

UTILITIES ADVISORY BOARD

MINUTES

Thursday, May 13th | 5:15pm

Teleconference – Zoom

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 pm by UAB Chair, Bryan Farrell.

Members Present: Andrew Campbell, Stuart Cohen, Bryan Farrell (chair), Geoffrey Larsen, Elizabeth 'Buffy' Pederson

Members Absent: Grant Ritter, Janet Schempf

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

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

a. *May 13, 2021 UAB Agenda was approved by Board vote.*

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. *March 31, 2021 Draft UAB Meeting Minutes was approved by Board vote.*

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

a. *None*

V. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. *Working Session Follow Up*

i. Brian McGuire responded to Board questions on the operation status of the Wastewater Utilities, including PFAS removal, shared landfill requirements/uses for dried bio solids, and national industry updates on its utilization.

1. PFAS: Many sources carry PFAS into Municipal Wastewater, therefore there is no single culprit or solution. Lori Sowa to follow up with her background.

2. Landfill requirements: we are 'working on' free disposal of dried bio-solids, negotiations are ongoing. It can't be overstated that we are already seeing far less hurdles based on this shift from toward full-time Dryer operations. Dried solids are a better and safer material to work with than previously shipped wet sludge.

3. Federal & State levels only allowance is use as a top cover currently, until PFAS is dealt with. WWT is looking into a Burning Option. DEC to review options for incinerating dried bio-solids. Attempting to mimic down south usage/disposal.

b. *Questions & Comments*

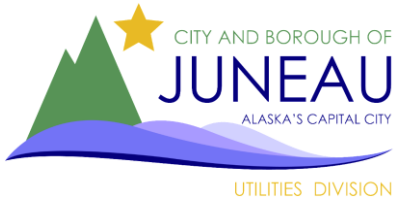
i. Andrew Campbell, shared with the Board that Gustavus is battling with PFAS infiltration into drinking water systems from Fire Department Training at their Airport. Lori Sowa responded that CCFR has

- gone away from Fire Suppressant Foam, and mentioned other possible sources of PFAS, including trash and the public washing items that carry PFAS chemicals.
- ii. Andrew Campbell asked about the impact of PFAS on our systems, if it was similar to Gustavus. Brian McGuire & Lori Sowa, the CBJ does not have this issue fortunately, any PFAS infiltration is contained to the Wastewater System.
 - iii. Geoff Larson to Stuart Cohen, the reason why we didn't know about this issue was that PFAS was not on the radar when we chose to move forward with the bio-solids project. DEC didn't test for it until we began operation, which led to them finding detectable measurements of it in samples.
 - iv. Stuart Cohen asked, at the last meeting we touched on what the Utilities would need in order to burn dried bio-solids and the response was that our incinerator does not burn hot enough, is that true? Brian McGuire answered, the Utilities & Engineering are exploring the possibility of installing a smaller incinerator unit on the back end of the Bio-Solids Building to burn off the dried solids as a method of disposal and using the solids to power it & possibly resupply lost heat. An area of concern is that even if we can reduce the total weight of bio-solids, we would still have to find a method of disposing of any remaining PFAS contamination that might reside in the ashes though.
 - v. Stuart Cohen asked what the energy cost is to reduce our sludge weight to make it dry? And are we making up for that with the free landfill disposal? Brian McGuire, we currently use #2 Fuel to power the Dryer. Currently estimating \$500,000 a year to run the operation. Lori and Geoff both added that the previous cost to ship wet sludge far outweighed the cost of increased fuel and power to dry the sludge.
 - vi. Geoff Larsen asked, what is the concern of the smell of disposed solids? Brian McGuire, there are more to smells than just our solids at the landfill. Top cover mixing allows for a small area of noxious odors.
 - vii. Stuart Cohen, how much does it cost to landfill the solids? Brian McGuire, current cost is \$160 per ton to have it mixed with municipal waste.
 - viii. Geoff Larsen & Bryan Farrell asked for an update on the "Don Young Infrastructure Request" (the Wastewater Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2021)? Brian McGuire shared that there are future projects that are tabbed to be possible candidates for this funding.

VI. ACTION ITEMS

a. *Annual Report Edits.*

- i. Geoff Larson edit, on page 2 regarding the attendance, Stuart Cohen should not show having been absent for two meetings as he was not yet on the board.
- ii. Geoff Larson edit, on page 2 regarding attendance, Geoff Larson was marked as present for all four meetings and the roster indicates I was present for four but the roster also shows I was also absent for one.
- iii. Geoff Larson edit, on page 4 "BACKGROUND/RATE HISTORY" Let's insert as the first paragraph that in 2019 the Assembly passed ordinance Serial No. 2019-31 and 2019-44 which raised both the Water and Waste Water Utility rates:
 1. 4% Effective 1/1/2020
 2. 2% Effective 7/1/2022
 3. 2% Effective 7/1/2023
 4. 2% Effective 7/1/2024
- iv. Bryan Farrell & Board agreed to reviewing and approving the Annual Report prior to the 6/14 HRC Meeting.



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VII. NONE AGENDA ITEMS

- a. Bryan Farrell opened discussion about timing of upcoming summer meetings. It was decided that the Board would finalize a summer meeting plan on the June 10th meeting.

VIII. Adjournment –

The meeting adjourned at 5:58pm

Next Meeting:

June 10th, 2021 | 5:15 PM | Teleconference