

# Utility Advisory Committee

April 14, 2021

## Meeting (Zoom) Minutes

Meeting called to order at 5:30 pm, Ted Jones chairing

Members present: Charlie Averill, Sheina Hughes, Susan Hume, Ted Jones, Andy Maron, Nancy Nolan, Martin Pastucha

Also present: Council Liaison, Rasham Nassar; Public Works Director, Chris Wierzbicki; COBI hydrogeologist, Maureen Whalen

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### 1. Call to Order/ Roll Call/ Acceptance of Agenda/Conflict of Interest Disclosure

No conflict of interest declared.

### 2. Approval of March 10, 2021 Minutes

Not yet available for approval.

### 3. Introduction of COBI's new hydrogeologist, Maureen Whalen (*Chris Wierzbicki*)

Chris Wierzbicki introduced Maureen Whalen as COBI's new hydrogeologist. Maureen participated in the Zoom meeting from New Zealand where she is currently telecommuting until she moves to Bainbridge Island in July. Her work will initially focus on further developing the Ground Water Management Plan.

Maureen provided the meeting a summary of her professional experience and qualifications as a groundwater scientist. Her work has involved extensive experience in an environmental consultancy practice especially in the areas of contaminated ground water and soil. Since 2015 Maureen has held several positions with Environment Canterbury (New Zealand), involving surface and ground water issues and supporting science-informed decision-making. Maureen holds undergraduate and graduate degrees in geology and "quaternary studies" (explained by Maureen as the study of the earth's geology for the last two million years).

### 4. Public Works Update

#### A. Water System/Tank Modeling (*Chris Wierzbicki*)

Chris updated the Committee on the pre-design analysis to improve Reservoir 1. The model used to calculate water flow requirements, specifically related to fire fighting, needs to be tweaked to ensure better accuracy. Chris shared maps highlighting high and low water pressure zones, explaining that the key challenge is to maintain sufficient pressure in the mains, while allowing for enough flow to fight a fire. Water connection fees related to development and new connections are calibrated every five years or so to ensure that such fees are current. Regarding the size of the planned tank, Chris said he thought it would be big enough although some adjustment to its height may need to be made.

*B. Coordinated Water System Plan Map (Andy Maron and Chris Wierzbicki)*

Chris showed a map outlining the various water systems in the south part of the island. This includes the Bill Point system whose residents had been considering how to renovate their aging system. Options include remaining a stand-alone system or becoming a part of the COBI (Rockaway Beach) system or the Kitsap Public Utility District ((the old Island Utility System). Although not yet finalized, the preliminary decision is that the Bill Point system will be taken over by KPUD. Chris said that one potential future outcome is that if KPUD can develop a new well for its South Bainbridge systems , an “inter-tie” agreement could be established in order to serve the adjacent COBI Rockaway Beach households (about 90) that are physically isolated from other parts of the COBI system.

**5. PSE Franchise Negotiation Update** *(Ted Jones and Chris Wierzbicki)*

Ted and Chris discussed the key parameters agreed to by a joint UAC and Climate Change Advisory Committee (CCAC) to guide COBI’s negotiation of the franchise agreement with Puget Sound Energy (PSE). These include goals for ten key areas: collaboration, transparency, demand reduction, energy supply, local generation, green building fund, electrify transportation, reliability, undergrounding, franchise term.

The meeting went on to discuss the specific goal of reducing total energy demand. [If successful, the need for a new sub-station could be extended from 10 to 15 years (or longer).] A key challenge will be balancing a reduction in carbon-emitting vehicles with an increase in the use of electronic cars, and thus a concomitant increase in demand for electricity.

Related to reliability, several meeting attendees noted that this is mostly related to falling trees. In that respect, undergrounding should be a key goal. In any case, it was emphasized that PSE needs to be more transparent in sharing reliability statistics by neighborhood.

The goals related to the establishment of a Green Building Fund were discussed. It was explained that such a fund would be partially targeted to low-income, affordable, and senior housing which are less likely to adopt energy-saving improvements due to costs and affordability.

**6. Next Meeting Agenda**

The next meeting of the UAC will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 2021 at 5:30 pm (consistent with the normally scheduled meeting the second Wednesday of each month). The UAC will consider how to determine the appropriate fees associated with properties connecting to COBI’s water system, specifically in any Ferncliff-Casey street extension. The agenda will also include the next steps for the study on the wastewater treatment plant.

**7. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 pm

*E-signature Approval*

Co-Chair

6/9/21