



CITY OF
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2021
5:30 PM
ZOOM MEETING

THE UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE WILL HOLD THIS MEETING USING
A VIRTUAL, ZOOM WEBINAR, PER GOVERNOR INSLEE'S
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WEBINAR ID: 943 5231 3599

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL / ACCEPT OR MODIFY AGENDA / CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE
5:30 PM
2. APPROVE MINUTES FOR SEPTEMBER 13, 2021 – 5 MIN
3. FOLLOW-UP ON FERNCLIFF WATERMAIN EXTENSION – 10 MIN
4. FOLLOW-UP ON ARPA PROJECT RECOMMENDATIONS – 20 MIN
5. WWTP CAPACITY UPDATE – 10 MIN
6. GWMP UPDATE – 10 MIN
7. WATER CONSERVATION MESSAGING STRATEGY – 20 MIN
8. NEXT MEETING AGENDA PLANNING – 5 MIN
9. ADJOURNMENT

Utility Advisory Committee
September 13, 2021 Minutes

Call to Order

Zoom meeting called to order 5:30 pm.

Members Present: Andy Maron, Ted Jones, Susan Hume, Sheina Hughes, Svend Brandt-Erichsen

Also Present: Tom Duchen and Bob Duchen (River Oaks Communications); Chris Wierzbicki (Public Works Director).

Comcast Cable Franchise Agreement

Andy Maron provided background on the Utility Advisory Committee's involvement in review of utilities that serve Bainbridge Island and are not owned by the City.

Tom Duchen and Bob Duchen of the City's consultant, River Oaks Communications, provided a background presentation regarding the legal environment that governs cable franchises, the nature of the services provided, considerations in franchise extension, review, and approval process.

Committee members asked questions regarding the negotiation of franchise renewal with Comcast. Subjects included cable undergrounding, including undergrounding when power and telephone lines are buried. While committee members had questions regarding the quality of internet service provided by Comcast, the consultants advised the committee that internet service is outside the legal scope of the City cable franchise.

Committee members asked how many Island customers are served by Comcast. The consultants indicated that this information is typically closely held by cable operators, but that the City would request that information in the course of the franchise negotiations.

No UAC action – briefing was advisory.

PSE Comment Letter

The City Council invited review and input from the Committee on the draft response to PSE regarding the missing link project.

Chris provided an update on the current status of the project, which would connect the Murden Cove Substation and the Winslow Substation. Discussion of the routes under consideration.

The draft letter seeks information from PSE regarding its consideration of several aspects of the decision among route alternatives:

1. Impacts on vulnerable populations,
2. Impact on environmentally sensitive areas. PSE has tentatively asked for relaxation of requirements for utilities crossing wetlands, which presents potential code conflicts,

3. Potential undergrounding by the helipad. Also, understanding the cost-benefit of undergrounding,

An additional issue raised in comments at the last Council meeting – a request for reliability data, as it relates to other parts of the region. How do outages on Bainbridge compare to those that occur elsewhere.

Committee members discussed the importance of the project, the routes being considered and potential alternatives to those routes, and the information requests identified in the draft letter.

UAC Action: The Committee recommended minor language changes, conveyed to Chris.

ARPA Funds

The City Council invited input from the UAC and other committees regarding priorities for the use of the roughly \$7 million that the City will receive over the next two years under the federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). The City can use about \$2 million for any purpose and about \$5 million for a specified, but still wide, range of authorized uses.

The Council has identified five parameters or criteria to be used in selecting uses for the ARPA funds. City staff, working with the Council, developed a list of eligible projects, which was the subject of initial discussion at the Council's August 24 meeting. The Council requested input from City Advisory Groups on the project list.

To facilitate Committee discussion, Ted prepared a table that listed the projects affecting water, wastewater, stormwater, and electricity. The Committee reviewed all of the projects, discussing relative priorities, using the table as a guide.

Committee discussion included consideration of the potential beneficiaries of projects and whether priority should be given to projects that already are in the CIP, as they already have been vetted.

UAC action: The Committee recommended priority be given to funding of the following projects:

Water System Climate Resiliency Upgrades
Winslow water tank replacement (partial, not full funding)
WWTP near term upgrades
MacDonald Creek/Springbrook Creek Mitigation
Springbrook Fish Passage

Ferncliff Water Extension Next Steps

Follow up to the discussion of this matter at the last City Council meeting. Council questions indicated skepticism regarding the City taking a role in the Ferncliff water system

The Committee discussed alternatives for addressing the Ferncliff water system, including a LID or asking the Council to apply for state revolving loan funds.

The Revolving loan fund alternative would allow 50% forgiveness of the borrowed funds, but Chris indicated that the staff had learned from the Department of Ecology that, in order to apply for the funds, the City would have to approve an amendment to its water system plan. The City could either show Ferncliff as part of its service area boundary or pass a resolution regarding desire to serve more small water systems, which would have to be adopted into water service plan and make part of strategy. Deadline for application is November 30.

The Committee discussed whether there is the need for discussion with City Council members regarding how the Ferncliff project fits into the overall strategy of slowly absorbing smaller water systems. Some Council questions also indicated a need to discuss the lack of impact on density from extending City service area.

Next steps – Chris discussing with City manager. If decide to move forward, there will be another council item.

UAC action: No formal action. Committee members will consider opportunistic discussions with Council members regarding the overall strategy for small water systems.

Public Works Update

Chris reported that Seaborn Road residents – North side of Blakely Harbor – are interested in forming an LID to bring sewer to those homes. The line would connect to the force main at 3T.

This was an informational item.

Co-Chair

10/27/2021