

**UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

April 16, 2009

Public Works Department - Water Utility Conference Room

Board Members Present: Dick Behrends, Leon Vance, George Porter, Scott Willis, Janet Hall Schempf, Diane Pearson.

Staff Present: Scott Jeffers, Jim Heumann, Joe Myers, Liam Carnahan, Laurel White

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m. by Dick Behrends, Chairperson.

II. APPROVAL OF UAB MINUTES:

The February 19, 2009 minutes were approved as presented.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

V. ACTION ITEMS:

None.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Utilities Organizational Update

Scott Jeffers introduced Jim Heumann and Joe Myers, the new Water/Wastewater Utility Engineer and Wastewater Utilities Superintendent, respectively. Each gave a synopsis of their professional background.

B. Water Utility Updates by Liam Carnahan

- The water piping in the J-D Bridge was installed with inadequate allowance for the expanding and contracting bridge structure. The Water Utility is working with Engineering to get flexible couplings to address

this situation. Mr. Jeffers commented that erosion, primarily sediment, is responsible for eating through the pipe, also in the bridge, that carries wastewater discharged from the West Juneau Lift Station.

- Last Chance Basin Well Rehabilitation: The contractor is nearly done with well #4. Well #5 is now being worked on. Previously considered was another well, but it appears this may not be necessary due to excellent results with the rehab of well #4. Currently, the pressure/flow demand constantly involves turning on and off pumps to maintain pressure.

- Energy Audit: Jim Rehfeldt, Mechanical Engineer, has made recommendations, some involving common-sense items such as weather stripping and turning down thermostats. One particular recommendation was VFDs on pumps. This may save money and avoid demand charges.

- GOVERN: The CBJ is changing from its current 1994 software to updated technology. Water Utility's needs involve accurate integration of information for correct billing. Various sources (MUNIFAX, CDD, Assessor's office) identify information that is at times contradictory. Identifying conflicting information, such as number of units serviced, is vital. The GIS system will have a map of all parcels and will flag property with conflicting information and we will investigate.

- Customer Service: Size of meters and MIUs are being verified before switching to GOVERN.

- Reservoir Painting: Ongoing painting of exterior and spot-fixing interiors. It's difficult to provide services when reservoir is down. This is a long-term project.

C. Wastewater Utility Updates

- Recruitment: Recruitment for Senior Operators is ongoing. One Senior Operator at JDTP has been hired and a second may soon be hired. A third position remains unfilled.

- Deployment: The Manager's office has mandated reduction or elimination of scheduled overtime. Joe is looking at alternative options for collection employees.

- Training: Training budgets have been reduced to minimum levels, as requested by the City Manager.

- Plants: The JD Incinerator is in dire straits due to its age and condition. The best scenario for its continued operation is 3-5 years and 2-3 years is required to build a new incinerator. There is only a 30 day holding capacity should the incinerator fail. Consultant proposals are being reviewed. Carson/Dorn is reviewing co-disposal projects, alternatives and a contingency plan.

Mr. Behrends inquired about a recent Juneau Empire article discussing possible incinerator alternatives such as the incineration of both MSW and sludge cake.

Mr. Jeffers commented that the urgency of the situation calls for us to move forward with immediate plans for incinerator replacement or major rehabilitation.

Joe M. indicated that many co-disposal projects he has observed have failed for a number of reasons and end up shutting down.

- MWWTP SBR Operation: Dr. Reza Shams-Khorzani spent one week with operations staff and is not yet settled on an outcome.

- Lawson Creek Lift Station: This lift station suffered a major failure resulting in the release of wastewater into the environment. The Collections Team response was very good. CIP scheduled replacement is not until 2012. Joe reported that a large volume of rags plugged the pumps. Bolts may have vibrated out and water leaked into the dry well side. The alarm was disabled by water shorting out the circuit, so the float switch didn't initiate an alarm. The station filled up, resulting in a release of sewage and damage to electric motors and controls. No sewage was released into the salmon stream.

- Auke Bay Blockage: An influent pipe blockage at the Auke Bay WWTP resulted in the flooding of the lower level of the Auke Bay Towers. The pipe was plugged with grease from system users. Mr. Behrends asked whether the users have grease traps. Joe responded that this is an issue that requires enforcement. Joe suggested an awareness program about blockage, their cause and prevention. Perhaps an appearance by Joe Buck on the Capital City radio program, education in the schools or an informational enclosure with bills would be helpful. Scott J. reported that the new billing system will have the capability of including more lengthy messages.

- Capital Improvement Program: Upcoming CIPs include Bayview manhole replacement, Radcliffe Road sewer improvements and North Douglas sewer improvements. Additional information is included in Mr. Myer's report.

- Special Projects: There is ongoing oil leak mitigation at the MWWTF. Spring will bring more opportunity to mitigate.

VII. NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Liam reported that Joe Buck prepared a stimulus package request. The State of Alaska was allocated approximately \$60 million for drinking and wastewater projects. DEC decided they will consider mean income/unemployment rate to determine allocation. Some communities will receive no money. This includes Juneau.

Scott Jeffers handed out certificates of appreciation from the City Manager to each board member, in thanks for their time and dedication to City government.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel White, Administrative Assistant II
Public Works, Water Utility