

**UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

January 13, 2011

Public Works Department – Water Utility Conference Room

Board Members Present: Dick Behrends - Chair; Janet Schempf; Leon Vance; Scott Willis; Matt Van Steenwyk

Staff Present: Joe Buck, Scott Jeffers, Jim Heumann, Tom Trego, Dave Crabtree, Patti Rumfelt

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. by Dick Behrends, Chair.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the November 18, 2010 meeting were unanimously approved without changes.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

IV. ACTION ITEMS

A. Board Decision on Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date of March 17, 2011, was proposed. Ms. Rumfelt will send out an email notifying the Board of this date.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Behrends invited Mr. Buck to bring the Board up to date about recent staff changes. Mr. Buck reported that Liam Carnahan resigned from his position as Water Utility Superintendent on January 7th and is now working as a private engineering consultant. Dave Crabtree has subsequently been promoted to Water Utility Superintendent effective Monday, January 17th. Introductions were made around the room.

Mr. Behrends then asked staff if they had any additional comments to add to their reports included in the board packet.

A. Utilities Engineer's Report – Jim Heumann, PE

Mr. Heumann discussed the bio-solids reuse/disposal options topic referenced in his report and reported that the CBJ's recent advertisement for Statements of Interest resulted in responses by six firms interested in

providing alternative bio-solids disposal services to the CBJ. This is encouraging, because it has become increasingly expensive to operate and maintain the incinerator in recent years and staff is hopeful that the disposal costs can be reduced by switching to composting or other means of disposal. He reported that a technical memo summarizing the responses to the Request for Statements of Interest was included in the packet for the Jan 3, 2011 Public Works & Facilities Committee (PWFC) meeting. Mr. Behrends expressed interest in seeing a copy of the technical memo (it has since been emailed to UAB members).

Mr. Buck added that the PWFC expressed its support for staff to continue assessment of alternative bio-solids reuse/disposal methods and more work needs to be done before the Assembly will be prepared to take action. He added that Waste Management has expressed interest in extending its current contract for land-filling CBJ bio-solids which would be helpful during the time required to establish a composting program.

Mr. Behrends asked if the recent landfill odors originating at the dump are still considered to be unrelated to the bio-solids disposal. Mr. Heumann responded that his communications with local Waste Management and ADEC staff indicate that the odors do not appear to be associated with bio-solids disposal. He added that Capital Disposal has been upgrading their landfill gas extraction system to improve odor control at the facility.

Mr. Behrends inquired how Jaffa Construction is doing with the current repairs to the incinerator heat exchanger. Mr. Heumann reported the repairs to the heat exchanger tubes appear to be going well. He noted that additional cracking has been discovered in the unit's upper tube sheet, and staff is working on a change order to address this work as well. He emphasized that these repairs are temporary and are aimed at getting the incinerator back into operation long enough to burn the sludge that is currently in the sludge storage vault.

Mr. Behrends also inquired how long it would take to burn what is currently in the bin, and Mr. Trego noted it should take about 3 weeks of around-the-clock burning. He noted that there is currently a frozen crust on the sludge (as a result of the recent freezing weather) that will have to thaw before it can be incinerated. He also noted that when sludge sits for long periods, it begins to stratify into separate layers, having varying moisture contents, which can increase the amount of time needed to process it.

B. Wastewater Utility Updates – Tom Trego

Mr. Trego noted that the idea of discontinuing the incineration disposal of bio-solids is encouraging to him and staff. The incinerator has become increasingly problematic and expensive to operate as it ages and creates significant demand on staff and financial resources. Mr. Behrends asked

if changing from incineration to composting would increase staff morale, and Mr. Trego responded that it would!

Mr. Behrends inquired about the recent sewer utility repair that was done on Old Glacier Highway near the entrance to the Capital Landfill. Mr. Trego replied that the sanitary sewer force main had leaked at a point of significant corrosion and that the cause of the corrosion is uncertain. A nearby portion of the same main also failed several years ago, and staff reports that significant additional corrosive pitting was observed on the outside of the pipe in both cases. The repairs were problematic because the pipe is located beneath a portion of the Old Glacier Highway in a location where the existing pavement is approximately twelve inches thick.

Mr. Buck noted that the repair noted above is indicative of a growing need to replace aging water and sewer mains, and we can expect to see more of these types of projects on the Capital Improvements Project (CIP) lists in upcoming years.

Mr. Willis referred to Mr. Trego's bullet item which reports that Analytica has closed its Juneau office and inquired if Admiralty Environmental does the same lab testing that Analytica previously provided. Mr. Trego replied that they do and noted that the Utility is moving towards doing more in-house testing when it is in the best interest of the utility (faster turn-around time, lower cost, etc.).

Mr. Behrends asked for more details about the hydrocarbon shock load noted in influent of the "O&M Plants" portion of the wastewater report. Mr. Trego responded that approximately 50 to 100 gallons of diesel or heating oil flowed into the MWWTP and impacted the biomass and therefore plant operations for up to three weeks. The source of the spill is believed to be a boiler failure, or similar event, which allowed spilled oil to enter the wastewater collection system. Mr. Trego noted that staff took longer than they should have to notify the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, and he is updating the Utility's SOPs to ensure that correct steps are followed when incidents like this occur in the future.

C. Water Utility Updates – Dave Crabtree

Mr. Crabtree noted his concern about the aging infrastructure of the water distribution system. Much of this system is more than 30 years old and nearing the latter part of its design life.

One of the most problematic areas is the portion of the Douglas Highway water main extending from the JD Bridge to the Lawson Creek area. This main has required multiple repairs in recent years, most recently in December 2010. Mr. Crabtree showed the UAB a segment of badly corroded ductile iron pipe, removed during the repair, showing severe corrosion. Ductile iron pipe typically has a useful life of 50 years, but

this water main, which was installed in the 1970's, is corroding more quickly than that. Potential causes of the premature pipe corrosion include acidic soil conditions, lack of proper grounding in the surrounding area, improper pipe bedding and other causes. Mr. Buck noted that the Water Utility currently estimates it will cost around \$3,000,000 for the entire project and it will take several years, and multiple construction phases, to complete.

VI. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patti Rumfelt

Patti Rumfelt, Administrative Assistant II
CBJ Public Works Water Utility