

DRAFT
Utility Advisory Committee (UAC)
Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2013

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Barbara Day.

Roll Call

- Thad Curtz
- Barbara Day
- Richard Doenges
- Carol Law
- Lorelei Walker
- Chris Ward
- Judy Bardin
- Margaret Drennan
- David Dunn
- Jennifer Sievert

Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

Approval of Minutes

The March 7, 2013 meeting minutes were approved.

Public Comment

John Cusick was in attendance to get an update on the Low Impact Development work discussed at the March 7 meeting. Andy Haub will give an oral report on this topic during the announcements.

Announcements from UAC and Staff

The Planning Commission Liaisons to advisory committees is delayed until May when four OPC commissioners are appointed. Judy Bardin will continue until that time.

Andy Haub gave an update on early implementation of Low Impact Development Standards. As requested during the March UAC meeting, Storm and Surface Water Program staff has evaluated the potential for early implementation of NPDES-required low impact development (LID) standards. Per the permit, we are required to have our LID standards and codes in place by the end of the year 2016. Subsequent to the UAC meeting, staff briefed the City's Public Works Leadership Team on the scope of the requirements. They confirm our perception that this is a big work effort. It necessitates a detailed, thoughtful analysis with substantial stakeholder and multijurisdictional involvement. A piecemeal implementation approach would not be productive. Our proposed schedule for completing work by the end of 2016 remains realistic. At the March UAC meeting, community members suggested that Thurston County would be accelerating LID implementation with at least some standards in place by August 2013. While the request for early action was made to the Board of County Commissioners (BOCC) by several members of the County Storm and Surface Water Advisory Board, the Commissioners did not act on the request. County staff plans to discuss an implementation approach and schedule the Storm and Surface Water Advocacy Board did recommended a more rapid schedule, and staff will be recommending that they stay on the permit schedule to the BOCC. No final decision has been made by the BOCC.

DRAFT
Utility Advisory Committee (UAC)
Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2013

Olympia Planning Commission (OPC) Update

Judy Bardin was not present to provide an update. Liz Hoenig noted that the Planning Commission had finished their deliberations on the draft Comprehensive Plan and were preparing to send their revised draft out to public review. City Manager and staff will have a recommendation to City Council in fall 2013.

BUSINESS OF THE EVENING

Draft Wastewater Master Plan

Andy Haub, Program and Engineering Manager and Steve Sperr, Water Resources Engineer, gave an update on the draft Wastewater Master Plan. He noted team members' efforts, and gave an overview of the utility planning process. He mentioned that this is an early draft that will allow time for review and comment from the UAC and the community. The goal for the UAC meeting tonight is to focus on key policy changes, and revised goals/objectives/strategies. Chapter 9 includes a summary of strategies and a time line for each. Staff also discussed the scope of work for the financial analysis.

UAC comments on policy changes included:

- What is the time span for "no net increase" in septic systems? Staff noted that this would be achieved within the six year planning period.
- Would new septic systems need to meet current standards for Thurston County Health Department regulations for onsite systems?
- Will the density or zoning change in the area with the availability of sewer if we extend to convert septic systems?
- Do you get buy-in from the people in the neighborhood before the extension is put in? How much buy-in would be required?
- Is there an interest charge for the extended payment of sewer general facilities charges (GFCs) or LOTT capacity development charge (CDCs) over time? Staff noted that this service would be limited only to situations where conversion to sewer from septic.
- Why are we supporting the expansion of Step Tank Effluent Pump (STEP) systems now, when they are causing increased maintenance issues for the Utility? Staff noted that technology has improved with these systems and that we want to encourage infill development and that STEP's would only be allowed in infill areas.
- Will financial analysis include a consideration of LOTT costs for treatment into the future?
- Is the South Bay extension included in the capital improvement plan (CIP) for this Wastewater Master Plan? Will future extensions be funded exclusively by developers?

Water System Plan – Scope and Outreach

Liz Hoenig, Senior Planner, presented information to the UAC on the City's efforts to update the Water System Plan for the 2015-2020 planning period. Liz shared strategic issues, draft goals, a time frame, and public outreach process.

The UAC made the following comments:

- While reviewing the water rates and the cost of service, ensure that they are affordable.

DRAFT
Utility Advisory Committee (UAC)
Meeting Minutes
April 4, 2013

- Have funds set aside for emergencies, like earthquakes for example, and use the funds to make emergency repairs and keep the water system functioning.
- Reclaimed water extensions planned? The City is not planning to invest in reclaimed water extensions, but looking for opportunities to expand it with new development or grant funding.
- Staff added groundwater and aquifer protection as a strategic issue per a UAC member's suggestion.
- Staff also edited the draft goals based on UAC feedback.

Adjournment

Co-Chair Barbara Day adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.