

BACWA – Engineering Information Sharing Group
Meeting Minutes
January 29, 2009
2 to 5 pm at the Boy Scout Facility, San Leandro

ATTENDEES

Greg Baatrup, FSSD
Rolf Ohlemutz, VSFCD
Dean Eckerson, DDS
Ken Katen, CMSA
Jackie Wong, CMSA
Sandeep Karkal, Novato San
Brian Henderson, SF
Gail Chesler, CCCSD
Ba Than, CCCSD
Vince DeLange, EBMUD
Garry Lee, DSRSD
Ting Ong, SJ/SC WPCP
Mike Barnes, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants

DISCUSSION

Stimulus Package Discussion

- \$6 billion for CA. 17% for WW, \$420 mil for water
- Need to get on the state priority list to get in line for funding, which is first come, first serve
- 50% of SRF may be grants, but grants will probably go to low income areas
- Need CEQA approval of a project as part of the shovel ready status.
- Money needs to be spent by Sept 2010, or it goes back to the federal govt.
- It was noted that if the projects are run through the SRF program, it will take too long. To address this, new SRF guidelines are supposed to be developed within 60 days.
- DDS, CCCSD, EBMUD, FSSD, and Novato San will try for SRF funds

Master Planning and Rate Development

- CCCSD. Completed WWTP and collection system master plans about 10 years ago. Their plans are for 10 years They are in the process of updating the collection system plan now. The 10 year CIP is about \$310 million, with 2/3 for the collection system and 1/3 for the plant. The Board approves the first year of the CIP each year. Engineers meet with the O&M staff to get feedback on the CIP projects. They have 4 programs within the CIP: WWTP, collections, recycled water, and general. The Board approves an upper limit for each program each year. Staff does not need to get Board approval to increase the budget of a project within the programs as long as the approved program budget is maintained. They review rates each year. The WWTP is developed using MS Excel while the collection system budge is developed using MS Access.

- DSRSD. Complete master plans every 5 years for their expansion and operations programs. They have 3 funds within each program: local collection, regional wastewater, and water. (Recycled water is part of the water fund.) They develop a 10 year CIP, but the Board only adopts a two year plan. Staff needs to get Board approval for individual project budget increases. They review rates every 2 years. They are in the process of updating their water master plan this year. Project costs are managed using their accounting software, which includes internal labor costs. They get monthly reports on project status. They put the full project budget into the accounting system, and the remaining budget rolls over to the next year for multi-year projects. They are completing 24 month cash flow forecasts to manage cash flow and fund balances. They have multiple committees to approve projects before getting approval by the finance committee. Their 10 year CIP is \$234 million, with \$135 mil for the WWTP, \$19 mil for collections, and \$80 million for water.
- EBMUD. Has two year appropriation cycles. Their 5 year budget is \$180 million, with \$120 mil for the WWTP, \$30 mil for interceptors and pump stations, and \$30 mil for their wet weather program. Their 10 year budget total is \$390 million. They complete master plans for specific areas of the WWTP, but not the overall plant. The O&M managers provide significant input for developing the CIP. They submit project requests that are reviewed collaboratively the engineers. They review projects against the District criteria, such as safety, regulatory compliance, etc. They focus mostly on the projects that will be completed within two years. They are in the process of employing reliability centered maintenance (RCM) and asset management to help prioritize projects.
- VSFCD. The Baykeeper settlement to reduce SSOs has been driving their CIP. They spent \$10 mil/yr between 2001 and 2006, and have spent a total of over \$60 million. About 10% of this was for the WWTP. They had a 40% rate increase to fund this. They are now budgeting about \$1.5 mil/yr to correct the priority items recommended by the O&M staff. In addition, the improvements they have made to the collection system reduced flows to the plant by about 10%.
- FSSD. Updates its 10 year CIP each year as part of the District budget. Revenue is down about 5% and connection fee revenue is down.
- SF. CIP of \$3.2 billion over 15 years to rehabilitate aging infrastructure. They plan to reconfigure their collection system to maximize gravity flow to the plants, which will cost about \$1 billion. Their master plan will be released in Feb 09. They have a 5 year interim CIP in place now. The O&M managers and engineers meet monthly to prioritize projects. They have a \$4.6 billion water CIP that is tracked using Primavera and Oracle.
- Novato San. \$100 mil CIP in 5 years, mostly for the WWTP. They are going from 2 plants to 1. Their master plan was first completed in 2005. Their collection system master plan is 95% complete, and will include about \$20 million in projects in the next 4 years. They CIP projects are developed and prioritized via a negotiation process among the managers. They use Excel to manage the CIP, and they track via quarterly expenditures.
- DDS. They have conveyance and plant master plans. They also have completed master plans for specific areas, such as electrical and information systems. They have a 5 year CIP that is updated annually. They determine the projects, \$ value, and priorities via an iterative process with O&M managers.

