



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Utility Advisory Committee

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501
Contact: Eric Christensen
360.570.3741

Thursday, March 3, 2022

5:30 PM

Virtually

1. CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Bloom called the meeting to order.

Tribal Acknowledgment

We would like to acknowledge the indigenous people who have stewarded this land since time immemorial and who still inhabit the area today, the Steh-Chass Band of Indigenous people of the Squaxin Island Tribe.

1.A ROLL CALL

Present: 6 - Vice Chair Dennis Bloom, Committee member Kristin Lamson, Committee member Eleanor (Pat) Vernon, Committee member Roger Wilson, Committee member Dani Clark and Committee member Jason Selwitz

Absent: 3 - Chair Cullen Stephenson, Committee member Donald Krug and Committee member Arland Schneider

1.B. STAFF PRESENT

Water Resources Director/Staff Liaison Eric Christensen
Finance Director Aaron BeMiller
Waste ReSources Director Gary Franks
Surface Water Quality Planner Jeremy Graham
Associate Planner Kym Foley
Senior Program Specialist Susan McCleary

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

[22-0202](#) Approval of February 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT - None

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM UAC AND STAFF

Mr. BeMiller provided an overview of the municipal utility tax. He explained the City's regulatory authority to charge the tax. This tax generates revenue for the general fund. The Committee expressed concern that the tax is regressive and thus a greater burden on lower income utility rate payers. Also the tax is not rescinded or reduced over the years while utility needs keep increasing. The Committee asked to be informed of the plan to increase the utility tax early in the UAC's budget review process. UAC members thanked Mr. BeMiller for the briefing.

Mr. Christensen provided the following updates:

COVID-19 has been manageable over the past month, with no serious impacts on operations. Staff are eager to drop their masks and some are eager to stop working remotely. Once a decision has been made to hold City Council meetings in person, the UAC may also have the opportunity to do so too. Staff will keep the UAC informed.

Olympia experienced an atmospheric river event earlier this week which brought lots of rain. The Deschutes River peaked Tuesday night, March 1. Capitol Lake levels got high with the high tide Wednesday morning March 2, but there was no flooding. Fortunately, it was nothing like what we saw in early January.

Good news is that we onboarded a new Stormwater Engineer, Fran Love, this week. Unfortunately, Diane Utter who is our Wastewater Engineer accepted a position in the Parks Department starting April 1. We are currently recruiting for this vacant wastewater Engineering position.

No need to claim the committee stipends on tax returns because they under a certain amount.

Mr. Franks provided an update the Waste ReSources recruitments.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

[22-0205](#) NPDES Annual Report

Mr. Graham provided a briefing on the City's compliance with the State's National Pollution Discharge and Elimination System (NPDES) Municipal Phase II Stormwater Permit. The Department of Ecology is the state agency that oversees the City of Olympia's compliance with the permit. Olympia is a Phase II permittee.

Ms. Foley provided information on the Stormwater Management Action Planning (SMAP) process and Ms. McCleary provided information on the Behavior Change Campaign (Regional Dumpster Lid Best Management Practice Pilot Project). Both projects are examples of the wide array of efforts required by the current version of the NPDES

Permit.

The UAC thanked staff for the briefing. They are supportive of staff submitting the NPDES annual report and SWMP to the Department of Ecology.

The report was received.

[22-0209](#) Waste ReSources 2022 Recycling Program Update

Mr. Franks provided a briefing on the Waste Resources recycling program, recycling markets and the general state of recycling. The UAC thanked staff for the briefing.

The information was provided.

7. ADJOURNMENT

Vice Chair Bloom adjourned the meeting.