

# Residential Advisory Council (RAC) Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 12, 2022 | 5:30 p.m. via Teams

**Attendance:**

DPW Staff	RAC Members Present	RAC Member Absent
Yolanda Winkler	Lois Freeman	Miriam Ewers
Carmellita Green	Ed Yelochan (Ad Hoc)	Carol Aline Thomas
Jamilah Johnson	Vinnie Ustach (Ad Hoc)	Peggy Jackson-Jobe
Jason Mitchell, Director	Howard Hughes	John Rocky Dunn
Richard Luna, Deputy Director	John Czczulin	
Audree Jones-Taylor, Chief of Staff	Jessica Morgan	
Yosef Kebede, Bureau Head	Rosalind Griffin	
Ramona S. Harry	Crystal Parker	
Mohammed Rahman	Mary Disharoom	
Kedrick McIntye	Haydee Rodriguez	
	Angela Cole	
	Dantwan Broady	

Yolanda opened the meeting at 6 p.m. with the introduction of the revised agenda with a complete focus on Water and Waste Water to provide RAC members a better understanding of Water and Waste Water operations and introduced Director Mitchell.

Director Mitchell welcomed the RAC members and introduced the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), Richard Luna, Deputy Director, Audree Jones-Taylor, Chief of Staff, and Yosef Kebede, Bureau Chief of Water & Waste Water.

Yosef introduced his leadership team: Ramona Harry, Special Projects Lead, Mohammed Rahman and Kedrick McIntye. Administrative Affairs Manager

## I. Department of Public Works Overview

We began the presentation with the mission and vision for DPW.

- **Mission**  
We support the health, environment, and economy of our City and the region by providing customers with safe drinking water and keeping neighborhoods and waterways clean.
- **Vision**  
To be a strong proponent and protector of our environment and the health and vitality of our communities.

I. What We do?

a) **Public Health:**

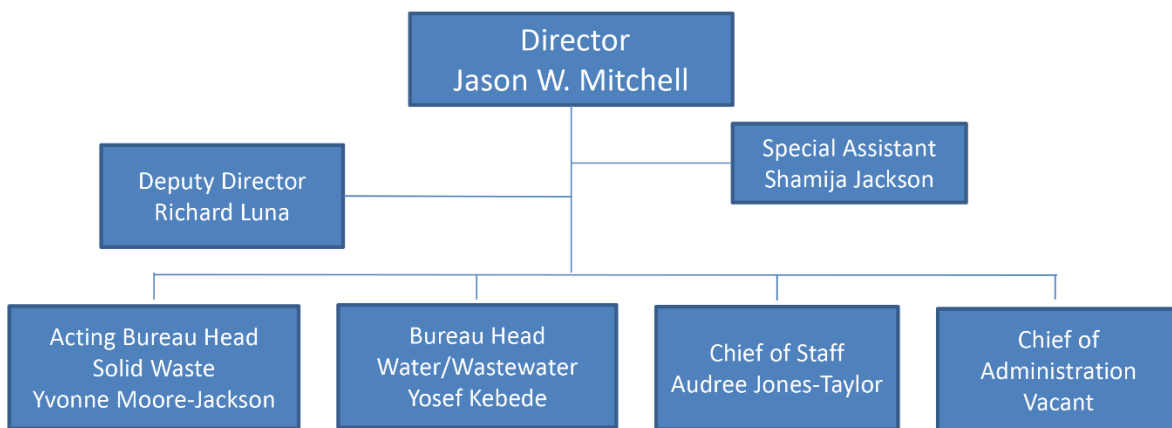
- Protection against waterborne diseases
- Safe source of drinking water
- Rat Abatement
- Wastewater removal and treatment
- Cleaning

b) **Quality Environment:**

- Chesapeake Bay protection
- Cleaner streams and Harbor
- Greening and stream restoration
- Healthier communities

**Organizational Structure**

# Organizational Chart



II. **Capital Budget**

- 2,705 Positions
- FY 2021 Operating Budget of \$607 Million
- FY 2021-2026 Capital Improvements Budget of \$2.6 Billion

III. **Enterprise Funds**

The Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater systems are separate enterprise funds which must be operated without profit or loss to other funds of the City.

- Water and sewer bills support the operating and capital programs for water and wastewater.
- The Stormwater Remediation Fee supports the capital and operating programs for infrastructure improvements as well as reducing the polluting and flooding impacts of stormwater runoff.
- Solid Waste is supported by General Funds and a portion of CDBG funds.

## II. Utility Water Facts

Baltimore City water system serves 1.8 million people in Baltimore City and 5 counties. The following lists a few facts

- 3 Reservoirs: Loch Raven, Prettyboy, and Liberty
- Loch Raven, Prettyboy is impounded by Gunpowder Falls River, while Liberty impounds water from Patapsco. Water then flows to Montebello I and II or Ashburton.
- DPW has 20 pumping stations.
- DPW provides drinking water to Baltimore County residents, wholesale to Howard County, and raw water to Carroll and Harford County.
- DPW has approximately 4,000 miles of water mains of responsibility.
- Raw Water Reservoirs – DPW manages 7 out of 17,000 acres of the area, some of the watersheds' areas do belong to DPW.
- The average age of the City's water mains are precisely 80 years old, and no older than 100 years old – there is a constant effort to revitalize assets/replace pipes. Repairs of pipes usually go through the Capital Improvement Project (CIP).
- Guilford Reservoir project (by Coldspring) mandated through EPA long-term enhanced service water treatment rule.
- Druid Hill Park and Ashburton should be completed within the next few years. This completes the requirement for EPA.
- The self-imposed goal of replacing 15 miles of water mains every year require a constant assessment of the condition of our pipes/water main materials.

