



Wastewater Hearing Authority Minutes

Meeting Date: December 19, 2024

Call to Order: 1:30 pm

Adjourn:

Authority Members: Mr. Tant, Dr. Wingfield, Dr. Li, Ms. Duryea, and Ms. Dodd

In Attendance: **MWS Representatives:** Chase Block, Brent Freeman, Tara Ladd, Sara Wilson, Marty Mast, Jim Snyder, Al Pogue, Ted Taylor, Andy Welch, Mary Peoples, Tarandeep Tur, and Megan Woodring.

I. Introduction of New Board Members – Vote for Chair and Vice Chair

In October 2024, the Wastewater Hearing Authority transitioned to new members. Previous board members Dr. Edward Thackston, Mr. David Gilles, and Ms. Ruthie Cherry stepped down from their seats, and their replacements, Dr. Jianwei Li, Ms. Jenny Dodd, and Ms. Kathryn Duryea, took their seats for their first WWHHA meeting.

The new board members introduced themselves, and each provided information on their professional backgrounds.

Dr. Wingfield opened the table to vote on electing the new Chair and Vice Chairperson. After ten years of service to the Authority, Mr. Tant was unanimously elected chair, and Dr. Wingfield was unanimously elected to continue his role as Vice Chair.

Chairperson Tant moved the discussion forward with the following order of business.

II. Review and Approval of Meeting Minutes

The 09/19/24 minutes were approved without corrections or comments.

III. FOG Management Policy – Enforcement Response Guide

At the September meeting, the WWHHA members moved to approve the latest version of the FOG Management Policy, replacing a version that was nearly twenty years old. Today, Chase Block introduced the Enforcement Guide for the new FOG Management Policy, seeking approval of the Authority to enact it. WWHHA members were presented with an executive summary of the FOG Management Policy and the entire Enforcement Response Guide, which included a schedule of penalties and a table illustrating how penalties are assessed.

A pertinent point of differentiation between the previous Enforcement Response Guide and the revision presented today is that the original was mainly an *Industrial Use Guide*. Today, MWS Environmental Compliance has a significant base of permit holders, primarily restaurants, which were previously underrepresented (if represented at all) in the Guide. The new draft focuses explicitly on FOG enforcement, with food establishments ranging from large corporations like McDonald's to the smallest taco trucks.



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The first section of the guide outlines the legal authority MWS Environmental Compliance has to impose fines and offers a glossary of terms and definitions. The next section outlines the enforcement process. Due to the department's staff size and the number of industries requiring inspection, MWS Environmental Compliance schedules inspections of food service establishments once every two years, unless an issue arises that necessitates additional inspections.

Mr. Block elaborated on the steps involved in penalty assessments, from notice of non-compliance through compliance orders and penalties. The penalty assessment is valued in an amount per day, not only for easy calculation but also to encourage the permit holder to act. Penalties are based on the severity and frequency of the violation, and the daily accrual incentivizes timely compliance. New categories have been introduced in the new ERG, including the requirement for sink strainers.

The MWS Environmental Compliance team is pleased to announce that the new Enforcement Response Guide has been translated into five languages, ensuring that the community served by our team has a reliable resource for understanding and complying with regulations.

Ms. Dodd moved to approve the FOG Enforcement Response Guide. Seconded by Ms. Duryea. The motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Semi-Annual Report

The report covered compliance activities for April 1 through September 30, 2024, as required under federal and state pretreatment regulations.

Key details:

- 52 Significant Industrial Users (SIUs) monitored
- 8 industries in Significant Noncompliance (SNC)
 - Violations included late reporting, chronic violations, and technical review criteria
- Only 8 sample violations across 124 SIU sampling days.
- p-Cresol violations discussed; Onsite Environmental cited for issues stemming from leachate treatment.
- Plans for infrastructure improvements and compliance at Onsite Environmental are underway.

Adjournment