



Wastewater Hearing Authority Minutes

Meeting: June 24, 2021

Attendees: Dr. Edward Thackston (WWHA), Dr. Robert Wingfield, Jr. (WWHA), Mr. Jay Tant (WWHA), Mr. David Gilles (WWHA), Tara Ladd (Metro Legal Attorney), John Honeysucker (MWS), Marty Mast (MWS), Ted Taylor (MWS), David Tucker (MWS), Andy Welch (MWS), Al Pogue (MWS), Dr. Manny Ojo (MWS), Teresa Lyons-Oten (MWS), Byron Ross (Monitoring Management Services)

- I. Meeting Called to Order at 1:35 p.m. – Presenter – Dr. Edward Thackston, Chairperson, MWS Wastewater Hearing Authority.**
- II. Review and Approval of MWS Wastewater Hearing Authority Minutes – September 24, 2020.**

Dr. Thackston stated due to length of time since the last meeting of the Authority, if any members have corrections or changes to the minutes. Dr. Thackston asked members of Authority for a motion. Dr. Wingfield so moved for a motion, and David Gilles second the motion, and all other members unanimously accepted minutes for September 24, 2020. **Presenter – Dr. Edward Thackston, MWS WWHA**

- III. Proposed New Local Limits – Andy Welch stated that every five (5) years MWS renews the wastewater permits for each our treatment facilities (water reclamation plants), and we are required as part of the new permitting process to conduct a local limits study.**

At this point Andy turned the topic over to Byron Ross, Monitoring and Management Services (MMS). Mr. Ross stated he has done the calculations and provided a quick presentation as to how the numbers were calculated. According to Mr. Ross, all three plants, Central, White Creeks and Dry Creek, the most stringent limit were calculated so there is no benefit economically from one part of town to the other.

Mr. Ross stated Federal requirements, 40CFR 403.5, makes specific limits to protect the treatment plant, and the State of Tennessee, Division of Water Pollution Control Chapter 0400-40-14 has pretreatment requirements that require MWS to do local limits. What do local limits do? The local prevent pass-through pollutants; in other words, some chrome coming into the plant. We do not want it to pass through and go to the



river, so the state issues pass-through limits. Also, in some cases there is NPDES permit limits, and that is what is protecting us from violating.

Prevent intervention and interference, meaning we do not want to upset the activated sludge system, also the sludge quality. We want the metals to be low so we can use them as a Class A usage and then protect worker health and safety such as fume toxicity, explosive and flammable substances.

We consider all these things when we determine the limits. This is just an overview of all the data you need. It is a lot of data that we had to gather, the permit itself, pass-through limits. Marty Mast, MWS Environmental Compliance go out and the secures the domestic background sampling when it is only residential, so we can get the background loading. So, we develop pollutants of concern. The EPA has 15 pollutants that we must consider. Also, the State of Tennessee, the Department of Environment issues us pass-through limits. There are 33 limits from them. Then we had to add limit that we feel like we needed to be added.

All in all, we have 38 pollutants that we deal with, and we also have a general criterion for things that are highly toxic. Mr. Ross stated that we analyze the data, collect the data, and then we want to do two things. One is calculating the maximum allowable headworks loading at each plant. So, we do all that for all three plants, and we get an influent limit.

That's the influent limit, what can come into Central, and a different limit for Dry Creek, and a different limit for Whites Creek. They're all specific. From that information we then look at a safety factor and other considerations such as hauled wastes. We have to save that portion we got to take out, and whatever is left over goes to the industries. Here is EPA's pollutants that we have to consider right there, and here is an example of the pass-through limits issue. This is Central, Whites Creek and Dry Creek pass-through limits that were just issued September 11, 2020.

Mr. Ross stated we did not have any calculated limits that were more stringent than the current limit we have; therefore, we did not change the current industrial user limits.

David Gilles, WWHA, posed a question, "Are these are all limits in milligrams per liter, Table A?" He further stated that for some reason selenium seems high, 266 milligrams. Mr. Ross stated that he would go back and look at the calculation.

Jay Tant, MWS WWHA noted that the table in the binder did not match the table displayed in presentation. Mr. Ross indicated he had made a modification and will provide an updated table to be presented at the next MWS Wastewater Hearing meeting.



