



CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28, 2017
CITY HALL
COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM
280 MADISON AVENUE NORTH
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, WA 98110

Minutes

Present:

Members: Chair Andy Maron, Vice Chair Jeff Kanter, Steve Johnson, Nancy Nolan, Emily Sato, Jim Thrash

Also present: Public Works Director Barry Loveless and Robert Dashiell

1. Meeting called to order at 4:05 pm
2. **Acceptance of Meeting Notes:** Meeting notes for May 31 and June 14, 2017 were reviewed and approved unanimously.
3. **Public Comment:** Robert Dashiell drew comparisons between the COBI stormwater, the COBI water utility and Mercer Island's storm water utility. Mr. Dashiell was attempting to demonstrate that the storm water utility is carrying a disproportionate share of overhead due to the cost allocation system in place. The comparison with the water system was to show how FTEs were reduced after a report by consultant Katy Isaksen advised that the water system should be able to operate with substantially less FTE allocations. Dashiell then compared COBI to Mercer Island storm water expenses attempting to demonstrate a similar situation exists.

4. Work Plan Items

- a. **SSWM Operating Expenses:** UAC member Emily Sato distributed a storm water expense study draft outline. The committee discussed the report noting no specific trends of concern. Budgeted FTEs for 2017 are up slightly but the increase was explained as creating a new manager position in the department as well as reallocations of time. It was noted that 2017 budgeted salaries were up 30% from 2016 actuals which appears disproportionate to the increased FTE allocation. Mr. Loveless pointed out that budgets tend to allow maximum flexibility to perform projects but are seldom utilized and suggested budget to budget or actual to actual is a more meaningful analysis.

Mr. Loveless also pointed out that the City has been tasked with a greater role in performing inspections on the City systems, construction oversight, and private storm water facilities.

It was also suggested that any analysis involving the cost allocation system would need to be a city wide project more appropriately done with the next biannual budget.

- b. **Water Rate/Sewer Study:** Discussion continued on the merits of performing these studies and their value. In an effort to highlight the rationale, Mr. Maron offered to provide a written summary to document the reasons to perform these tasks.



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5. Small Water Systems: It was requested that Mr. Loveless contact the commercial sma providers and invite them to discuss their roles with the UAC to gain further understanding of the options available to small water system.
6. Fire Code: This is a complex issue that continues to be researched by committee members and staff engineer Mr. Michaels. In order to suggest differential standards, extensive background research is involved to educate the members. Misters Kanter and Thrash will meet with the city engineer again to review their independent efforts and develop next steps.
7. Next meeting set for July 12th at 4 pm.

7/12/17