

City of Olympia
Utility Advisory Committee Summary Meeting Minutes
Thursday, January 8, 2009
5:30 p.m. to 8:15 p.m.

A. Meeting began at 5:45 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Michael Young, Kip Summers, Mary Groebner, Rob Lowe, Karen Rogers, Lana Hamilton, Emily Lardner, and Dave Gordon

Members Absent: Tim Rogers, Carol Law

Staff Present: Jay Burney, Andy Haub, Craig Tosomeen, and Andrea Sanchez-Turner

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Approved the December 4, 2008, summary meeting minutes.

3. Acceptance of Agenda

- Approved the January 8, 2009, agenda.

B. Comments from the Public in Attendance

No members of the public were in attendance this evening.

C. Information Sharing

1. Announcements from Members and Staff

- Andy and Craig provided a briefing on flooding in Olympia. It rained approximately 5 inches in a 24-hour period. We experienced some flooding in the Ken Lake area. Other hot spots included Wiggins Road, Chambers Basin Valley, and West Bay (where there was an overflow of sewer at the West Bay pump-station, scheduled for an upgrade this year). There was some concern about Capital Lake flooding, which did not occur. Staff will utilize computer analysis to better predict what Capital Lake will do in the future. The CFP includes funding for this analysis. The Stormwater Staff did an excellent job of planning. The City activated the EOC until 3:00pm today. The budget implications for the flooding event are not determined yet.
- Jay provided an update on the snow event. Gateway Services fielded 975 calls just on the snow event alone. The City used 815 tons of sand and 47 tons of salt. Staff had a difficult time getting to secondary roads. At times, the ice made it impossible for plowing because of the rubber blades at the end of the plows. The City has 6 plows and from December 17 – December 24 crews worked 24-hours a day. Parks crews and water crews helped with downtown, including helping with clearing drains. UAC members suggested the City make drains easier to find by creating a map available to citizens or clearly marking them so they are visible in inches of snow, so citizens can do their part and help clear drains when another weather event happens. The budget implications of the snow event are:
 - \$20,000.00/overtime
 - \$10,000.00/double-time (for work done on holidays)
 - \$40,000.00/materials, supplies, and equipment rental.

2. *Planning Commission Update*

- No update on the Planning Commission, Carol not in attendance.

D. **Business of the Evening**

1. *Drainage Manual Revisions*

- Andy provided a quick background on the Drainage Manual and its history. The first manual came into existence in the 1970's. The year 2000 was the last revision. Staff is currently revising the manual to comply with NPDES Phase II requirements, to improve and simplify technical issues, and to address concerns related to the current manual.
- Craig gave a presentation on the Drainage Manual revisions. The Drainage Manual protects our streams and the Puget Sound from sediment, chemicals, and erosion and is a requirement by Federal and State law (Clean Water Act).
- The Drainage Manual regulates new and redevelopment projects.
- There are three groups to staff proposed revisions: clarification, minor and major.
- Craig briefly reviewed the proposed changes:
 - Private Redevelopment Thresholds - Staff proposes to reduce City requirements by: increasing site coverage and financial triggers to allow more projects to proceed without retrofits, and once triggered, require that projects spend only 10% of total project costs on retrofitting existing surfaces (similar approach as ADA, etc).
 - Public Roadway Thresholds - Staff proposes to reduce City requirements by: increasing site coverage and financial triggers similarly to private projects and maintaining requirements for retrofits when installing curbs and gutters, but acknowledge that in some cases, existing flows may not be fully managed.
 - Clearing and Grading - Staff proposes to reduce City requirements by: providing consistent requirements Citywide rather than by basin (October 15 through April 1); clarifying that enforcement *shall* occur, rather than *may* occur (WDOE equivalency); and acknowledging that chemical treatment during the winter may be used.
 - Stormwater Pond Design - Staff proposes to increase requirements by: reducing pond side slopes from 2:1 to 3:1, and limiting the use and height of retaining walls.
 - Infiltration rate determination - Staff proposes to ease existing requirements by: allowing the use of a generic infiltration rate of 0.5% per hour and eliminating the need for costly and time-consuming analysis and post-construction verifications; and modifying a correction factor that will result in larger ponds (WDOE equivalency).
 - Wellhead Protection Areas - Staff propose to modify requirements by: requiring enhanced water quality treatment in wellhead areas (minor cost implication), and requiring low-nitrate leaching compost as soil amendments.

- The timeline for the Drainage Manual is:
 - January 12, 2008 – Staff will distribute a full list of proposed revisions and staff evaluations to development, environmental, and neighborhood communities; emphasize the six major proposals; and offer to meet with groups.
 - January 26, 2008 – Council study session to discuss major issues.
 - February/March - Solicit public comment and meet with interested parties.
 - Late March - Host Public Hearing.
 - April - Adopt Revisions.
- UAC members discussed the proposed changes, asked questions and voiced concerns on certain topics, including the interior versus exterior improvements on a property and the percentage charged for each; the additional dates being added for the clearing and grading calendar and its effect on future conservation, if any; the percentage of property required to accommodate stormwater ponds and their design; the .5 inch/hour infiltration rate for stormwater ponds; and the concern over the issue of compost in the Wellhead Protection Areas (members suggested this was an environmental issue and staff should contact LOTT to get additional information).
- After much discussion, UAC members are in support of staff proposed changes to the Drainage Manual. Andy Haub asked Chair Groebner to track the comments made by members and possibly provide them to Council and/or staff upon request at a later date.

2. *Sesquicentennial Celebration*

- UAC members handed their lists of ideas on how to put sustainability into action to Andrea and Jay. Andrea and Jay will compile the list and send it to UAC members for review/revisions/approval. Andrea will send the finalized list to Debbie Krumpols. David suggested providing the list to TCTV for use on their new reader board.
- There were suggestions on other ideas the UAC can do for the celebration, including creating a timeline of significant events pertaining to utilities from Olympia's 150 years. Another idea was to document what people did concerning waste and water 150 years ago, what we do now, and what we think will be done in another 150 years.

Meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.