



ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Utilities Division

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UTILITIES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

*Thursday, February 11th | 5:15pm
Teleconference - Zoom*

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:16 pm by Bryan

Members Present: Andrew Campbell, Stuart Cohen (new member), Bryan Farrell (chair), Geoffrey Larson, Elizabeth 'Buffy' Peterson (new member), Janet Schempf

Members Absent: Grant Ritter

Staff Present: Cristian Crabtree, Brian McGuire, Joshua Midgett, Autumn Sapp, Lori Sowa,

Members introduced themselves, discussing their relationship to the Utility and the role they are filling on the Board. Bryan encouraged each member, staff followed and did the same.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Agenda approved with no changes.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 10th, 2020 Minutes approved with no edits.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

V. ACTION ITEMS

None

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

A. *PWFC Update*

Brian McGuire spoke to the Memorandums recently sent to the PWFC so that the UAB could be up to date in the event the public has any related questions. He then opened up to questions from the Board.

Questions

Stuart asked about Industrial Users and their fee structure and pre-treatment responsibilities. Autumn responded that there is an industrial user fee formula that staff has been reviewing in light of recent environmental restrictions and concerns. There is blanket user fee for most, with the exception of cruise ships, that negotiate separately. Tetra Tech is currently conducting an Industrial User Survey so that staff can have a better understanding of the influent from the community. Lori clarified that Cruise Ships pay based on the strength of their effluent. The Sewer Code does have language about Industrial Users that is not currently unilaterally enforced. Additional questions around which plants handle which loads and their ultimate capacities, which Lori also spoke to and clarified. Bryan asked about how strength of influent is measured, particularly from Industrial Users. Stuart also had a question about Storm Water – asking about where the impact is most realized. Lori defined the difference between infiltration (ground water breaking in) versus inflow (storm water connections to sewer system). Autumn clarified that new

construction permits require separation of storm and sewer. Bryan had a follow up question about the SCADA system as well. Lori mentioned that staff is looking at updating this system and has a Wastewater engineer under contract to evaluate operation strategies of the Mendenhall Treatment Plant. Andrew questioned the size of the fine and inquired as to what this means in terms of the relationship with AKDEC. Lori noted that legal staff confirmed that this was a minor fine compared to what *could* have been levied based on the violations and noted the improved communication between staff and ADEC. Andrew spoke to feeling as though the Memorandum merited a defense of staff response from the UAB. He offered to draft a response for others to review. Geoff noted that Juneau lives up to a higher standard of environmental compliance than most other communities in the State and that the fine was referring to a five-year time period. Discussion continued around this and the various views of Board members on their interpretation of the Memorandums. Bryan and Geoff proposed an additional, more long form meeting/workshop on this (and similar) topics. Board and Staff will begin scheduling this prior to the next meeting.

B. AEL&P / Salmon Creek Reservoir Update

Bryan Farrell shared the report about the December 1st record rainfall and the damage to the penstock. Timetable of returning to fully operational is weather contingent. New pipe is in place, but awaiting final epoxy coating and pipe treatment.

Response

New members asked for clarity on the type of pipe, damage that occurred, and extent of the repair. Geoff also asked what effects this might have on CBJ's emergency preparedness (re: hydrant water demand). Bryan clarified about pipe and repair specifics, Brian spoke to the Utility's ability to handle any needs until repairs are complete.

C. Staff Updates

Lori Sowa spoke to the testing that the Wastewater Team has been conducting, citing a lot of variability and volatility in the testing data due to different flows. Staff will send out data to UAB members for review.

VII. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

None

VII. ADJOURNMENT –

The meeting adjourned at 6:17pm

Next Meeting:

March 11, 2021 | 5:15 PM | Teleconference