

DRAFT  
UAC Meeting Minutes  
December 6, 2012

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Curtz.

**Roll Call**

10 Present: Chair Thad Curtz, Committee Member Richard Doenges, Committee Member Carol Law, Committee Member Michael Young, Committee Member Lorelei Walker, Committee Member Chris Ward, Committee Member Margaret Drennan, Committee Member David Dunn, Committee Member Jennifer Sievert and Committee Member Judy Bardin (via phone)

1 Absent: Vice Chair Barbara Day

Councilmember Karen Rogers in attendance. Councilmember Rogers is the Council Liaison to the UAC.

**Approval of Agenda**

The agenda was approved.

**Approval of Minutes**

The November 1, 2012, meeting minutes were approved.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Announcements from UAC and Staff**

Andy Haub, Planning and Engineering Manager for Water Resources, attended the meeting to give the UAC an update on a wastewater discharge that was discovered by City staff on November 13, 2012. The sewer pipe is located at the intersection of 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Plum Street and was cross connected to a stormwater pipe that discharges to Moxlie Creek. UAC members thanked Andy for the update.

Liz Hoenig, Senior Planner and UAC Liaison, reminded the UAC that the following four members have terms that will expire March 31, 2013: Margaret Drennan, David Dunn, Michael Young and Chris Ward. If still interested in serving on the UAC, these members will need to re-apply. Lindsay will e-mail the application to the members mentioned above. Applications are due by Friday, January 4, 2013 to Cathie Butler.

Liz provided a brief update to the UAC on recent changes to utility billing services and technology improvements. UAC members asked Liz to follow-up with an email providing information on whether the outreach on the increased costs of using credit cards is working to shift customers' behavior to using lower cost options. Liz mentioned that she would also provide an update on the reduction in credit card fees that occurred as a result of the new technology package the City recently negotiated.

Liz announced that she will not be in attendance at the January 3, 2013 UAC meeting. Rich Hoey, Public Works Director, will attend the January UAC meeting on Liz's behalf.

**Planning Commission Update**

The Olympia Planning Commission (OPC) held a public hearing on the staff July 2012 draft of the Comprehensive Plan. The City Council gave the OPC an additional three months to revise this draft. The revised plan is due at the end of March. The OPC developed a procedure and schedule for making changes to the draft. The commission will start with the "vision and values" statement and then address the "substantive changes" followed by different "trends and highlights" from public comments.

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The OPC had elections for next year's officers. Jerry Parker will be chair, Judy Bardin will be vice chair and Roger Horn will head up the Finance Committee.

**BUSINESS OF THE EVENING**

**Utility Land Acquisition**

Donna Buxton, Senior Program Specialist with Water Resources, and Joe Roush, Program and Planning Supervisor, attended the UAC meeting to provide information regarding land acquisition strategies for the Groundwater Protection Program and Storm and Surface Water Utilities.

Donna Buxton presented information for the Groundwater Protection Program. The policy of acquiring land as a means of protecting groundwater quality in the City's drinking water (wellhead) protection areas (DWPAs) has been supported by the Olympia City Council since the late 1990's. The City's Groundwater Protection Land Acquisition strategy is implemented through the City's 2009-2014 Water System Plan. Appropriations, fully supported by drinking water rates, have been allocated regularly in the City's Capital Facilities Plans (CFP) for this program. Purchases have been limited, primarily due to staff limitations and the complexities of coordinating land or easement acquisitions.

In early 2012, the City began a partnership with the Ecosystem Service Transaction Pilot Project. This project is evaluating transactions between buyers and sellers in new markets for protection of forested lands through conservation easements. In this project, the City would be a "buyer" of services from a forested landowner, and would potentially pay for efforts to protect and preserve the land so that the underlying groundwater is protected long term. Staff from the Project attended the UAC meeting to discuss this topic. The Pilot Project is supported by federal and state funding. The UAC members were very supportive of the pilot project and noted that they would like to see more information as it becomes available about the costs of these services compared to the level of environmental protection obtained for the Utility by "buying" these services.

Joe Roush presented land acquisition information for the Storm and Surface Water Utility. The Storm and Surface Water Utility does not have written land acquisition strategy, but instead has focused efforts in partnerships and stewardships to restore and enhance crucial properties. Staff has a simple checklist they have used to prioritize potential acquisition sites. The Storm and Surface Water Utility Capital Facilities Plan (CFP) has regularly appropriated money to fund these purchases, but similar to groundwater has been limited due to staff expertise and the complexity of these transactions.

UAC members had the following comments:

- It's a good time to purchase property because of the decline in property values.
- Suggestion to use community volunteers (due to staff limitations) to do the research on which properties to pursue and to help with acquisition negotiations and processes. Feel that there are citizens within the community that the City could utilize that have this experience and knowledge.

The UAC members voted on staff's proposal to develop a scope of work, schedule and budget to guide development of a land acquisitions and stewardship plan for the Utility. Three members were opposed and seven in favor of Joe moving forward with the analysis. Joe will bring information and options back to the UAC in early 2013.

**Storm and Surface Water Utility Progress Report**

Joe Roush, Program and Planning Supervisor, attended the UAC meeting to present a draft version of the Storm and Surface Water Utility Annual Report for 2012. In 2010-2011, City staff worked with the UAC

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to develop Storm and Surface Water Program Goals, Objectives, Priorities and Performance Metrics, which were subsequently reviewed and supported by the UAC in a letter (dated September 16, 2011) to the City Council Land Use and Environment Committee.

The draft 2012 annual report was a follow up to the work in 2010-2011. The report demonstrates both the Utility's successes in meeting or exceeding objectives; as well as areas where the Utility needs to improve and/or better define our objectives.

UAC members had the following comments:

- Complimented Storm and Surface Water staff in completing their work plan objectives.
- Would like to eventually see quantitative data and lessons learned with low impact development.
- Add next steps and lessons learned to the annual report.

**2013-2014 UAC Workplan Development**

Liz Hoenig presented the UAC's draft workplan for 2013-2014. The items on the draft workplan are a combination of UAC and City staff requests, as well as items of a routine nature that come before the UAC every year.

After some discussion, Liz made a few scheduling changes to the workplan. The UAC unanimously supported the draft work plan and will formally approve the draft workplan and elect officers at the January 3, 2013 UAC meeting. The draft workplan will then be forwarded the General Government Committee for their review in February.

**Adjournment**

Chair Curtz adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.