They strive to set the plan to match cash flow. Their budget includes internal labor and consultant fees in addition to construction costs. Each CIP project has a one page description and projected cash flow. They use categories of wastewater, recycled water, collections, and Bay Point collections. Their total budget is \$62 million in 5 years: \$30 mil for WWTP; \$20 mil for conveyance; \$10 mil for recycled water; and \$2 mil for Bay Point. Their CIP is on their web site. It's adopted by the Board at their May meeting. Their finance committee reviews the proposed CIP in February. They use a spreadsheet to track current projects. They are considering using an asset management approach.

- CMSA. Their CIP is in 3 spreadsheets: 10 yr CIP, 10 year asset management plan, and the revenue bond. They use an informal asset management approach for project development, but are planning to use an integrated asset management approach. Planning is completed by the department managers. Their revenue bond budget is \$19 million through 2012. Through 2018, the budget is \$33 million, which includes FOG and food waste to energy as part of a digester rehabilitation. They also have a sludge thickening project. Their \$55 million hydraulic capacity increase project is under construction.
- SJ. Their master plan development is ongoing. They have a 5 year CIP, but the council approves the first year. The CIP planning committee consists of key managers. They have an initial screening before prioritization. They use a weighted scoring process to prioritize projects. After they develop a plan, they look at cost, and then try to match the plan to cost. They hired an asset manager about a year ago. They track revenue and expenses, which include internal labor. The City has tracking software from PeopleSoft.

Water Conservation/Flow Decreases

CCCSD has seen its flow decrease from 42 to 36 mgd, probably due to conservation. The DDSD flow has decreased from 14 to 12.9. Staff believes that the high foreclosure rate in the area has caused some of this. Growth has slowed significantly in the past year, from 600 new house permits to 30. A few years ago there were 900-1100 new connections per year.

The VSFCDD flow decreased 10% due to all their collection system improvements, which reduced I/I. They are 95% built out now, and may have negative growth due to foreclosures, although they have not seen any flow reductions caused by this yet.

Next meeting date

April 23, 2009 from 10am to 1pm. Tentative date, pending a survey of agencies. Location to be determined.

Future Discussion Items

- Master planning and CIPs: Continuation for agencies that have not yet discussed their plan.
- Project information management (for example, electronic project management/tracking tools. (TH) (Some discussion as part of CIP discussion)
- Asset Management (Group 1/09) (Demo by SF?)

- GIS or Accessing Data Graphically (BT 1/09)
- Food waste digestion (CMSA, SF, and EBMUD either have projects or a specific interest in this.)
- Succession Planning
- Sustainability analyses
- Standard specifications
- Standard details
- Development and/or implementation of major maintenance projects
- Completing small CIP projects
- Project delivery approaches (design build, etc.)
- Maintaining record drawings
- Engineering organization structure
- Use of newer technologies (UV, screw press, etc)
- Rehabilitation of assets
- Process performance