

UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

March 19, 2026

Call to Order

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm

Members Present: Wanda Schulze, Ted Jones, Andy Maron, Charlie Averill, Lara Lant (Council Liaison)

Also Present: Chris Wierzbicki, COBI Public Works Director,
KPUD staff: Dave Epperson, Asst General Manager; Tom Colby Water Resources Manager; Brent Kenworthy, Engineering Supervisor; Todd Smith, Sr Construction Manager

Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest: None

Approval of Meeting Minutes: February meeting minutes were approved.

Council Liaison Report: Lara reported that Andy presented the UAC workplan to Council at their last meeting. The Council had a number of comments including potable water conservation, wastewater beneficial reuse and others. UAC members are encouraged to watch the video of the Council meeting. The work plan is not yet approved so UAC will work with Chris W. to make edits and resubmit.

Public Comment: There were two members of the public present at the meeting but no comments were presented.

KPUD Presentation

Dave Epperson provided an overview of KPUD's operations on Bainbridge. KPUD staff then went on to provide more detail on some of the current issues with the S Bainbridge water system in terms of both water quality and quantity. Three wells (previously associated with Island Utility) have been declining in production despite several rehabilitation efforts. In addition, KPUD discovered that several water meters had been recording higher amounts than what was actually produced. This resulted in an overestimation of how much the water system could produce and, therefore, how many homes the system could serve. KPUD drilled two new wells near Lynwood Center, the first (Well #9) doesn't produce much, but the second (Well #10) is producing well. A third well was attempted on Deer Path, but it didn't show enough promise to complete. Based on all this data, KPUD is recommending that no more wells be drilled on the S part of the island.

Regarding water quality, some wells in the system (and one well in particular) are showing rising levels of chlorides, which can be an indicator of saltwater intrusion. Production at the worst well has been reduced, with other wells making up the difference. In addition, PFAS ("forever chemicals") have been detected in S Bainbridge and Bill Point wells, with the most significant detection being in one of the Bill Point wells. KPUD has stopped using that well and is considering options for treating the water.

Based on all this information, the KPUD Board passed a resolution to restrict new connections and customer water use during the summer. Summer water use in S Bainbridge is the highest of all the systems KPUD operates. They are hoping to achieve about 20% reduction in water use.

KPUD's vision of next steps includes working with COBI on island-wide water conservation messaging, consideration of intertie piping to connect N end water sources to S end customers and initiating a new Interlocal Agreement with COBI.

There was also a brief discussion of the Fort Ward wastewater treatment facility. KPUD has been working on beneficial reuse options and also on Nitrate reduction as well as some general plant maintenance and minor upgrades. The plant currently has excess capacity.

Capital Facilities Element of Comprehensive Plan

Chris said that City Staff will be submitting the Capital Facilities Element to the Planning Commission for review. There aren't many changes from the previous version and much of the new work that has been done is incorporated by reference (Stormwater Plan, Water System Plan, etc). A conservative analysis of future capital facility needs was done as part of the EIS for the Winslow Sub-Area Plan. As we move through the Comp. Plan process, it now looks like the population targets that the Planning Commission is settling on are less than what was considered in the EIS. For the Wastewater Treatment Facility, this is good news and may mean that the next capacity upgrade will be sufficient through the planning horizon of the Comp Plan.

Water System Business Plan

The consultant has issued the draft Business Plan and Chris will share with the committee after the meeting. We can discuss at the next meeting.

Other Business

As a follow on to the Council Liaison report, we had a brief discussion of how to proceed with the UAC work Plan. Chris believes that most of the Council's comments are already addressed in the work plan and he will revise some sections and resubmit for Council approval.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 pm

7/2/08
co-chair

Chris Amund