

**UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

June 18, 2009

Public Works Department - Water Utility Conference Room

Board Members Present: Geoff Larson, Diane Pearson, George Porter, Scott Willis

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

I. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 5:35 p.m. by Geoff Larson, Vice Chair.

II. APPROVAL OF UAB MINUTES:

The April 16, 2009 minutes were approved as presented.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

None.

IV. ACTION ITEMS:

None.

V. INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Board Composition Update - Scott Jeffers
Mr. Jeffers noted that Geoff Larson, Dick Behrends and George Porter were reappointed to the Utility Advisory Board and thanked them for their service.

B. Projects Update - Jim Heumann, PE
Mr. Heumann commented on the draft of the 2008 Consumer Confidence Report, our annual report on water quality. An internal review of the document has been completed. The report needs some refining but no change in substance. This will go out to the public by the end of June.

Comments ensued regarding the format and readability of the report. It was suggested by Joe Buck to present the highlights on the CBJ home page and the water utility page with a further link to the entire report if citizens want to read it in its entirety.

The board suggested an annual report (similar to the CCR) to be included with monthly billings. Mr. Carnahan responded that excellent brochures are available but resistance from Finance to do so is strong due to limitations with their equipment. He further noted that with the

changeover to PRISM software, we will have the ability to include longer messages on the bill itself.

No additional comments were received regarding Mr. Heumann's status report and the committee moved forward.

C. Wastewater Utility Updates - Joe Myers

Joe Myers brought the board's attention to a Juneau Empire article that featured a front-page photograph of Mark Mow and an accompanying article on "what not to flush". Mr. Myers remarked that this is entirely positive publicity for Public Works. Ms. Pearson suggested such a feature every 12 - 18 months in the Juneau Empire; this would be free publicity and an educational tool for the public.

Mr. Myers asked for questions or comments on the Wastewater Utility Highlights report as presented.

Geoff Larson commented on the budget exercise, especially decreasing the Wastewater operating budget by 15%. Mr. Larson stated that deferral of maintenance should be a last option and that expansion of service is illogical at this time, given the current fiscal situation. Mr. Porter said the Assembly supports expansion, as they perceive it will decrease home costs and stimulate the economy. Mr. Buck emphasized that this is a budget exercise only and that these reductions shouldn't be confused with what might or might not come to pass.

Discussion ensued regarding expansion of water and wastewater services to low-density areas. Mr. Buck noted that expansion of these services was approved by vote. Mr. Carnahan noted that maintenance of expansion is the real concern. Ms. Pearson observed that funds for expansion don't consider the initial period with no or few users. A "break even" density should be determined. A zoning change to higher density should happen before expansion to ensure cost recovery. Mr. Buck noted that Engineering would like to see this also but there would be resistance in the community.

Mr. Carnahan suggested that the zone density in expanding service areas be addressed by the board. Mr. Buck noted that this should happen before construction begins, rather than later.

Mr. Larson asked about the repair project at JD Incinerator. Mr. Myers responded that this would double the life of the reactor vessel. The patch is expected to extend the life of the incinerator for approximately 20 years.

D. Water Utility Updates - Liam Carnahan, PE
The Last Chance Basin well field rehabilitation project is essentially done. A summary of pre-rehab and post-rehab well performance is presented below:

Well #1: Prior to the rehab the pump for this well was located at a lower elevation than ideal (within the well screen). The well rehab included removing fine sediments from the soils adjacent to the well screen and raising the pump installation elevation to above the well screen as recommended by current industry standards. The pre-rehab and post-rehab capacity for this well were both approximately 700 gallons per minute (GPM) based on a June 9, 2009 report of preliminary flow rates by Carson Dorn, Inc. (CDI).

Well #2: Prior to the rehab the pump for this well was located at a lower elevation than ideal (within the well screen). The well rehab included removing fine sediments from the soils adjacent to the well screen and raising the pump installation elevation to above the well screen as recommended by current industry standards. The pre-rehab and post-rehab capacities for this well were approximately 600 GPM and 700 GPM respectively based on the preliminary CDI report.

Well #3: The rehabilitation of this well focused on removing fine sediments from the soils adjacent to the well screen. The rehabilitation of this well had little impact on the well capacity which was approximately 1,000 GPM before and after rehabilitation activities based on the preliminary CDI report.

Well #4: The rehabilitation of this well focused on removing fine sediments from the soils adjacent to the well screen and resulted in an approximately 100% increase in the capacity of this well. The pre-rehab and post-rehab capacities for this well were 750 GPM and 1,500 GPM respectively based on the preliminary CDI report.

Well #5: The rehabilitation of this well focused on removing fine sediments from the soils adjacent to the well screen and resulted in an approximately 87% increase in the capacity of this well. The pre-rehab and post-rehab capacities for this well were 750 GPM and 1,400 GPM respectively based on the preliminary CDI report.

The net impact of the LCB well field rehab was to increase the capacity of the overall well field by approximately 35% to a total of approximately 5,100 GPM based on the preliminary CDI report.

The recent dry weather resulted in depleted reservoir elevations at the Auke Lake, East Valley and Lemon Creek reservoirs. Furthermore cruise ships were denied water when this was not really necessary. A rough modeling of the system was conducted by CDI who's calculations indicate that the system has the ability to deliver a maximum of about of 2,000 GPM to the Valley, even if pressure is increased in town. The calculations indicate that maximum flow to the valley is limited by the 12" water main located in the vicinity of Salmon Creek and Lemon Creek which is too small to meet peak demand during warm weather. CDI's calculations indicate limiting water to cruise ships is not likely to increase water flow to the valley during periods of dry weather. There is plenty of water at our LCB and SC sources, but the problem is getting the water to valley users.

Ms. Pearson noted similarities to the AEL&P energy predicament last year and believes people are community-minded and will conserve water when needed if they are properly notified. Mr. Carnahan responded that the next time this situation arises, PSAs should be sent requesting people to conserve. Discussion ensued regarding scheduling maintenance tasks at different times of the year, such as flushing fire hydrants in the Fall, to avoid a drop in water supply.

Mr. Carhanah reported on an upcoming (2013) requirement to install a secondary disinfectant in our surface water source at Salmon Creek. A consultant from Anchorage met with utility staff recently and discussed UV disinfection options for the Salmon Creek source. Similar projects are under construction in the communities of Ketchikan, Sitka and Kenai and Mr. Carnahan noted that we may be able to do this more cheaply using local consultants.

Mr. Carhanah reported that the house fires on Basin Road resulted in power being cut to the basin. The back-up generator came on, but power to two of the well pumps did not transfer power correctly. This issue needs to be evaluated by an electrical consultant.

Mr. Carnahan suggested two action items for the next UAB meeting: the board's position on an expansion moratorium and transitional zoning in low density areas, where sewer services are being expanded.

VI. NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

A. Mr. Carnahan presented the possibility of implementing an amnesty period for those being incorrectly billed. This would be an opportunity for those who know they're being billed incorrectly to self-report and not be backbilled. The Finance department has concerns about implementing this when other customer's billing errors have been discovered and received backbills. George Porter asked Liam to describe the difficulties and advantages to such an implementation in a memorandum and present to the board. Ms. Pearson commented that public education is very necessary, as people often don't know what kind of services they have.

VII. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting was adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

The next meeting of the UAB is scheduled for August 20th, 2009.

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurel White, Administrative Assistant II
Public Works, Water Utility