### 1. B'More WISE (Water Infrastructure Strategic Education)

- This program was created to train and inform those who are interested in the Water/Wastewater industry. The audience for this program is broad, spanning from high school students to those who were affected by incarceration and/or lost a job due to COVID-19.
- There will be a combination of class instruction and field experience to educate high school students on the variety of careers within the Water/Wastewater industry. If the students' progress through the program post-graduation, they will be prepped to take exams for certification.  
For adult learners, it will be a compressed 6-month version of classroom and field experience. Most participants will come from non-profit organizations such as Park Heights' Renaissance and ROCA.

### ○ Questions & Concerns

**Q: Jessica Morgan** - Just had a quick question regarding the reservoirs that are currently under construction. You mentioned Ashburton and kind of gave a general date as to the completion of the work taking place there. Do we have an exact date of when that will be? And while it is under construction, is there treatment taking place with the water itself?

**A: Yosef:** The completion date, I would have to get the specific date from the team, but roughly we're looking at the end of 2022. Within the next 5-6 months, I believe is when we expect to be to have substantial completion. Now of course substantial completion means that there might still be some other work that needs to happen to be completely done with the site and have the contractor demobilized. Yes, the water is being treated.

The reservoir is still feeding the second zone of our system and the second zone is treated. Typically, when water comes out of a treatment plant, it is chlorinated again after going through a full treatment. When it leaves a reservoir, it's typically injected with chlorine again to make sure that there is residual in the pipe in the water. Does that answer your question?

**Jessica Morgan:** I think you answered the question. So, as we speak, the water is being treated although it's under construction and there's stuff there, it's being treated before it goes out to the communities.

**Yosef:** It is.

**Q: Vinnie Ustach:** I wanted to know if in all these Counties like Baltimore County, I know a lot of people are on a well. If they are not on a well, are they getting water from Baltimore City DPW?

**A: Yosef:** If they are not on a water well, I would generally say yes; however, not all of Baltimore County is part of our distribution zone as may know. There are far reaches of the County that are further north that are not covered by our system, but generally speaking, if they're not on water well, then they likely will be getting City water.

**Vinnie Ustach:** OK. Thank you.

### III. Wastewater Utility Overview

Baltimore City has two of the State's largest Wastewater Treatment Plants:

- Back River in Essex (Baltimore County); and
- Patapsco in the Fairfield area (Baltimore City).
- The two plants can collect and treat up to 250 million gallons wastewater daily.
- Back River WWTP: 180 MGD
- Patapsco WWTP: 73 MGD
- There are 3,100 miles of sanitary mains in the system.
- DPW maintains the 1,400 miles located within Baltimore City.
- The system includes operating eight (8) major wastewater pumping stations and 10 minor installations.
- Similar to water mains, most sewer mains are old and have been installed from 1910-1945.
- Baltimore City issued a Consent Decree to manage Sanitary Sewer Overflows (SSO).
- A \$2.6 billion Sanitary Sewage Upgrade is required to be completed by Baltimore City by 2030. A comprehensive evaluation is required.
- SSO Trend (Graph shown on slideshow) shows a significant reduction of SSO after the Headworks Project was implemented in 2021.
- Currently, Phase I of the SSO Consent Decree is being monitored for production.

### V. Stormwater Utility Overview

Baltimore City maintains a separate storm drain system:

- 1,146 miles of Storm drain pipes
- 27,561 Storm drain manholes
- 52,438 Storm drain inlets
- The City maintains four (4) pumping stations and uses hundreds of best management practices.
- There are 100 miles of streams and open channels within the City that also must be

maintained.

- Over 1,100 miles of storm drainage pipes are placed underground to maintain the flow of stormwater.
- There are four pumping stations maintained for stormwater purposes.
- 1,200 of the total storm drain system was constructed after 1940. The Capital Improvement Program is estimated to be \$242 million
- Stormwater projects cost approx. \$50 million.
- Inlet screens were produced to help the City meet regulations for clean water.

○ **Questions & Concerns**

**Q: Howard Hughes** - I'm in the West side of town. When will you be posting or advertising or when are you going to be marketing the program the B-WISE program to the adults?

**A: Harry, Ramona:** We've been working with our partners that meet the criteria to with participants for our pilot program. We are beginning a mass campaign for our spring adult program. We may work through some additional slots in our fall program for October, but we want to make sure that we've got it right and we've got all the kinks out. We're going to work on some media. Our communications team is actually developing a lot of the brochures and getting that information out to the public. So, you'll be seeing that influx in the next two weeks.

**Next Meeting:** Monday, October 17, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Adjourned