



City of Olympia

City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501

Contact: Liz Hoenig
(360) 753-8152

Meeting Minutes - Final Utility Advisory Committee

Thursday, January 3, 2013

5:30 pm

City Hall, Room 207

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chair Thad Curtz.

2. Roll Call

Present: 9 - Chair Thad Curtz, Vice Chair Barbara Day, Committee Member Richard Doenges, Committee Member Margaret Drennan, Committee Member Jennifer Sievert, Committee Member Michael Young, Committee Member Lorelei Walker, Committee Member Chris Ward, and Committee Member Judy Bardin

Absent: 2 - Committee Member David Dunn, and Committee Member Carol Law

3. Approval of Agenda

The UAC moved to approve the agenda.

4. Approval of Minutes

[13-0009](#)

Approval of December 6, 2012 UAC Meeting Minutes

The minutes were approved.

5. Public Comment

6. Announcements from UAC and Staff

Rich Hoey, City of Olympia Public Works Director, attended the meeting as the UAC Staff Liaison on Liz Hoenig's behalf.

Committee member Richard Doenges informed the UAC that he recently attended a presentation regarding the New Zealand Mud Snail. He noted some important information since Capitol Lake has experienced an infestation with the snail. Richard said one study shows if the Mud Snails are ingested by fish (in this study, Rainbow Trout), that about 40 percent pass through the fish's digestive system undigested and still alive. He also said that the City of Bellevue found Mud Snails at a dry/land locked facility and it was later found that the Snails were picked up on equipment when

crews were cleaning catch basins. Rich Hoey noted that this is a great reminder and he would pass this information along to the crews about proper cleaning/sterilization methods on boots and equipment to stop the spread of the Snail.

Rich introduced Clark Halvorson as the new Water Resources Line of Business Director. Clark spoke with the UAC and said he was excited about the opportunity with the City.

Rich distributed copies of the latest edition of the City's Five Things, which goes in customer's utility bills. This edition features the changes to the 2013 utility rates for the City of Olympia. The publication will start arriving in customer's mailboxes over the next six weeks, beginning January 4th.

Rich reminded the UAC that the deadline for advisory committee applications for re-appointments is due to Cathie Butler, City Communications Manager, by 5:00 p.m., Friday January 4th. Four UAC members have terms that will expire March 31, 2013: Margaret Drennan, David Dunn, Michael Young and Chris Ward. Michael noted that he will not seek re-appointment after serving two terms with the UAC. Rich Hoey thanked him for his volunteer service on the UAC.

Rich gave an update on the current construction efforts on the McAllister Wellfield project. He informed the UAC that the contractor is currently installing the transmission pipeline and within the next few weeks will complete the "tie-in" with the current water line. In February 2013, the contractor is expected to complete the installation of the McAllister Wellfield transmission pipeline. The broader McAllister Wellfield project is on schedule for a spring 2014 transition to become Olympia's new water source.

6.A. Planning Commission Update

Judy Bardin, Planning Commission representative to the UAC, gave an update to the UAC. She said the OPC's next meeting is January 14th. The OPC will start deliberations on the revisions to the Comp Plan. Councilmember Langer attended a recent OPC meeting (he is the City Council's liaison to the OPC). The OPC's goal is to have the Comp Plan finished within the next three months. Councilmember Langer gave the OPC members direction regarding the Comp Plan update by asking them to stay focused at a high level and to especially focus on the "substantive change list", address the "vision and values", and to also focus on the "trends and highlights" list that was received from public comments.

7. Business of the Evening

[13-0007](#)

One-side road collection with Waste Resources

Ron Jones, Senior Program Specialist with Waste ReSources, attended the UAC meeting to give an update on one-side of the road collections. Ron attended the UAC meeting in May 2012 and shared information on the initial pilot project that was conducted on the Westside of Olympia. This program was expanded to the Carlyon North neighborhood in July 2012. This neighborhood is in a gridded street pattern, which makes it ideal for the next pilot of one-side of the road collection.

