



## Meeting Minutes - Draft

### Utility Advisory Committee

City Hall  
601 4th Avenue E  
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Andy Haub  
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**Thursday, February 5, 2015**

**5:40 PM**

**City Hall, Room 207**

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**1. Call to Order**

Chair Curtz called the meeting to order at 5:41 p.m.

**2. Roll Call**

**Present:** 11 - Chair Thad Curtz, Vice Chair Margaret Drennan, Committee Member Michelle Barnett, Committee Member David Dunn, Committee Member Steve Fossum, Committee Member Dever Kuni, Committee Member Carol Law, Committee Member Carole Richmond, Committee Member Jennifer Sievert, Committee Member Lorelei Walker, and Committee Member Chris Ward

**3. Approval of Agenda**

**The agenda was approved.**

**4. Approval of Minutes**

**4A. [15-0127](#) Approval of January 7, 2015 UAC Meeting Minutes**

**The minutes were approved as amended.**

**5. Public Comment**

No public comment.

**6. Announcements from UAC and Staff**

Andy noted the change in the schedule for the Low Impact Development (LID) item on the UAC's draft workplan. Staff decided to adjust the LID code revision project schedule to occur six months later than planned. The LID item will come before the UAC during the months of May, September, October, November and December 2015. Andy distributed the revised draft 2015-2016 UAC workplan to the UAC members.

Andy announced the annual meeting of the advisory committee chairs and the General Government committee. The meeting will take place Wednesday, March 18 from 4:30 - 6:30 at City Hall. Either Chair Curtz or Vice Chair Drennan will attend.

Andy noted that the General Government committee is working on the advisory

committee vacancies and re-appointments.

Andy announced an Arbor Day volunteer tree planting event planned for March 28 . The event is a collaboration between the City departments of Public Works, Parks and Urban Forestry (Community Planning & Development). Andy will send the UAC more information soon.

Andy announced that students from the University of Washington Engineering Department are holding a design competition and Olympia and sea level rise is the focus of the competition. He said he would keep the UAC apprised of the results. He recently gave the students a tour of Olympia's waterfront/shoreline and spoke about climate change and sea level rise in Olympia.

Vice Chair Drennan shared an idea. She suggests that staff create a document that gives a summary and outcome of the various agenda items that come before the UAC. She feels this would be helpful to new members. Andy said he would give the idea some thought and would bring back a draft format for the UAC to review.

Chair Curtz said he would forward the UAC an article about a city in Denmark that let's their streets flood and turn into canals during heavy rains.

UAC member David Dunn said he would forward to the UAC an article from the City of Cleveland. The article stated that low impact development technology is cheaper to build, but takes time and money to maintain.

## **6A. Planning Commission Update**

Planning Commissioner Carole Richmond gave an update on the Olympia Planning Commission (OPC) meetings. The Commissioners recently attended a meeting of the Thurston Regional Planning Commission (TRPC) urban corridors meeting. The meeting was a joint meeting of the Planning Commission's from the three cities.

The OPC is developing their workplan for 2015-2016. Carole will send a summary table of the workplan to the UAC members. Some of the items on the upcoming OPC workplan are: 1) Updates to the Olympia Municipal Code per the Comprehensive Plan update, 2) Work on the Action Plan which implements the Comprehensive Plan, 3) Sub Area plans (the Downtown Strategy plan is considered a sub area plan) and Downtown Strategy briefings.

Amy Buckler, with Community Planning and Development, presented a briefing on the Downtown Strategy (Carole will send that information to the UAC).

The OPC will hold a public hearing regarding re-zones and whether to consider hearing re-zone requests twice a year instead of once a year.

Carole noted that the City Council adopted a resolution for the community renewal area on February 3. The resolution provides the City with more authority for

public/private partnerships. The next step in this process is to solicit proposals from developers.

## **7. Business of the Evening**

### **7A. [15-0128](#) Reclaimed Water - Resource Cost Considerations**

Donna Buxton, Senior Program Specialist with Drinking Water Planning, presented information to the UAC as a follow up to the Water System Plan discussion in the fall 2014. Based on UAC feedback from fall 2014, two questions were posed to the City's consultant, HDR:

1) Is reclaimed water use for non-potable purposes an economical means of reducing potable water use? Answer/results: No. Based on the analysis done by the consultant, the unit cost of delivering reclaimed water is \$0.0141 per gallon compared to the unit cost of delivering potable water is \$0.0055 per gallon.

2) How does the cost of using reclaimed water for non-potable purposes compare to the cost of using it for groundwater? Answer/results: Based on the cursory analysis, it appears more cost effective to use reclaimed water for groundwater recharge as opposed to using it for non-potable purposes.

A UAC member asked why the City didn't do these calculations before they invested in reclaimed water infrastructure. Donna explained that ten years ago, the City didn't have a 50-year water supply secured for Olympia. Also, the State received grants that paid for some of the infrastructure. And the notion of using reclaimed water for groundwater recharge was not common practice.

The UAC thanked Donna for providing the update on the reclaimed water financial analysis.

**The information was provided.**

### **7B. [15-0129](#) Utility Green Power Update**

Danelle MacEwen, Program Specialist with Public Works, briefed the UAC on the Water Resources utilities voluntarily (since 2006) purchasing 100 percent of its power from Puget Sound Energy's (PSE) Green Power Program. The Utility Advisory Committee asked staff to research additional green power options.

Danelle explained the cost comparisons of purchasing renewable energy certificates (RECs) through PSE's Green Power program, directly from PSE through their new direct purchasing program, or from some other source such as the Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

After some discussion, Chair Curtz plans to write a letter to the City Council on behalf of the UAC. The UAC is supportive of purchasing RECs directly from PSE or BPA.

They will also recommend to the Council an ongoing policy that any savings the utility realizes from this shift should continue to be applied to reducing the City's carbon emissions with efficiency projects within the City's own facilities and operations.

**The information was provided.**

**8. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 7:12 p.m.