

UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

May 16, 2024

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

Members Present: Wanda Schulze, Andy Maron, Charlie Averill, Sheina Hughes, Svend Brandt-Erichsen, John Quitslund

Also Present: Chris Wierzbicki (Public Works Director), Paul Nylund and Stella Collier (COBI staff)

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest: None

Approval of Meeting Minutes: April meeting minutes were approved.

Stormwater System Plan

Chris presented an overview of the Draft Stormwater System Plan with the goal of getting some input prior to finalizing the plan and presenting to City Council. The stormwater management program is required by Federal Clean Water Act as well as State and Municipal codes. The City maintains almost 240 miles of storm drainage systems and over 2,000 catch basins which ultimately drain into Puget Sound. A total of 7 FTEs support maintenance of this system, but none are dedicated full-time so the stormwater work is competing with other work that is considered higher priority (such as drinking water systems).

The stormwater system is funded through property tax assessments. Although the assessment rates for Bainbridge are below average for our region, the City has trouble spending the funds and has accumulated a carry-forward balance. The City is wrestling with whether it is better to spend the reserves on more maintenance and small capital projects or whether to accumulate it for use on larger capital projects. Stormwater construction projects are often very expensive and drawn out due to complex permitting requirements. In 2023, the City spent just over \$1M on capital projects and almost \$2M on O&M, and other program components. But the available funding for 2023 was \$3.6M.

The objectives of the Stormwater System Plan are to: 1) ensure compliance with regulatory requirements, 2) evaluate current programs and projects, and 3) inform future programs and projects. As assessment of the current stormwater system concluded that some capacity and consistency improvements should be made. The Plan recommends: increase staffing, complete a comprehensive map of the island stormwater infrastructure, complete a rate study, pursue grant funding for watershed and climate resiliency projects, and initiate a natural yard care campaign.

After the presentation the committee had a lively discussion about the program plan and it was decided that the Committee members needed more time to review the plan and it would be brought back to a future committee meeting prior to being presented to Council.

Comp Plan Section Review - Public Sewer

This topic was deferred to next month

Reschedule of June Meeting

The Committee decided to reschedule the June meeting from the 20th to the 12th. Agenda items will include review of the Comp plan section on public sewer systems.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ch. Averill".

Charles Averill