

**City of Bainbridge Island
Utility Advisory Committee**

February 23, 2015 meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 5:34 p.m.

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

UAC members absent: Emily Sato

Also present: Councilmember liaison Val Tollefson, Public Works Director Barry Loveless, Robert Dashiell, Steve Leach

1. UAC Support: UAC has been receiving inadequate staff support in terms of preparing and publishing minutes, and in terms of regular agenda preparation. Andy Maron pointed out that it was not efficient or necessary for minutes to be so detailed as to justify someone listening to a 2 hour recording of the meeting. Since Councilmember Tollefson is am now preparing regular reports to the Council, he volunteered to allow the Committee to adopt his notes as its minutes. The offer was accepted, and that is the plan going forward.

On the subject of getting an Agenda published, it seems that the Committee needs to continue to work with the City Clerk in time for proper publication, and the Clerk needs to establish a procedure for back-up to ensure that the UAC Agenda is properly published.

2. Sewer Plan. The Committee reviewed a Draft section 10.8 prepared by Barry for inclusion in the Sewer Plan. The Committee suggested several language changes (1) to emphasize the savings to the utility that would result from the elimination of the City utility tax, (2) to point out that a possible reduction in sewer rates could follow, and (3) to make clear that excess capital reserves are being used for an appropriate capital purpose.
3. Comprehensive Plan. Andy Maron provided the Committee with a copy of the Water Resources Element of the current Comp Plan, which was briefly discussed. He reminded the Committee that the City was embarking on a review and update of the Comp Plan, that this was the opportunity for the Committee to consider and have input on the various elements of the Plan that are implicated in its work, including the Water Resources Element and the Utilities Element. The Committee was encouraged to review these elements.
4. SSWM review. The Committee continued its discussion of the SSWM Program review prepared by Public Works. Barry explained the rate structure and the fact that essentially the rate structure had to generate sufficient revenue to operate the Utility and serve its capital needs. Committee members pointed out that the problem facing the Utility was determining exactly what the Utility needed to do. It was observed that the UAC in a prior incarnation (several years ago) made recommendations to the Council for revision of the rate structure which were never acted on. It was agreed that those recommendations now may be stale, and that this UAC needs to revisit the subject. It was agreed that at its next meeting, the UAC will continue its

discussion of the SSWM program, and try to focus on understanding the scope of the Utilities proper work, as a basis for understanding how best to fund it.

5. Public Comment. Robert Dashiell urged the UAC to concentrate first on understanding the LEGAL constraints on what the SSWM Utility can and cannot do, before it makes assumptions that what the Utility currently IS doing is proper.

The next meeting will be moved from March 9 to March 11, at 5:30 p.m.

The meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Approved on March 11, 2015.


