



Wastewater Hearing Authority Minutes

Meeting: June 30, 2022

Attendees: Dr. Edward Thackston (Chairperson) | Dr. Robert Wingfield (WWHA) |
Mr. Jay Tant (WWHA)	Ruthie Cherry (WWHA)	Tara Ladd (Metro Legal Attorney)	
Jim Snyder (MWS)	Marty Mast (MWS)	Ted Taylor (MWS)	Andy Welch (MWS)
Al Pogue (MWS)	Chase Block (MWS)	Teresa Lyons-Oten (MWS)	
Susan D. Murillo (Court Reporter)			

I. Meeting Called to Order at 1:30 pm

Dr. Edward Thackston, Chairperson, MWS Wastewater Hearing Authority

II. Review and Approval of MWS WWHA Minutes

Presenter: Dr. Edward Thackston

Meeting minutes are noted as needing a few minor corrections after proofreading. The motion was made, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

III. Review of the Semiannual Industrial Pretreatment Report # 73

Presenter: Marty Mast

Onsite Environmental - 19 samples have been collected over three months, resulting in two minor violations (ammonia and copper) that have since been corrected. The opening of a new facility has led to significant operational issues and personnel changeover. Mr. Mast has met with employees to stress the importance of meeting discharge permit regulations. The two employees involved in the violations have been terminated.

Significant Drought Impact

Presenter: Al Pogue

The industrial discharge effect is not currently measurable as releases are unlikely to be impacted by drought. (Except for CSX.)

Decreased flows are entering wastewater treatment plants. Dry events allow for Background Domestic Sampling, a permitting process requirement. There are no discernable effects of drought on biosolids production.

The reduction of heavy metal dischargers has benefitted the treatment process by lowering concentrations at influent. **Note:** A plating industry had been historically fined for eroding a concrete sewer pipe that had to be replaced and has still not paid the substantial amount.

IV. Review of the 2021 Annual Fats, Oils, and Grease Report

Presenter: Andy Welch

Coronavirus Pandemic Impacts

Restaurants Report reflects data collected in 2020. The number of food service establishments no longer in business may not have been adequately represented in this presentation due to the variability of locations temporarily or permanently closing. The number of inspections has decreased due to the pandemic. In 2020, there was a decrease in non-compliance, most likely due to a reduced number of reviews.

Residential sanitary sewer overflows have increased, likely due to cooking at home. If this trend continues, there is potential for future overflows.

Staffing shortages at grease waste haulers have left a gap in record maintenance, resulting in superfluous violations.

V. Fats, Oils, and Grease Enforcement Update

Presenter: Chase Block

Violations

FOG Reported Violations

Year	Resolved	Unresolved	Total
2022	40	50	90
2021	120	62	182
2020	Not Mentioned	20	Not Mentioned

How are violations enforced?

Minor violations NOV is issued with a 30-day deadline. An additional 30-days is given as a grace period to remediate noncompliance causes, and a reminder is issued.

Major violations May lead to an overflow. They are addressed with immediate urgency due to the risk posed to public health and safety.

Businesses that have been significant contributors have decreased from over twenty-five to two:

- I. Sperry's Steakhouse: An unresolved administrative order was filed in 2017. Adam Dread (Sperry's legal representative) has reached out, promising a complete resolution. It is a consensus that reluctance at this establishment is due to the cost of implementing a large grease interceptor.
- II. Calypso Café: Meeting scheduled for July 11, 2022.

Monitoring Management Service (MMS) is subcontracted to inspect for and file violations. In reviewing MMS reports, numerous unnecessary violations were reported, and often simple

paperwork errors that do not threaten the sanitary sewer system. Additionally, MMS has shown impatience with violators exhibiting a language barrier. The significant resolution of violations has come from MWS officials patiently addressing the issues with business owners that may not be fluent in English. Efforts to educate business owners by providing free online resources for certification in grease trap inspection have also helped to reduce violations.

The method of reporting for businesses that share a standard waste interceptor is changing so that documentation provided by the waste hauler adequately reflects all organizations being serviced. (e.g., strip malls, hotels, banquet halls, etc.)

Metro Schools Sister institutions are made aware of their violations, but it is unclear how to fine due to incorporation. FOG impacts from MWS schools have been reduced due to the absence of deep frying. The increased usage of disposable items has reduced discharges from dishwashing.

VI. Teresa Lyons-Oten's Retirement

Presenter: Jim Snyder

Teresa Lyons-Oten has been a "cornerstone" of success for the Authority. She will be retiring next week but intends to return part-time to assist in onboarding her potential replacement.

VII. Changes from the Developmental Services Division

Presenter: Ted Taylor

New construction permits and performance evaluations have necessitated an additional compliance officer, and the hiring process is ongoing.

The Grease Control Monitor is used for flagging any potentially complex problems, such as industrial discharge or new facilities, that may need to be monitored. Organizations being surveilled in this way are often displeased since their releases are unrelated to grease; the Grease Control Monitor will be renamed.

VIII. Flushable Wipes

Presenter: Ted Taylor

While the Metro Public Information Officer is working hard to educate the public about how damaging flushable wipes are to the sewer system and wastewater treatment process, there have been no noticeable reductions in maintenance projects caused by them.

IX. Other Topics

None

X. Meeting Adjourned

Time not recorded