

Wet Weather Team  
Stakeholder Group Agenda  
December 7, 2022  
9:00 a.m. – 10:30 a.m.  
*In-person with a virtual option*

- 9:00 – 9:10 Welcome & Intro, Roll Call, Ground Rules, Purpose  
*Clay Kelly, Strand Associates*
- 9:10 – 9:30 Overview of Recent Developments at MSD  
*Tony Parrott, MSD Executive Director*
- 9:30 – 9:50 IOAP and Capital Program Update  
*David Johnson, MSD Chief Engineer*  
*John Loechle, MSD Engineering Director*  
*Brandon Flaherty, MSD Engineer III*
- 9:50 – 10:10 Project-Specific Updates  
Real Time Control System  
*Brian Bingham, MSD Chief Operations Officer*  
*Marc Thomas, MSD Deputy Chief of Operations – Vertical Assets*  
3 Forks Beargrass Creek Study  
*Wolffie Miller, MSD Infrastructure Planning Program Administrator*  
*Wes Sydnor, MSD Chief of Government and Public Affairs*
- 10:10 – 10:30 Final Questions, Stakeholder Check-in, Observer Comments, Wrap-up and Adjourn  
*Clay Kelly*

# Meeting Summary

## Wet Weather Team Stakeholder Group Meeting

### December 7, 2022

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The Wet Weather Team (WWT) Stakeholders, chartered by the Louisville and Jefferson County Metropolitan Sewer District (MSD), met on December 7, 2022, in-person and via video conference. The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Provide an overview of recent developments at MSD

### Welcome

Clay Kelly of Strand Associates, Inc.<sup>®</sup> (Strand) opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and going over the logistics and ground rules that will be used for this meeting, which is the WWT's first hybrid meeting. Clay noted that all attendees are veterans of these meetings and that the usual ground rules apply to this meeting, the same as all previous meetings. The most significant change would be monitoring the in-person attendees and the virtual attendees for raised name tents or raised hands to indicate a desire to speak, to be sure no one is overlooked.

### Overview of Recent Development at MSD

Tony Parrott, MSD Executive Director, opened this topic by saying MSD brings value to its customers by providing three utilities (wastewater, drainage, and flood protection) under one roof. As growth associated with distilleries and battery manufacturing continues, MSD has been coordinating with state and local authorities to meet and support the economic needs of the community. The efficiencies that come from combining services under one organization has allowed MSD to keep rates competitive. Currently, MSD's rates are only slightly higher than the national average.

MSD's budget is largely consumed by regulatory-required projects. Approximately 70% of Fiscal Year 2023 (FY23) and 83% of the five-year capital improvement budgets will be devoted to these regulatory-required projects. This does not leave room for other priorities, but negotiations with regulators have allowed MSD's 2<sup>nd</sup> Amended Consent Decree to incorporate health and safety priorities like Asset Management, Critical Interceptor Rehab, Paddy's Run, and Biosolids at Morris Forman. MSD's goal is to manage the affordability of their rates by keeping annual rate increases below the 7% threshold (6.9% is the highest amount MSD's Board can authorize without Louisville Metro City Council approval).

A stakeholder asked how projects related to the quality of local streams are progressing. Tony responded by saying that a lot of projects are underway, and more are planned. MSD is seeing improvements in the streams.

Another stakeholder asked for an update on what projects are happening at Morris Forman WQTC. Brian Bingham, MSD Director of Operations, said that the Morris Forman WQTC has multiple projects happening at all times. The biggest project currently underway is the improvements to the solids handling systems, which will increase MSD's ability to control odors in addition to improving permit compliance.

Tony added that MSD has been focused on odor issues across their entire service area. MSD's "clAIRity Program" allows residents to report odors online and is working well. MSD continues to make upgrades to their infrastructure to better control odors.

Two stakeholders commended MSD on the clAIRity program. One asked whether MSD had a similar program targeted at businesses. Tony confirmed that MSD does have such a program and works with business to control odors. Brian added that MSD is challenged by a lack of a central list of businesses and appropriate contacts, which make it difficult to provide outreach.

## **Meeting Summary Wet Weather Team Stakeholder Group Meeting December 7, 2022**

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A stakeholder asked whether the odors from sewers were methane gas that was flammable. Brian explained that odors are more of a nuisance in nature as opposed to presenting safety risks. They are caused by hydrogen-sulfide that is too diluted to burn or cause physical harm. Brian continued by saying that odors are unacceptable and MSD's multi-pronged approach to address the challenge is helping to minimize odors when possible.

### **Integrated Overflow Abatement Program (IOAP) and Capital Program Update**

David Johnson, MSD Chief Engineer, and John Loechle, MSD Director of Engineering, provided an overview of several initiatives. David shared that regulators are very pleased with MSD's work in Bullitt County, so far, and provided a reminder that MSD operates Jefferson, Bullitt, and Oldham Counties as separate enterprises. John explained that the hydraulic modeling done by Clemson University resulted in design efficiencies for the Paddy's Run Flood Pump Station.

