

City of Olympia
Utility Advisory Committee Summary Meeting Minutes
Thursday, June 4, 2009
5:30 p.m. to 7:32 p.m.

A. Meeting began at 5:43 p.m.

1. *Roll Call*

Members Present: Michael Young, Emily Lardner, Mary Groebner, Karen Rogers, Dick Allen, Dean Mason, Deborah Pinsonneault, Carol Law, and Dave Gordon

Members Absent: Lana Hamilton and Tim Rogers

Staff Present: Meliss Maxfield, Donna Buxton, Ron Jones, and Andrea Sanchez-Turner

2. *Approval of Meeting Minutes*

- Approved the May 7, 2009, summary meeting minutes with one change. On Page 4 of the meeting minutes change the word “Magnesium” to “Manganese.”

3. *Acceptance of Agenda*

- Approved the June 4, 2009, agenda.

B. Comments from the Public in Attendance

No public in attendance.

C. Information Sharing

1. *Announcements from Members and Staff*

- Mary announced to UAC members that this is Dave Gordon’s last meeting. Dave is going to Afghanistan with the United States Navy as a media analyst. Good luck to Dave. The committee will miss him greatly.
- Donna Buxton presented the committee with a brochure produced by the Nisqually Watershed Planning Unit. The Planning Unit’s goals are to draw attention to activities, the history, and the future concerning water-related issues. The Planning Unit is working on a second brochure that Donna will distribute to the committee when it is ready.
- Emily shared an article that appeared in the Cooper Point Journal, the Evergreen State College student newspaper, entitled: *Saving Trees, Saving Water*.

2. *Planning Commission Update*

- The Planning Commission took time to review goals and future issues for the revised Comprehensive Plan.

D. Business of the Evening

1. *Revised Capital Improvement Plan for Water System Plan*

- Meliss and Donna presented in Rich’s place.
- Meliss provided background information on Automated Meter Reading and replacement of meters as they pertained to the Water System Plan.
- The current annual meter purchase budget is \$107,000. The estimated additional cost for the meter replacement strategy (beyond the current \$107,000 annual budget) is \$3.31

- million. This assumes \$1.1 million per year for three years, resulting in an approximate 1 percent increase in rates annually for three years.
- When factoring in the conservative estimate of operational savings (\$170,000 for debt service), there is no rate increase for automated meter reading.
 - Donna presented on the Capital Improvement Program, reviewing some of the same information presented by Rich last month.
 - The proposed capital spending moved from \$39 million to \$45 million because of the following:
 - Added treatment costs for Briggs well in 2014.
 - Increased costs for automated meter reading (almost \$1M alone for lid replacement – may not be needed but added to be conservative).
 - Neglected to include meter costs in prior version, however, were included in rate calculations.
 - Donna presented the two options Rich presented last month. Option 1: low 2010 rates and Option 2: “Smoothing.” She asked which option UAC would support. UAC members preferred the second option, however, there were concerns.
 - UAC expressed concerns about delaying land purchases for the groundwater protection areas. Donna explained that the current strategy would not prohibit buying property if staff finds a need to purchase the property immediately.
 - Next Steps:
 - UAC Recommendation – June 4
 - Finance Committee Review – June 9
 - City Council Review – July 21
 - Submittal to DOH – July/Aug
 - 2010 Budget and Rate Review – Fall
 - Adoption by Council – Nov/Dec
 - Mary will attend the June 9 Finance Committee meeting and will come to UAC in July with a draft letter to Council with UAC recommendations for review by committee members.

2. *Multi-Family Recycling*

- Ron provided background on the City’s Multi-family Recycling Program. The program started in 1994. It is single stream recycling and is an embedded cost, meaning there is no charge for the service.
- The City’s goal is to achieve 65 percent recycling by 2013. We are currently at 51 percent. The City wants to reach the goal through voluntary recycling, but could follow other cities by making it mandatory.
- Multi-Family is defined as one shared container, one combined bill, and can be an owner or renter of the property.
- In 2009, there were approximately 112 complexes with recycling. There are approximately 16 without recycling.
- There are approximately 7,000 multi-family households in Olympia, 6,200 with recycling.
- Organics is also available for an added fee.
- There are several benefits to multi-family recycling, including lower costs for complexes and improved recycling rate.
- Recycling can lower disposal costs.

- The barriers to multi-family recycling include:
 - Space constraints (for location of containers).
 - Focused on occupancy.
 - Multiple layers (owners, managers).
 - Absentee management.
 - Communication.
 - Lack of real or perceived benefits.
- Property managers/owners may find multi-family recycling to be:
 - Too costly.
 - Too complicated.
 - Too messy.
 - Will result in more work.
- Staff is working through Community Based Social Marketing to address concerns and barriers to multi-family recycling. Currently, staff is conducting site visits, offering technical assistance, monitoring waste generation, and trying a new pick up schedule for multi-family recycling.
- Staff would like to work at removing the barriers and conducting a pilot program by targeting those households motivated to try multi-family recycling.

4. *Staff Recognition*

- UAC members discussed past staff recognitions that included staff who completed work plans for their programs/lines of business.
- Michael Young moved to recognize Rich Hoey this year. Karen Rogers seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.
- Andrea will schedule this item for the July 21, 2009, City Council meeting.
- Mary will write the letter from UAC.

Meeting adjourned at 7:32 p.m.