

City of Olympia
Utility Advisory Committee Summary Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 2, 2009
5:30 p.m. to 7:40 p.m.

A. Meeting began at 5:44 p.m.

1. Roll Call

Members Present: Michael Young, Emily Lardner, Mary Groebner, Karen Rogers, Lana Hamilton, Tim Rogers, Carol Law, and Dave Gordon

Public in Attendance: Kip Summers, Dick Allen

Staff Present: Rich Hoey, Andy Haub, Joe Roush, Donna Freier, and Andrea Sanchez-Turner

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes

- Approved the March 5, 2009, summary meeting minutes.

3. Acceptance of Agenda

- Approved the April 2, 2009, agenda.

B. Comments from the Public in Attendance

Kip Summers came by to announce that he is now working for the City of Olympia in the Parks Department and cannot be on the committee any longer. He thanked everyone for the experience and wished the committee good luck in the future. The UAC congratulated him on his new job.

Dick Allen attended the meeting to get a feel for the committee. He is thinking about becoming a member.

C. Information Sharing

1. Announcements from Members and Staff

- Andrea passed out copies of the 150 Ways to be Sustainable list created by UAC members and staff. It is the final document for review. UAC has until Friday, April 10, to get any changes or concerns to Andrea.
- Mary asked if anyone knew about a Bill going through the Legislature concerning utility taxes. The Bill concerns municipalities. Mary will find the information and email it.
- Tim wanted to recognize staff for “doing things right.”
 - When Tim got to work on a Monday there was a lot of garbage set out for pick up, including plastic bags on top of and along the side of the dumpster. When the driver arrived, he got out of his truck and made sure he picked up all the garbage. It took approximately 10 minutes to ensure he got everything. Great job by Waste ReSources!
 - There is a major water project going on from Capital Lake to the county courthouse. Due to this project, Public Works needs to close Lake Shore Drive for awhile. We are building a new pump station and adding a reclaimed water line. Tim’s office received a personal visit from Water Resources staff to tell them about the project so they could ask questions or voice concerns. Staff provided

contact information if any questions or concerns come up later. Great job by Water Resources!

2. *Planning Commission Update*

- The Planning Commission had a brief presentation on groundwater protection. The same presentation Liz Hoenig, Public Works Water Resources, gave to UAC earlier in the year.
- The majority of the Planning Commission's agenda concerned their future work plan and discussion on their deliberation process.

D. Business of the Evening

1. *McAllister Wellfield*

- Rich started his presentation by giving a brief background on McAllister Springs. The Springs provides 80% of the water supply for our community. The City's work on the McAllister Wellfield project started about 15 years ago. This project is about replacing McAllister Springs with a more protected water supply source.
- The City applied for water rights for the Springs and Wellfield and spent approximately \$100 million.
- The City wants to transfer water rights from McAllister and Abbott Springs to the new Wellfield, which can produce 26mgd of water.
- The City applied for the water right change in 1995 and initiated a groundwater study and model.
- In early 2000, work started on the Nisqually Watershed Plan and this brought the community together to work on water issues.
- The City of Olympia and the Nisqually Tribe entered into a historic agreement in 2008. The agreement ensures a water supply for both communities, ensures permanent protection for McAllister Springs (known as Medicine Springs by the Tribe), and provides a stewardship coalition. Rich suggested the committee view a video concerning the agreement with Nisqually Tribe on youtube.com called *Nisqually Indian Tribe Water Agreement*.
- The City also has interlocal agreements with Lacey and Yelm, which addresses joint mitigation, avoids negative competition, and provides regional coordination with Squaxin Island Tribe.
- The mitigation plan for McAllister Wellfield includes:
 - Nisqually River - performed by the Nisqually Tribe and includes: a "no drill zone" on the Nisqually Reservation, Ohop Creek restoration, and dam releases.
 - Lake St. Clair – purchase and retirement of an upstream water right.
 - "Tri Lakes" – creation of a regional reclaimed water infiltration facility and purchase of stream buffers.
 - Woodland Creek – same as Tri Lakes above.
 - Deschutes River – purchase and retirement of water rights and of riparian land or easements.
- The project timeline is as follows:
 - 2009
 - Public Communications and SEPA process

- Deschutes Mitigation
 - Water Right Approval
 - Finalize Water System Plan
- 2010
 - Wellfield Design
- 2011-2012
 - Wellfield Construction
 - Woodland Creek Mitigation.
- Staff is hiring Nyhus Communications to assist with the communications plan, including public meetings, communications materials, website, and media relations.
- This project is a major component of the 2009-2014 Water System Plan. It is a large Capital Project with an estimated total of \$19 million. Staff will update this estimate and look at phasing options to lower costs.

2. *Storm and Surface Water Utility Funds*

- Last year stormwater mitigation costs were higher than expected. This was mostly due to sidewalks. As a result, the City Council decided to make a one-time increase in funding from the Storm and Surface Water Utility to the Transportation Line of Business for stormwater mitigation costs on Transportation projects.
- Staff from both Storm and Surface Water and Transportation came together to look at roles and responsibilities and to make recommendations about future costs for stormwater mitigation on Capital Projects.
- Rich reviewed the memo concerning staff recommendations.
- The UAC is supportive of staff recommendations with some clarifying wording.
 - Add wording referring to alternative design options, including innovative designs that don't fit the standards.
 - Add wording that includes "rate payer," ensuring the message is clear on who is directly affected.
 - Clarify wording that staff will bring clear options when presenting before City Council. The current wording needs to be more clear.
- Mary will draft memo from UAC for Rich to take with him to the Finance Committee on Tuesday, April 14.

3. *Storm and Surface Water Planning*

- This Program began in the early 1990s. The Program's first plan was in November 2003.
- Some of the issues faced by the Program in 2009 and the future include: aging infrastructure, regulatory mandates, funding shortfalls, climate change, and human behavior and technological advances.
- The Program's responsibilities include: minimizing and managing flooding, overseeing and improving water quality, and protecting and potentially enhancing aquatic habitat.
- The core services of the utility are:
 - Environmental planning and policy development
 - Capital facilities

- Operations and maintenance
 - Development review
 - Code enforcement and technical assistance
 - Public involvement and education
 - Monitoring, research, and evaluation
 - Program administration and taxes
- Storm and Surface Water Planning is not mandated, because of limited public health and safety risks.
- Pieces of the 2003 plan are still valid today as that Plan:
 - Identifies key challenges to utility responsibilities
 - Elaborates on City vision, Plan goals, implementation strategies, and targets
 - Explains how core services will respond to challenges in each basin
 - Proposes utility rate increases
- The new plan should address: capital and financial management, environmental management, and performance measurements.
- The next steps for the Storm and Surface Program are:
 - Assess finances - Spring/Summer 2009
 - Define roles and strategies - Fall 2009
 - Draft Plan - Spring 2010
 - Adopt Plan - Fall 2010
- UAC agrees with the direction staff is going on this project. Staff will come back to UAC with updates on progress and the Plan itself at a later date.
- If any questions or concerns come up, UAC should contact Andy or Rich directly.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.