

Trades Advisory Council Minutes
May 5, 2005

Present were Gary Ragland, Lance Hornbuckle, Hal Balthrop, Richard Smith, Martha Segal, Jack Steakley, Chris Remke, Rick Jones, Gail McQuiston, Roscoe Jones, Robby Ervin, Ilke Hanloser, Kelly Sloan, Marcus Knight, Jim McLean and Mary Ellen Jackson.

The quarterly newsletter was discussed with suggestion that the newsletter be sent by e-mail to members as well. Any, who did not receive the correspondence in U.S. mail, were asked to contact Mary Ellen. The Annual Community Meeting was scheduled for July 20, 2005, from 2:00p.m – 3:30p.m. Due to the on-going construction and parking issues at Howard School, the meeting will be held at the Metro Water Customer Service Center, 2nd floor conference room. It was also decided, based on the same rationale, that future meetings of TAC will be at Customer Service until the Howard Campus project is completed.

The following issues were reviewed by Metro Water after the March meeting and feedback given as below (** indicates MWS to revisit after feedback received at the May meeting):

1. Include type of material required for installation on drawings.

Response: Type of material is included in drawings.

***2. Add blow-off valve to drawings and add a blow-off valve on strainer specs. Discussion included necessity and importance of strainers varies according to locations.

Response: MWS position is that strainers are required on all commercial-domestic line backflow as stated on our specifications. Blow-off valve are recommended but not required.

3. Are nipples and caps required on backflows? Inconsistent answers received.

Response: Nipples and caps will be required for all new installations. MWS will continue to furnish for testing existing devices.

***4. According to ABI when a RP is obsolete and has to be changed the line from the meter to the box has to be upgraded. According to cross connections, the line from meter to RPB has to be copper and they are not concerned with “what cannot be seen”. Conflicting information being given.

Response: Newly installed (new installation or replacement of previous device) double check valve and backflow preventer assemblies shall have a service line connecting such device to the meter or MWS main constructed of an MWS approved material such as copper, brass, or ductile iron. Devices that are repaired in place are not required to replace a service line of unapproved material unless other considerations such as water quality are present due to the material used on the construction of the service line.

***5.PVC should be considered compliant on backflow installation or at a minimum PVC previously approved should be grandfathered into compliance. Member does not understand MWS concern because this is a customer liability. Suggestions to give requirements for new installations but allow existing installations that can be repaired etc to be grandfathered due to past approval.

Response: Newly installed (new installation or replacement of previous device) double check valve and backflow preventer assemblies shall have a service line connecting such device to the meter or MWS main constructed of an MWS approved material such as copper, brass, or ductile iron. Devices that are repaired in place are not required to replace a service line of unapproved material unless other considerations such as water quality are present due to the material used on the construction of the service line.

6. Codes and MWS do not agree on material requirements and this needs to be addressed.

Response: Hal Balthrop to do language for code change to address conflicting material requirements between MWS and Codes

7. Specifications and drawing for acceptable inside installation of RPB are suggested.

Response: MWS refers customer to existing drawings for inside installations.

8. MWS should require certification for repair or replacement of backflows with plumber required to fax a test report to MWS. Perception is that MWS is being redundant and could save money by allowing certified testing etc. cost of which would be absorbed by customer.

Response: MWS will not at this time consider testing by a certified third party.

9. Test sheets are still not clear and difficult to read.

Response: Test form will be printed on white paper to improve clarity. This should be implemented in a few months

10. Make the bid process easier by including requirements for repairs on the inspection sheet. This would promote consistency.

Response: Revisions to test form to include disclaimer that MWS has not fully tested the backflow etc. will be included

***11. Meter testers are requiring customers to install test-tees on meters that will not be acceptable anyway. IE: Hermitage complex has Arlington meter. It is impossible to add test tees....why not just tell them they have to replace the meter.

Response: Commercial Meter Program is changing.

12. There is continuing difficulty in reaching cross connection. It was stated that 4562 should roll to 4600. Customer should select option 5 and the phone representative can send a service order to Barbara. It was stated that this is not happening. Members requested an updated listing of department phone numbers.

Response: Service Orders are now being issued by using 4600 phone line. Issues should be resolved.

Item 2 will be considered for inclusion in the variance process.

Item 4 and 5 were discussed at length with MWS to revisit and issue response at next meeting.

Item 11 included a brief explanation that the "commercial ownership grid" is being revamped and will allow for repair of some meters that are not testing accurately. The standards for age of that meter are being researched at this time.

A variance process for exclusion from backflow requirement for two story office buildings was announced as follows: If a building is being used as a professional services office with limited personnel (such as an accounting office, engineering office) MWS would consider a variance. The owner would be required to submit a letter to MWS indicating their intent to continuing using the facility as determined by the survey during the course of the upcoming year. If the building use changes during that time, owner should notify MWS immediately for a re-survey to determine the need for a protection device. After variance is approved, the business would continue to be inspected yearly for compliance.

Hugh Garrison presented an update on the Grease Control Program and all joined the CSC staff for a luncheon celebrating National Drinking Water Week.

The next meeting is scheduled for June 8, 2005, 10:00a.m.-11:30a.m. at CSC.