Staff shared results from Carlyon/North area pilot, including:

- Miles driven reduced by 40 to 50 percent.
- Collection time reduced by over 20 percent, with corresponding reduction in fuel use.
- Improves safety by minimizing or eliminating the need for vehicle backing.

- Overall support from the neighborhood. Vast majority of questions and concerns were addressed.

These efficiencies allow for the number of customers to expand without need to add more trucks and drivers, thereby keeping costs and rates down for ratepayers.

Staff shared a recommendation to expand one-side of the road collection as an operational practice where it is practical and feasible to do so. The following general criteria will help staff decide which neighborhoods are best suited for one-side of the road collection:

- Loop-style roads, pocket neighborhoods and areas with limited connecting roads.
- Avoidance of major arterials and collectors streets.
- Ease of communication to residents.
- Available space for carts.

Staff is not recommending an ordinance change but is requesting support for one-side of the road collection as an operational practice. The UAC was unanimously supportive of staff's recommendation citing improved efficiency, safety and sustainability benefits. The UAC agreed with staff's recommendation to focus only on local access streets, and to continue to provide accommodation for elderly and disabled citizens (i.e., extended distance service).

The UAC moved to write a letter of support to the City Council. The topic of expanding one-side of the road collection will be scheduled to go before the Olympia City Council sometime during 2013.

The report was received.

[13-0008](#)

Regional ban on single-use plastic grocery bags

Ron Jones, Senior Program Specialist with Waste ReSources, attended the UAC meeting to discuss approaches to reduce single-use plastic shopping bags in our waste stream.

Single-use plastic bags are problematic in many ways, including:

- Single-use bags promote disposable behavior as an accepted norm.
- Made from fossil fuels (natural gas and oil).
- Only five to eight percent recycled.
- They are a contaminant and clog sorting machinery.
- Education/encouragement to reduce their use and/or to recycle them is not working.
- Light weight bags become airborne litter.
- Endanger marine life & marine eco-system.

Thurston County Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) supports a regional plastic bag ban. SWAC provides policy guidance to County Staff and Board of County Commissioners on solid waste issues in Thurston County. SWAC includes representation from the seven incorporated cities within Thurston County, the Port of Olympia, citizens, and recycling industry representation. The City of Olympia's representative on SWAC is Mayor Pro Tem Nathaniel Jones. The Thurston County Commissioners requested that individual cities in Thurston County consider the issue of whether to ban plastic bags and provide a recommendation to the County.

A survey was conducted in 2012 by Thurston County to solicit feedback from citizens. Results of the survey were shared with the UAC.

The UAC voted unanimously to support staff's recommendation of a regional ban on single-use plastic bags and the establishment of a small fee on paper bags.

As part of its recommendation, the UAC discussed the following:

- Supportive of a consistently applied regional (County-wide) ban and for the creation of a County-led stakeholders group to craft model ordinance language.
- Give enough lead time and outreach/education to merchants and the public to avoid confusion.
- Educate consumers on the best reusable bags to use, i.e., those bags that have the smallest carbon footprint/least environmental impact. Thad shared a report that was conducted in Britain that shows the life cycle analysis of various reusable bags.
- Concern over the Thurston County's methodology for citizen survey on plastic bags, most notably the lack of a representative, random sample.
- Interest in consideration of other environmental problems of greater significance than plastic bags.

The UAC moved to write a letter to the Olympia City Council in support of this effort. This item is scheduled to go before the Olympia City Council on January 15, 2013. The UAC's letter of support will be available during the January 15th Council meeting.

The report was received.

[13-0006](#)

Approve 2013-2014 UAC Workplan and Officer Elections

UAC members reviewed the final draft of the 2013-2014 UAC workplan. The UAC moved to approve the workplan and to move it forward to the Council's General Government Committee and then for eventual approval by the Olympia City Council.

The UAC voted to have Thad Curtz continue as the Chair of the UAC. Barbara Day was voted in to continue as the UAC's Vice Chair.

The report was received.

8. Adjournment