A stakeholder expressed their disappointment that the modeling could not be done at a local university. John and Brian explained that this kind of physical model build is extremely specialized and that there are only two to three universities in the nation that provide these services. If UofL offered these engineering services, there would be an opportunity to collaborate locally. Another stakeholder asked whether a computer model could have replicated the physical modeling that Clemson University performed. John shared that computer modeling is done initially for scaling but cannot replace physical modeling at the current level of technology.

### **Project-Specific Updates**

Marc Thomas, MSD Deputy Director of Operations, presented MSD's Real-Time Control (RTC) monitoring and control system to the WWT. Marc explained that MSD began developing the system in 2006 and continually improves it. The system is now fully automated and managed through modeling software designed to control the flow of wastewater throughout the county.

A stakeholder requested that MSD update their "red and green" warning system for overflows. Brian said that MSD is exploring how to improve that system without making it overly complicated.

Wolffie Miller, MSD Infrastructure Planning Program Administrator, provided an overview of the USACE Three Forks Beargrass Creek Ecosystem Study. Wolffie noted that the study is complete, but no federal money has been awarded yet, and local partners need to come together to form partnerships and fundraise. Until then, MSD is continuing to coordinate with USACE and follow their lead as support is garnered from potential non-federal sponsors. MSD is eager to partner with the City and USACE through qualifying in-kind services and on property owned by MSD, where the implementation aligns with MSD's mission.

A stakeholder observed that it would seem to be a good return on investment if all the local sponsor had to do was put up 5% of the project cost. Wolffie clarified that MSD could not be responsible for funding all the infrastructure and land purchases without other project partners. Of the sites identified, MSD only has 4% of the acreage compared to other partners. If more land is donated (rather than purchased), the overall project cost as well as 35% non-federal sponsor share will decrease as well.

Another stakeholder asked whether the plan prioritized areas where improvements should be made to achieve the most benefit for the least cost. Wolffie responded by saying that the data exists to do prioritization, but the question often comes down to feasibility of acquiring properties in order to implement solutions.

A stakeholder encouraged MSD to begin implementing the plan in stages that would attract partners as others saw progress being made. Another stakeholder offered that Metro Council could help by providing credit for the properties Louisville Metro owns.

**Meeting Summary**  
**Wet Weather Team Stakeholder Group Meeting**  
**December 7, 2022**

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Several stakeholders asked what could be done to move the plan toward implementation. Wolffie responded by asking them to contact their Congressional delegation and professional networks for funding. Local advocacy, fundraising, and partnership agreements will be essential for leveraging the federal funding to make this plan a reality.

**Observer Comments, Wrap-Up, and Adjournment**

Clay closed the meeting by thanking everyone for their participation and wished them a safe and happy holiday season.

**Meeting Materials**

- Agenda for the December 7, 2022, WWT Stakeholder Group Meeting.
- Copy of the presentation slides—Overview of Recent Developments at MSD, IOAP and Capital Program Update; and Project-Specific Updates.

**Meeting Summary**  
**Wet Weather Team Stakeholder Group Meeting**  
**December 7, 2022**

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**Meeting Participants**

*Wet Weather Team Stakeholders (Present)*

Susan Barto, Mayor of Lyndon  
Stuart Benson, Louisville Metro Council, District 20  
Deborah Bilitski, Waterfront Development Corporation  
Mark French, University of Louisville Speed School of Engineering (virtually)  
Arnita Gadson, West Jefferson County Community Task Force (virtually)  
Corinne Greenberg, The Chemours Company (virtually)  
David James, Louisville Metro Council, District 6  
Kurt Mason, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (retired) (virtually)  
Jody Meiman, Louisville Metro Government, Director of EMA/MetroSafe  
Lisa Santos, Irish Hill Neighborhood Association  
Andrew Condia, Senator Mitch McConnell's Office  
David Wicks, Get Outdoors Kentucky; Jefferson County Public Schools (retired)  
Ward Wilson, Kentucky Waterways Alliance  
Nicole Yates, Passport Health (virtually)

*Wet Weather Team Stakeholders (Not Present)*

Steve Barger, Labor (retired)  
Billy Doelker, Key Homes  
Rick Johnstone, Deputy Mayor, Louisville Metro Mayor's Office (retired)  
Jeff O'Brien, Louisville Metro Government, Director of Louisville Forward  
Rocky Pusateri, Elite Built Homes  
Tina Ward-Pugh, Louisville Metro Government, Resilience and Community Services, Office for Women  
Mary Ellen Wiederwohl, Accelerator for America, President & CEO

*Wet Weather Team MSD Personnel (Present)*

Tony Parrott, MSD Executive Director  
Angela Akridge, MSD Chief Strategy Officer  
Brian Bingham, MSD Chief of Operations  
David Johnson, MSD Chief Engineer  
John Loechle, MSD Director of Engineering

*Technical Support*

Clay Kelly, Strand Associates  
Paul Maron, Strand Associates

**Meeting Observers**

Karina Henson, MSD  
Stephanie Laughlin, MSD  
Wolffie Miller, MSD  
Nicole Refolo, MSD  
Wesley Sydnor, MSD  
Marc Thomas, MSD  
Nala Mason