



CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021
5:30 PM
ZOOM MEETING

THE UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL HOLD THIS MEETING USING
A VIRTUAL, ZOOM WEBINAR, PER GOVERNOR INSLEE'S
"STAY HOME, STAY HEALTHY" ORDERS

PLEASE CLICK THE LINK BELOW TO JOIN THE WEBINAR:

[HTTPS://BAINBRIDGEWA.ZOOM.US/J/96263694473](https://bainbridgewa.zoom.us/j/96263694473)

OR IPHONE ONE-TAP: 1-253-215-8782

OR TELEPHONE: 1-253 -215-8782

WEBINAR ID: 962 6369 4473

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / ACCEPT OR MODIFY AGENDA / CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE
5:30 PM
2. APPROVE JANUARY 25, 2021 MINUTES – 5 MIN.
3. PUBLIC WORKS UPDATE – 10 MIN.
4. NEXT MEETING AGENDA PLANNING – 5 MIN.
5. REVIEW 2021 WORK PLAN – 10 MIN.
6. ADJOURNMENT

Utility Advisory Committee
January 20, 2021
Zoom Meeting

Committee Members Present: Andy Maron and Ted Jones, co-chairs, Charles Averill, Sheina Hughes, Susan Hume, Nancy Nolan, Martin Pastucha

Also Present: Chris Wierzbicki, COBI Director of Public Works, Jeff Kantor, former committee member, B. Sue Johnson and Kimara Sajj, citizens

Absent: Council Liaison Rasham Nassar

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 5:30 pm. Andy Maron recused himself from participation in the PSE Franchise agenda item.

Minutes: The minutes for December 9, 2020 were unanimously approved.

Emerald Heights: B. Sue Johnson, a current owner in the Emerald Heights neighborhood, presented some facts about the current Emerald Heights water system including the following:

- On December 14th, some water system customers received a red notice of a potential sale of the water system to WRUC, a private water company, for \$150,000 originally scheduled for January 13, 2021.
- WRUC does not own any other water systems on Bainbridge Island.
- 30 homeowners received a request from the current owner of the water system to sign over water easements before January 13 to ensure that the sale could proceed.
- Many homeowners would prefer a public option.
- The current owner also seeks to add 17 more lots to the system in order to develop the properties.

Andy Maron noted that Council member Kirsten Hytopoulos and Public Works director Wierzbicki are planning to attend the zoom meeting with WRUC about this potential sale. Andy Maron and Chris Wierzbicki suggested that homeowners meet and agree to create a homeowner owned water system.

Jeff Kantor, the current president of the Bill Point water system, suggested that he would also attend the zoom meeting to assist the homeowners with steps necessary to become a homeowner-owned water association.

B. Sue Johnson's email is paperjam@serve.net and phone number is 206-842-8242. Anyone interested in attending the zoom meeting can contact her.

Fire Flow Ordinance:

Changes to the Fire Code will be presented to the City Council on February 9th. Jeff Kantor and Chris Wierzbicki are currently still discussing some adjustments to Chapter 13, specifically what elements of Chapter 13 apply to non-city owned water systems.

CCAC/UAC Draft Report on the PSE Franchise:

Ted Jones presented the following facts:

- This memo will be presented to the Council at the February 2nd meeting.
- The joint committee hopes the new franchise agreement and partnership agreement with PSE will ensure that PSE provides data about how many existing lines need to be undergrounded and will create a 10 year plan to underground lines and that the City will create a means to ensure funding for this important task. A WUTC tariff structure for undergrounding is already in place.
- The joint committee also proposes requiring PSE be more transparent about its reliability data.

- The Climate Change committee has been granted \$500,000 in the current City council budget to fight Climate change and potentially some of these funds may be used to jump start the undergrounding process.

Nancy Nolan suggested that the issue of funding for undergrounding be clarified further in the memo. The UAC unanimously approved the going forward with the joint CCAC-UAC recommendation memo. Maron abstained.

Water Resource Inventory Area:

This is a joint plan with ETAC and the UAC. The City pushed the presentation deadline back to its first meeting in April. The next joint meeting between the UAC and ETAC is March 3rd.

More information about the Johnson Farm recharge project needs to be assembled before the joint group makes a recommendation. The joint group will send out the latest plan before the next joint meeting.

Water System Resolution:

The Resolution as prepared by the UAC subcommittee will be in the City Council packet for their next meeting on January 26.

Chris Wierzbicki informed the UAC that Ferncliff water system, which is within the City's designated water system area and close to the Casey Street system that the City is currently managing, is requesting to become managed or taken over by the City.

There is a question about how to fund this. Various approaches were discussed. Sheina Hughes and Martin Pastucha suggested the City help the residents of these water systems apply for grants and low interest loans to accomplish upgrades to integrate these two systems in the City's water system.

Treatment Plan Memo:

Chris discussed the January 11th Department of Public Works memo about the discharge of 250,000 gallons of partially treated wastewater into the Puget Sound. The incident was the result of an extraordinary rain event that stretched to six days. The incident will be reviewed by the consultant currently studying improvements to the system. The consultant is scheduled to present his findings to the Council in March.

