

Wastewater Advisory Council Meeting Minutes  
March 14, 2017  
10 a.m. – 12 p.m.

In Attendance: Paulette Akers (DEP/DCA), Brian Bingham (MSD), Jennifer Carey (LFUCG), Annette Dupont Ewing (KMUA), Ed Fortner (BMU), Mike Gardner (BGMU), Gary Larimore (KRWA), Valerie Lucas (KY-TN WEA), Donna McNeil (KIA), Roger Recktenwald (KACO), Mark Sneve (ACEC), David Spenard (PSC), Mark Wurschmidt (SD1)

Division of Water: Tom Gabbard, Assistant Director, Sara Beard, Jory Becker, Carole Catalfo, Kari Johnson, Samantha Kaiser, Nick Lester, Russell Neal

Public Attendees: Joe Burns (KRWA), Lane Boldman (KYCC), S. Morgan Faulkner (KYOAG-ORI), Charlie Martin (LFUCG), Jackie Quarles (OGI), David Schrader (Bell Engineering), Mike West (OGI), Jessica Wilhoite (DCA)

Introductions

Tom Gabbard welcomed everyone and reminded everyone to sign in. Everyone introduced themselves.

Announcements

Donna McNeil is the new director of the Kentucky Infrastructure Authority (KIA). Mary Walker is the new director of the Water Protection Division for EPA Region 4. Scott Pruitt is the new EPA Administrator.

Review Agenda

No changes were made to the agenda.

December 2016 Meeting Minutes

The December 2016 meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

Draft comments to the EPA for the draft recreation water quality (304(a) criteria)

The deadline for comments to the draft recreation water quality have been extended until March. DOW is developing a list of comments to submit.

Water Reuse/Purple Pipes (Jory Becker)

Jory Becker discussed that other states have guidelines on water reuse which has not been an issue in the past because of Kentucky's substantial water resources. Other states that employ water storage use the Purple Pipe Standard. Other states use recycled water for agricultural

purposes. Kentucky has received its first municipal request for reuse of non-contact cooling water. Water reuse would be used as secondary use and non-potable.

Annette Dupont Ewing suggested adding another subcommittee for water reuse to which the Council agreed by consensus. The subcommittee would research water reuse in other states and submit suggestions and comments to DOW and the WWAC. Ms. Ewing volunteered to chair the committee. There are several communities in Tennessee already using recycled water that could be visited.

#### Federal Update (Jory Becker)

Mr. Becker discussed the changes that could develop once the EPA receives its new proposed budget. The new budget shows a decrease in EPA staff by twenty five percent. The Needs Survey has not been reviewed in several years. Donna McNeil discussed that KIA will be reviewing the Water Resources Situation Assessment (WRSA) since the four year contract is ending.

#### KIA Update – new leadership: Donna McNeil

Ms. McNeil will host her first Board meeting in May. She is working on many changes within KIA such as internal processes, staffing changes, and project profiles and descriptions. She has been the director for one month.

The Council discussed the need for a more robust infrastructure and asset management tool on the portal. KIA is exploring a utility portal interface to update inventory with a secure link that will also track changes.

Gary Larimore stated that Council members should continue the discussion of wastewater and drinking water discussions at the national level to congressional members. He stated that it is more important than ever to keep the industry's need for funding on the minds of congressional and legislative members.

#### Legislative Update (Jory Becker)

House Joint Resolution 56 formalized the commitment made with the wastewater treatment plants that are privately owned. The intent of to abandon small treatment plants is a rising issue. DOW is currently developing a Wastewater Action Plan.

Jackie Quarles discussed the "Water of the U.S." rule (WOTUS). The administration withdrew the rule. The question of whether circuit or district courts have jurisdiction will be heard by the Supreme Court in October.

#### Regulation Update (Gabbard/Catalfo)

Mr. Gabbard discussed proposed changes to 401 KAR Chapter 8 which will be filed by the April deadline. Submetering is the main change in two regulations. Proposed changes to 401 KAR Chapter 5 will be completed next and shared with the Council.

#### Energy Optimization Project Update (Paulette Akers)

The first phase of the pilot project has been completed. Recommendations have been submitted to the participants and implementation is voluntary. The second phase of participants have accepted and the audits will begin in the fall.

#### Subcommittee Assignments

The Nutrient Subcommittee has not met due to logistics. Brian Bingham is planning on a meeting via conference call so that members can attend or call in. Nick Lester discussed the technology limits for nutrients and how technology limits could be regulated in the future, driven less by water quality and more by size.

The Education and Apprenticeship Subcommittee is changing its name to Operator Recruiting and Development. After having met with DOW staff in Capacity Development and Compliance and Technical Assistance, the subcommittee is finalizing a new brochure for succession planning. A Recruiting Ideas Checklist and the Reserve Operators List is located on the DCA website. Operators who would like to be added to the list can email the DCA. The list has contact information for reserve operators and the areas they will serve. The subcommittee is updating the Careers in Waters and Wastewaters brochure. Apprenticeship and internship models from other states are being reviewed to see what has worked and enhanced training for technology specific challenges are being discussed. This will take some time and resources to develop.

Small Systems Subcommittee has not met.

Sarah Gaddis was not in attendance to give an update on the Compliance Subcommittee.

Ms. McNeil, who chairs the Drinking Water Advisory Council (DWAC) Infrastructure Sustainability Subcommittee, suggested the subcommittee be a joint committee with the WWAC to incorporate abandonment issues. The Council agreed by consensus to establish a joint Infrastructure Sustainability subcommittee.

Next meeting June 13, 2017, Training Room C