

**City of Bainbridge Island
Utility Advisory Committee**

February 9, 2015 meeting

The meeting was called to order at 5:32 p.m.

UAC members present: Andy Maron (Chair), Jeff Kanter, Nancy Nolan

UAC members absent: Steve Johnson, Emily Sato

Also present were Councilmember Liaison Val Tollefson, Public Works Director Barry Loveless, Steve Leach, who has applied to fill an empty position, and Robert Dashiell.

1. Public Comment, Robert Dashiell questioned all aspects of the City's Water Flow Monitoring program. He observed that it is not required, is quite expensive, and there is no indication that the data generated is used.
2. "Utility Tax." The Committee briefly revisiting the subject of utility tax. The Committee understands that the Council will be reviewing the Utility Tax issue shortly. If the tax on the sewer utility is reduced or eliminated, some members observed that there might be an opportunity for a reduction in sewer rates.
3. Sewer Plan. The Committee spent some time on the City's draft Sewer Plan. The Committee discussed how to recommend to Council that consultant's recommendations regarding CIP and rates be modified to a shorter term CIP and a draw down of reserves. Such a modification will allow the City to hold rates steady for a number of years. They decided to add a new Section to the Draft Plan that will incorporated their approach, without requiring additional work by the consultant. Barry recommended this approach, and the Committee was receptive. Barry will prepare a draft for the next UAC meeting..
4. City Comprehensive Plan. Andy Maron was interested to know what the UAC should expect with regard to involvement in the Comp Plan Update. Councilmember Tollefson told the Committee that they could expect some express direction upon conclusion of the Listening Sessions, and after the information gathered there had been analyzed. He said that such direction would probably come in April or early May, for the goal was to have the bulk of the work on the Comp Plan Update done by the end of 2015. He said that early 2016 would then be devoted to needed regulation changes.
5. SSWM Utility. The Committee spent the better part of an hour reviewing the infrastructure portion of the SSWM report prepared by Public Works. Work on this Plan will continue over the next meetings. There was discussion about the desirability of identifying culvert projects from the CIP list with unwarranted fish passage requirements far enough in advance to appeal those designations. Barry suggested that Kitsap County and WSDOT have more projects of this type, and perhaps the city should discuss coordinating this effort.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

 3/11/15