Chris suggested that any ideas about tertiary treatments might be put on the back burner while improvements are made to the plant to ensure that this type of incident does not happen again as climate change and increasing rain events impacts the island.

The next meeting is scheduled for February 10th at 5:30pm. Agenda to be determined. The WRIA and the Ferncliff water system may be discussed.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58pm.

Co-Chair

Date

MEMORANDUM (11-22-20 draft)

TO: COBI City Council

FROM: COBI Utility Advisory Committee

DATE: November 19, 2020

SUBJECT: Report on UAC's 2020 Activities and Proposal for 2021 Work Plan

This memorandum summarizes the activities of the Utility Advisory Committee during 2020, and proposes topics for its focus during 2021. Due to Covid restrictions, the UAC's activities were necessarily limited beginning March 2020, including not meeting at all during March through July, and then conducting monthly Zoom meetings thereafter.

2020 Activities

1. Small Water Systems. Far and away, the most significant activity of the UAC in 2020 was the completion of its three-year study of small water systems on Bainbridge Island. The City's Comprehensive Plan contains High Priority Action #3 and various policies encouraging cooperation or consolidation of smaller water utilities. In 2017, the UAC began to study processes for implementing these policies, but the effort was periodically interrupted due to focus on higher priority activities. The UAC completed its study and recommendation to the council in a detailed memorandum in October 2020.
2. Utility Capital Improvement Planning (CIP). The Public Works Department consulted with the UAC regarding planning for significant upcoming CIP projects, primarily the replacement of the Winslow Water Tank.
3. Joint CCAC-UAC Input on PSE Franchise. A subcommittee of UAC met with a subcommittee of the Climate Change Advisory Committee to develop questions and topics for consideration by the City staff when beginning the process to negotiate an extension of the COBI-PSE franchise agreement.

Proposed 2021 Work Plan

- A. Continued Projects. The below projects have been worked on in the past by UAC.
 1. Major Projects Review. In recent years, the UAC spent significant time and effort studying several planned major projects of the City's Public Works Department, including the Winslow Water Tank Replacement, the Village Sewer Basin Study, and the Sewer Beach Mains. It is expected that the UAC will continue to be consulted about these projects as they proceed through evaluation and design.

2. Small Water System Policies. As discussed above, the UAC recently completed its major study of non-City-owned small water systems and prepared a recommendation memorandum in October 2020. The UAC may provide additional input on that subject during 2021.
3. Fire Code. In 2018-19, the UAC studied and then made recommendations to revise the City Code related to capital improvements in and by Island water systems. The Fire Marshall and Public Works Department are likely to consult with the UAC about the planned Code changes.
4. FOG Ordinance. The UAC has previously discussed the potential impact of FOG (fats, oils, and grease) in the City's sewer system. Public Works Department intends to develop regulatory processes and possible modifications to the Winslow Treatment Plant to deal with FOG, and it is anticipated that this subject will be discussed with UAC.
5. Joint CCAC-UAC Input on PSE Franchise. As listed above, last year the UAC provided input along with the CCAC on the upcoming negotiations with PSE. It is likely that this process will continue in 2021.

B. New Projects: The below new projects are expected to be brought to UAC in 2021.

1. Groundwater Management Plan (GMP). The City expects to begin work on a Ground Water Management Plan in 2021. Some aspects of the GMP are expected to respond to the UAC's recommendations regarding non-City-owned small water systems. The UAC anticipates periodic discussion with the Public Works Department about this important project.
2. Stormwater Master Plan. The 2021-22 budget includes preparation of a Master Plan for the City's stormwater utility. Several years ago, the UAC spent substantial time evaluating the structure, rates, and budgets of the stormwater utility. It anticipates discussing the development of this Plan with the Public Works Department.

Unanimously approved by UAC on November 19, 2020.

Ted Jones, Co-Chair
Charlie Averill
Susan Hume
Martin Pastucha

Andy Maron, Co-Chair
Sheina Hughes
Nancy Nolan

Utility Advisory Committee

2020 Report & 2021 Work Plan

UAC to City Council

8 December 2020



2020 Activities

1 - Small Water System Policy Recommendations

Today's presentation - 3rd year of effort

2 - Capital Improvements Program (CIP) Review

Throughout the year in support of PW Director

Water tower replacements

Lower Lovell Sewer

3 - Joint subcommittee with CCAC on PSE franchise

Aligning Climate Action Safety and Reliability goals

4- No meetings for 5 months due to Covid-19



2021 Plan

Continued Efforts

- 1- Major Project Reviews
- 2- Small Water System Policies
- 3- Fire Code Updates w/ Fire Marshall and PW Department
- 4- Fats Oils and Grease (FOG) Ordinance for Sewer Utility
- 5- CCAC-UAC support to COBI franchise negotiation with PSE

New Projects

- A- Ground Water Management Plan, support PW re: water systems
- B- Stormwater Master Plan; budgeted