

# UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES

November 13, 2014

Public Works Department – Water Utility Conference Room

**Board Members Present:** Scott Willis - Chair; Geoff Larson - Vice-Chair; George Porter; David Hanna; Janet Hall Schempf

**Board Members Absent:** Grant Ritter; Leon Vance

**Staff Present:** Kirk Duncan; Dave Crabtree; Sam Stoughtenger (via teleconference); Geraldine McIntosh; Michelle Elfers, CBJ Engineering

## **I. CALL TO ORDER**

- a. 5:30 p.m. by Mr. Willis, Chair.

## **II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

- a. A motion was made to switch the order of agenda items V and VI.
- b. With no objections, the Agenda was adopted as amended.

## **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a. The minutes from the October 2014 meeting were approved with minor changes.

## **IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

- a. No members of the public were present.

## **V. ACTION ITEMS**

Biosolids discussion & recommendation to Assembly:

- a. Sam Stoughtenger updated the committee of meetings with the Assembly and the CBJ Planning Dept. which was completing a planning level CSP (City-State permitting process) review.

- b. Michelle Elfers informed the committee of meetings with the Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS). The JCOS drafted a letter to the Assembly stating the CH2M Hill report is in line with the CBJ Climate Action Plan.
- c. Sam Stoughtenger noted that there is currently \$20 million earmarked for the biosolids project improvements in the Wastewater CIP.
- d. Questions/Comments:
  - a. How is the aerobic digestion in the proposal different than what is currently in place?
    - i. It is not necessarily different, it just provides additional digestion/treatment. Both plants currently have aerobic treatment, but only digestion at JDTP.
  - b. How are tires used as compost buffering system?
    - i. Tires provide necessary bulking material that is relatively inexpensive; wood chips are much more expensive.
  - c. Alternative sources for bulking materials? Previous option may still be viable – the UAB should revisit this before making a recommendation to the Assembly re: biosolids.
    - i. There were 2 previous RFPs for biosolids – composting and a heat dryer. Both were rejected for various reasons. One major issue related to the amount of control the city needs to have over its projects.
      - 1. Composting produces more end product, so is not ideal.
        - a. End product is useful (compost).
      - 2. Waste Management may not be able to handle the high moisture content.
      - 3. Concerns related to the smell produced by in-vessel composting as well as the high costs that result from the 2-stage process.

- a. The old proposal was a continuous process and could possibly address issues related to these concerns and it may be more efficient.
4. The details related to composting as a possibility should be flushed out for the public.
- d. Should the UAB make a biosolids recommendation to the Assembly?
  - i. The UAB decided to delay any recommendation related to biosolids until more information has been provided to the Board.
  - ii. Helpful biosolids information would include:
    1. How other communities in SE are addressing this problem.
    2. Composting as an option for biosolids.
    3. Examples of other city-owned composting systems.
    4. Examples of successful composting operations that are comparable to CBJ's needs.
  - iii. The UAB should make a recommendation to the Assembly that states the importance of the issue and weighs in, rather than making a recommendation backing a specific option.
    1. This letter should include examples of how other cities in SE address this issue as backup.
    2. A letter will be drafted and discussed at the next UAB meeting.
  - iv. The letter from the UAB will not disregard the recommendations made by the consultants; rather, it will address the concerns that the public will likely have related to composting as an option for biosolid disposal.
- e. Is there a timeline for the biosolids discussion?
  - i. The timeline is indeterminate at this time.
  - ii. Depends on the Assembly.

**VI. INFORMATION ITEMS**

Water Report

- a. Discussion about broken hydrants

Wastewater Report

- a. Discussion of filamentous bacteria
- b. DEC inspection

Biosolids Update

- a. Discussion under (V), Action Items.

Utilities Merger

- a. Discussion postponed.

**VII. NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

- a. There were no non-agenda items.

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

- a. Next Meeting: Thursday, December 11, 2014
- b. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

*Geraldine McIntosh*

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CBJ Water Utility