basically so the DEQ can hammer the community on I & I and on sump pumps, but we will keep you updated on that.

**Commissioner's Comments:** Commissioner Wright stated it is important that we all get on board with these changes that Director O'Brien went over in the presentation. He gave background on WWS testing regarding the phosphate, what the communication with the State has been and why these requirements may help our cause in reducing the phosphate, which is about an additional \$300,000.00 annual cost. He stated that the additional data from all of your communities, with your assistance, allows us to go back to the State and let them know we are still getting all this phosphate back and still getting complaints. We will compile the complaints and use them as part of our reasoning as to why we should be able to lower our phosphate to the optimum level.

Lastly, regarding PFAS, there is no PFAS in our water. WWS sampled our water source, Lake Huron, and it came back non-detect. However, the State is going to sample our tap as well.

**Next Meeting is September 19, 2018 at 9:00AM**