Presenter – Andy Welch, MWS and Byron Ross, Monitoring and Management Services (MMS)

IV. MWS Semi-Annual Report #70 – April 1, 2020 – September 30, 2020 – Marty Mast, MWS

Marty Mast, MWS presented this report and asked if there are any questions or comments. Dr. Thackston, WWHA, requested an update regarding Elite Trailer. He further stated that this report and the Semi-Annual Report #71, reflected a periodic copper problem. Mr. Mast responded this company is a truck and equipment cleaning operation, which they declared to be a categorical industry because they are cleaning the inside of tanker trucks, which they do not own, so if you wash a truck on the outside, it is just basically the same as a car wash. But if you clean out the inside of a tanker truck, and you do not own the truck, the truck becomes a categorical industry.

Elite has a permit that allows them to clean out certain types of waste. They have a long list that if they want to add anything. After four days of sampling performed by Marty Mast, it was determined, and agreed that somebody was bringing in something that did not fall under the category of what they were allowed. Some extra testing was performed and Elite thinks they know where it came from. They are not allowing that hauler to bring stuff anymore, and that occurred during the July to September from Report #70, which shows up again in the July to September column in Report #71.

Dr. Thackston, WWHA, stated in the report Quality Plating had violations. Al Pogue, MWS, responded this company coats nuts, bolts, washers, et cetera. It was chromium they had in July to September, same violation again. Dr. Thackston wanted to know if this is a repetitive type thing, and Mr. Pogue responded it is not.

David Tucker, MWS, stated that Metro Water Services is expanding the Central Plant. It is getting a completely brand-new headworks with core screening, fine screening, and it has grit removal that is going to have odor control. It is getting some enhancements to the primary tanks. We are putting in an intermediate pump station, which is going to eliminate some of the Archimedean screw pumps, which are very high maintenance, to life that into the secondary portion of the facility.

Fine bubble diffusers for the aeration, for the biological portion of the facility, and it's also getting some enhanced -- some enhanced plumes where the return sludge will be mixed, where it will be more homogenous, where the secondary clarifiers would all see the same loading, because when we have the hydraulic peaks in the plant, the mixed liquor migrates. It moves to whichever end is getting the most flow, so you get an



imbalance during peak hydraulic times, and we get an extra loading on one end, which can create problems when the hydraulics pick up for the washout. It's also getting ultraviolet radiation, so we're going to be moving from gaseous chlorine and sulphur dioxide to UV hopefully in the next couple of years.

- V. MWS Semi-Annual Report #71 – October 1, 2020 – March 31, 2021-Al Pogue, MWS**
Dr. Thackston, WWHA, asked the Authority if there were any questions regarding the MWS Semi-Annual Report #71, and all members responded, “No questions”.

Dr. Wingfield, WWHA, asked if the issue with Tradebe has been resolved, has the case been closed? Al Pogue, MWS, stated that an agreement with an order and assessment has been agreed upon. Civil penalty was paid, funds received, and Metro Water Services have observed no exceedance of discharge.

Dr. Wingfield, WWHA posed the question regarding if there are any issues to make sure that there is no pass-through of the COVID virus to the river. Mr. Tucker, MWS, responded it is his understanding of the virus, that it does not live in the sewer. Dr. Wingfield stated that he saw somewhere that COVID was detected in the drinking water sources, which Mr. Tucker responded not to his knowledge. Dr. Thackston, stated that any reports from the Water Environment Federation, none of them are clear as to exactly what they are doing with the data, but they say it is helping them determine the incidence of cases in a district by sampling the sewers. So, it does apparently live for a little while in the sewer itself. Now where it would live through a treatment plant is another question, and he has never seen an article that indicates one way or the other. Dr. Manny Ojo, MWS, stated that the virus itself cannot survive outside itself for a long time, so it would not make it through the wastewater plants.

Dr. Thackston, WWHA, stated let the minutes show that we have gone through the reports, and we have asked questions, and they have all been satisfactorily answered.

- VI. 2020 MWS Annual FOG Report – Andy Welch, MWS**
Copies of the report were handed out to the Authority at the meeting. Dr. Thackston commended Metro Water Services/Environmental Compliance for the excellence work in preparing these reports for the Authority.

Accordingly, Andy Welch, MWS, did not recall any new problems and any loose ends will be addressed over the next coming days. At the next meeting of the Authority, he will have a presentation on the status list.



VII. Other Business - None

VIII. Adjourn-Meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.