

UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

September 19, 2024

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

Members Present: Ted Jones, Wanda Schulze, Andy Maron, Charlie Averill, Sheina Hughes, Svend Brandt-Erichsen, Martin Pastucha, John Quitsland

Also Present: Chris Wierzbicki, Public Works Director and Peter Best Sr. Planner

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest: None

Approval of Meeting Minutes: June and July meeting minutes were approved. There was no August meeting.

Council Liaison Report

John provided an update on issues the City Council is considering. The City Manager presented the 2025/2026 Budget to council. A public hearing will be held in October and it is scheduled for adoption in November. It is a very tight budget. Council is also digesting the Comp Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). The public meetings held so far have been valuable and Council will have a study session on October 1. John encouraged the UAC members to provide comments on the DEIS. Comments are due October 10. Also the Groundwater Management Plan will be discussed at the September 24 Council Meeting.

Comprehensive Plan/Winslow Subarea Plan Draft EIS Presentation

Peter Best provided an overview of the DEIS. The objective of the Comprehensive Plan update is to set policies and direction on how to best accommodate the growth projections we have been given by the Puget Sound Regional Council. The growth Bainbridge must accommodate in the next 15 years is about 4600 people. However, a new law - HB 1220 also requires that jurisdictions set housing goals for certain income groups. Because there is currently a deficit of housing on the Island - especially for moderate and lower income groups, the housing requirements are driving the growth scenarios. Bainbridge has a capacity gap for housing for the lower income groups and a capacity surplus in the highest income group. This capacity gap will be filled at least partially with multifamily development. Since the Winslow area is almost completely built out, zoning changes will be needed to accommodate this additional housing. The DEIS analyzed impacts for three alternatives: 1) No Action (or status quo). This alternative, if applied to the entire island, would not meet the required mandates. 2) Dense Centers (go up) which would use multifamily housing within existing town centers to accommodate growth, 3) Distributed Density (go out) where growth is accommodated by expanding current town centers. The preferred alternative that actually moves forward could be a combination of these three.

The DEIS is organized into three chapters - Chapter 1 is a summary, Chapter 2 gives an overview of each alternative and Chapter 3 contains the detailed analysis of each alternative. Chapter 3.7 addresses utility issues and so is of particular interest to the UAC. Peter's slides (attached) show the growth scenarios and zoning changes for the Town Centers for each of the alternatives. During the 20 year growth period sewer capacity upgrades are required for all alternatives but more upgrades are required for alternatives 2 and 3. For areas not served by sewer, the City worked with the Kitsap County Health Department to determine growth capacity using septic systems. For electricity, PSE would implement upgrades for all growth scenarios over the 20 year planning horizon. For drinking water, which is supplied by groundwater, there appears to be sufficient quantity for all growth scenarios, but potential impacts to stream flows are still be assessed as part of the work on the Groundwater Management Plan. Drinking water

infrastructure upgrades would likely be required within the planning horizon for all three alternatives.

After the comment period ends on October 10, responses will be prepared and study sessions with the City Council will be held to come up with the preferred alternative to be analyzed in the Final EIS.

Stormwater System Plan

Based on our comments from previous meetings, Chris presented a plan Summary and Implementation Memo that provides a higher-level view of the Stormwater Plan and its recommendations.

The Summary and Implementation Memo was well received by the Committee with the only comments being to add a map and a legend for the color coded visuals. The Committee expressed support for moving ahead with the rate study and agreed that the Stormwater Program is in need of additional funding/staffing.

KPUD Meeting

COBI and KPUD have been sharing information as part of both the Comp Plan/DEIS and the Water System Business Plan efforts. Chris updated us on a meeting he had with KPUD in August to discuss drinking water planning. KPUD operates two systems- one on the north end and one on the south end of the island. They are interested in having more flexibility to move water from the north to the south but would need to go through COBI's service area. This approach could benefit COBI as we are also looking for more flexibility in how water is produced and distributed around the island. Discussions will continue with KPUD as part of finalizing the Water System Business Plan. The committee raised the issue that a long term goal should be to consolidate the two systems for better overall efficiency and sustainability.

Meeting adjourned at 7:05 pm

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Chris", is located at the bottom right of the page.