

Utility Advisory Committee  
Special Meeting  
October 27, 2021

Minutes

Committee Members Present: Andy Maron, Charles Averill, Susan Hume, Svend Brandt-Erichsen, and Sheina Hughes

Others Present: Chris Wierzbicki (COBI Public Works Director), and Maureen Whalen (COBI Hydrogeologist)

Members Absent: Martin Pastucha, Ted Jones,

CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm and the agenda reviewed. The Chair asked for any conflict-of-interest disclosures, and none were disclosed.

MINUTES

Approved the minutes of the September 13, 2021.

FOLLOW UP ON FERNCLIFF WATER MAIN EXTENSION

Public Works Director, Chris Wierzbicki, presented an update on the grant application for the Ferncliff water main extension that was presented to council.

Council approved the application for a State Revolving Loan. The city applied for \$800,000 loan and grant of \$400,000. Council wasn't initially supportive of the approach for the financing and cost recovery for the project, but they did approve the plan for applying for the loan and grant. Council will have to approve the work when the grant is approved.

The notification of award of the loan and grant award will occur at the end of 2021 or early 2022.

FOLLOW UP ON ARPA FUNDING

The council did not fund any of the projects that committee recommended to fund with ARPA funds. They did not fund any of the proposed utility or infrastructure projects.

The council did approve \$1,000,000 for water reuse study that would use ARPA funds. The city staff are currently putting together a request for qualifications for a consultant to looking at all options for reuse. This includes all the possibilities for reuse including large septic system treatment as well as options for reuses at the main wastewater treatment plant.

Added Agenda Item SANDS AVENUE UPDATE

A memo was distributed to the committee. The memo covered the Taylor Avenue Well rehabilitation needs. However, the city requested that the consultant evaluate the overall well rehabilitation needs in the system. The review focused on the top producing well sites to evaluate where there are potential performance impacts that would be benefited from rehabilitation. The analysis indicated that the Sands Avenue Well 1 & 2 are recommended for rehab sooner than anticipated. The department will look at

how to amend the budget to rehabilitate these wells next year without impacting the upcoming rate studies for water and sewer.

There was discussion on what work is associated with well rehabilitation and the upcoming rate studies for water and sewer work efforts for the UAC committee.

#### WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT CAPACITY UPDATE

Public Works Director, Chris Wierzbicki, presented an update to the committees' questions regarding the WWTP capacity.

Murray Smith is doing enhanced monitoring and sampling. Using them in an advisory capacity to manage plant operations, and some midterm upgrades.

In addition, there is a request for the qualification for a consultant to review overall plant operations to implement some of the recommendations of Murray Smith analysis.

This work did not get recommended for funding so will be funded through the utility's funds.

#### GROUND WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN UPDATE

Presentation on the Goals and Objectives by Maureen Whelan.

Presentation provided an update on the approval by the Council of the Goals and Objectives of the Ground Water Management Plan.

Looking for volunteers from several City of Bainbridge Island advisory committees, each committee will provide two volunteers for an upcoming brainstorming session in early November.

The following UAC members volunteered for this request: Andy Maron and Ted Jones.

#### WATER CONSERVATION MESSAGING

Public Works Director, Chris Wierzbicki, presented an outline of the program that will be brought back to the UAC for review.

Water conservation message to deal with the heat issues like we had last year and anticipate again in 2022.

The department is looking at different levels of message

- Encourage the water conservation. Importance of conservation on overall operations, this is a requirement of the State. Typically use Utility bills to meet this requirement.
- How do we communicate if there is an emergency issue with the water distribution system? An appropriate method to contact users about a well outage or large main break.
- There is also the scenario where we need system users to conserve water to keep the water distribution operational or recover operations. An example would be the need to conserve water to allow the city to refill a tank after an emergency response like firefighting.

The city staff is considering at the actual messages as well as how to distribute the messages. This includes looking at a Nixle account for the water system to facilitate these types of communication.

The committee provided the following feedback:

- Including a discussion on PFAS and the impact on the water quality.
- Providing context for the reason for conservation efforts versus the overall supply and alignment with the groundwater master plan communications
- Committee suggested a joint message from City and KPUD which would cover 60% of the water users on the Island.

#### NEXT MEETING AGENDA PLANNING

Next meeting November 10<sup>th</sup> potential topics:

- Scope for the Stormwater System Plan RFP. Draft will be reviewed by Council and brought back to the UAC
- 2022 Goals for council review next meeting
- Timing of tours
- Selection of Chair and Co-Chair

Meeting Adjourned at 6:50 pm.

*Andy Maron*

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Co-Chair

12/8/2021