



CITY OF WAUWATOSA  
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**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**Tuesday, May 2, 2006 – 6:30 p.m.**

PRESENT: Aids. Didier, Donegan, Ewerdt, Grimm, Hanson, Herzog, Krill, Maher, Meaux, Purins, Stepaniak, Sullivan (6:35 p.m.), Treis, Becker, Birschel -15

EXCUSED: Ald. Krol

ALSO Mr. Wontorek, City Administrator; Mr. Kappel, Public Works Director; Mr. PRESENT: Kesner, City Attorney; Mr. Wehrley, City Engineer; Ms. Welch, Community Development Director; Ms. Murphy Library Director; Mayor Estness

Ald. Becker in the Chair

**Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District 2020 Facilities Plan.** Mike Martin, Milwaukee Metropolitan Sewerage District, presented a general overview of the District's future facilities plan, noting that MMSD's service area includes 1.1 million customers in 28 communities. The City of South Milwaukee is not served by MMSD.

In 1975 97% of sewerage overflows were caused by combined sewer (sanitary/storm) systems. One percent was contributed by sanitary sewer overflows, and 2% from other sources.

In the 1980's the focus centered on reducing the number of sewer overflows. Construction of the deep tunnel project began. The tunnel created storage for wastewater until the Jones Island or South Shore waste water treatment plants could accommodate it.

In 1994 the deep tunnel system went on line. There was a significant drop-off in the volume of combined sewer and sanitary sewer overflows. The number of overflows is still predicated upon the storage capacity of the deep tunnel and by the amount of rainfall, though. MMSD averages overflows of approximately 1.8 billion gallons per year. By contrast, Chicago's overflows total 23.3 billion gallons annually; Gary, Indiana totals about 300 – 400 million gallons per year.

Current sources of pollution are broken down as follows: 19% combined sewer overflows; 69% non-agricultural run-off; 12% sanitary sewer overflows. Pollution is divided into 'point source' and 'non-point source.' Examples of point source pollution are sanitary and combined sewer overflows, industrial discharges, and wastewater treatment plants. Non-point sources include urban (i.e., street dirt, oil, highway debris) and agricultural run-off. Most of the pollution in the Milwaukee area is of the non-point source variety.

MMSD's water quality initiative is looking at pollution sources and their reduction. A region's watershed (the area of land where a drop of water ends up at a named river) is analyzed as part of the research. The 2020 Facilities Plan is examining ways to improve water quality; the implementation plan will be developed this year. The final plan approval is expected in 2007, with actual implementation beginning after that. Public input has been sought as has the input of staffs from the 28 participating communities. Possible solutions include improvements to the treatment plants, additional sewers, increased deep tunnel storage and implementation of emerging technologies.

Eleven plan alternatives have been identified and are under consideration for implementation. It is likely the final plan will be a combination of the best practices of several of the alternatives. All of the alternatives contain certain common components: completion of the District's flood management projects and maintenance of infiltration/inflow levels. Alternative #1 is the 'baseline alternative' against which other options are compared; the total regional cost for this option is \$1.5-2 billion dollars. Costs of the other alternatives range from \$600 million dollars to \$8.8 billion dollars.

The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Carla A. Ledesma, City Clerk

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