



City of Olympia

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Liz Hoenig
(360) 753-8152

Meeting Minutes Utility Advisory Committee

Thursday, April 4, 2013

5:40 PM

City Hall, Room 207

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Day.

2. Roll Call

Present: 7 - Vice Chair Barbara Day, Committee Member Richard Doenges, Committee Member Carol Law, Committee Member Jennifer Sievert, Committee Member Margaret Drennan, Committee Member David Dunn, and Committee Member Chris Ward

Absent: 3 - Chair Thad Curtz, Committee Member Lorelei Walker, and Committee Member Judy Bardin

3. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

4. Approval of Minutes

[13-0264](#) Approval of March 7, 2013 UAC Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

5. Public Comment

Mr. John Cusick was in attendance to get an update on the low impact development work discussed at the March 7 meeting. Program and Engineering Manager Andy Haub will give an oral report on this topic during the announcements.

6. Announcements from UAC and Staff

The Planning Commission liaisons to advisory committees is delayed until May when four Planning Commissioners will be appointed. Planning Commissioner Judy Bardin will continue until that time.

Mr. 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 requirements. They confirmed 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 recommended a more rapid schedule, and staff will be recommending they stay on the permit schedule to the BOCC. No final decision has been made by the BOCC.

6. A. Planning Commission Update

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

7. Business of the Evening

[13-0265](#) Draft Wastewater Master Plan

Mr. Haub and Water Resources Engineer Steve Sperr 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 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 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 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

technology has improved with these systems, we want to encourage infill development, and 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?

The report was received.

[13-0266](#)

2015-2020 Water System Plan - Scope and Outreach

Ms. Hoenig presented information to the UAC on the City's efforts to update the Water System Plan for the 2015-2020 planning period. She 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 they are affordable.
- 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.

The report was received.

8. Adjournment

Vice Chair Day adjourned the meeting at 8:15 p.m.