



Meeting Minutes

Utility Advisory Committee

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Jesse Barham
360.753.8164

Thursday, February 6, 2025

5:30 PM

City Hall, Room 207

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Lamson called the meeting to order and read the Tribal Acknowledgement.

1.A ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Chair Kristin Lamson, Vice Chair Melissa Kover, Committee member Dennis Bloom, Committee member Dani Clark, Committee member Donald Krug, Committee member Arland Schneider and Committee member Kathryn Walton-Elliott

1.B. STAFF PRESENT

Water Resources Director and Staff Liaison Jesse Barham
Drinking Water Utility Director Mike Vessey
Waste ReSources Director Gary Franks
Climate Program Specialist Jaron Burke
Climate Resilience Coordinator Natalie Weiss
Environmental Habitat Planner Kym Foley
Public Works Administrative Specialist Lindsay Walker

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as amended by correcting the date of the draft meeting minutes from November 2, 2024 to November 7, 2024.

The agenda was approved as amended.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[25-0094](#) Approval of November 7, 2024 UAC Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM UAC AND STAFF

Committee member Bloom thanked City staff for organizing and LOTT staff for providing a tour of the LOTT Budd Inlet Treatment Plant to a small group of UAC members in fall

2024.

Water Resources Director Barham provided the following updates:

Two applications received for the three UAC vacancies. Chair Lamson and Vice Chair Kover are recommending the two candidates be interviewed in March by the Community Livability and Public Safety (CLPS) Committee. Either Chair or Vice Chair will attend the interviews and provide one UAC-specific question.

Provided important upcoming UAC/committee process-related dates. Also noted, the annual Chairs and Liaison meeting with CLPS scheduled for June 25 which is later than usual (normally held in March or April).

CLPS will review a final draft and approve the Advisory Committee Member Guidebook.

Reminded UAC members to submit their annual re-certification for committee member stipends.

Waste ReSources Director Franks provided the following updates:

Thurston County completed a financial study and is proposing increases to tipping fees at the Waste & Recovery Center (WARC) beginning in 2026 through 2028 for garbage and organics. These increases at the County level will eventually affect City of Olympia rates.

City Councilmember Kelly Green was appointed to Thurston County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC).

The City will participate in a Washington State Department of Ecology pilot project that uses AI technology on two City recycle trucks to identify contamination and educate customers. The technology would send customers an automated mailer if they are improperly disposing items in recycle carts. The project is fully funded with no added cost to the utility.

City staff implementing Washington State House Bill 2301 (HB2301), also known as the "Organics Law", which passed in 2024. The law requires a phased approach requiring businesses to have commercial organic services.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

[25-0095](#) Olympia 2045: Climate Element of the Comprehensive Plan Update

Climate Program Specialist Burke and Climate Resilience Coordinator Weiss provided the briefing. UAC members asked staff clarifying questions and thanked them for the briefing. They plan to come back to UAC at a future meeting as the chapter develops.

The information was provided.

[25-0093](#) Olympia 2045: Natural Environment Chapter of the Comprehensive Plan Update

Environmental Habitat Planner Foley provided the briefing. UAC members asked some clarifying questions and thanked staff for the briefing.

The information was provided.

[25-0097](#) Review Draft 2025 - 2026 Work Plan

Water Resources Director Barham provided the UAC with the draft 2025-2026 UAC work plan. It includes items that come before the UAC every year, such as the budget, rates and the Capital Facilities Plan (CFP). UAC members suggested the following as potential items to add to the work plan:

- Affordable housing infrastructure support grants
- Legislative update
- LOTT Updates
- Comp Plan - Climate Chapter follow up
- Finance updates - proposing quarterly
- Waste Resources Diversion and AI Camera Pilot Project
- AI pilot update (after it concludes April - June 2025)
- Drinking Water Main Breaks Report (Utah Water Research Laboratory)
- PFAS Update (City water sources)
- Impacts of federal changes to utilities
- Update on City's Advisory Committee Guidebook
- American Water Works Association (AWWA) Benchmarking
- Sea Level Rise Climate Updates
- Thurston County Regional Planning county wide water quality road retrofit study

The UAC will review and approve a final draft of the 2025-2026 work plan at the March 6, 2025 UAC meeting.

Adjournment

Chair Lamson adjourned the meeting at 7:26 p.m.