City of Bainbridge Island
Utility Advisory Committee

March 11, 2015 meeting.

Present: Andy Maron, Jeff Kanter, Steve Johnson, Emily Sato

Absent: Nancy Nolan

Also present: Barry Loveless, Val Tollefson, Robert Dashiell, Steve Leach

1. The Committee got largely caught up on past minutes, which will now be posted to the City website. Minutes for 11/13, 11/24, 12/3, 12/18, 1/26, 2/9 and 2/23 were approved.
2. When the Sewer Plan is presented to Council on 3/24, a representative of the Committee will be present to explain its role in the final product.
3. Barry pointed out to the Committee that he had reserved time on the Council agenda for April 21 to present a SSWM plan, which he is expecting will be based on the Program Review and Analysis which Public Works prepared last fall, and which the Committee has started reviewing. The Committee acknowledged the challenge of completing work on the SSWM Plan in that time frame, and spent the rest of the meeting reviewing and discussing portions of it. Barry provided several revisions which he has made, and further revisions will be made based on the discussion during this meeting.
4. In general, the Committee recognizes that there is roughly a $600,000 annual shortfall in the SSWM based on current operations and anticipated capital needs in 2017 and beyond. That shortfall will need to be met either through reduction in expense or increase in revenue. The Committee spent some time discussing the right way to approach that problem. Barry explained the operational expenses and their relation to required programs and operations. At least at this stage, the Committee will be focusing on discretionary programs and activities. The bulk of the remaining discussion dealt with the Water Quality and Flow Monitoring Program. While the Committee did not finalize any recommendations at this point, there seemed to be agreement that if this Program is worthwhile, Public Works needs to demonstrate its usefulness on a regular basis.
5. The Committee had an interesting discussion as to whether one significant capital cost to the utility – culvert replacement necessitated by street improvements – was properly charged to the SSWM utility, and plans to focus its discussion at the next meeting on the capital needs of the SSWM utility.
6. Public Comment: Robert Dashiell urged the Committee to focus its efforts on discretionary spending, as that is where major Operations and Maintenance savings can be found.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.

Andy Maron, Chair