



Minutes

DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC UTILITIES
ADMINISTRATION

**Salt Lake City
Public Utilities Advisory Committee
Minutes
September 28, 2017**

The Public Utilities Advisory Committee (PUAC) meeting was held at 7:30 a.m. on September 28, 2017 at the Public Utilities Main Conference Room, 1530 South West Temple, Salt Lake City, Utah 84115. Committee members present were Roger Player, Ted Boyer, Kent Moore, Colleen Kuhn, Sydney Foncesbeck, and Lynn Hemingway. Salt Lake City Public Utilities employees present were Laura Briefer, Jesse Stewart, Marian Rice, Rusty Vetter, Stephanie Duer, Carly Castle, Jason Brown, Kurt Spjute, Dale Christensen, Karryn Greenleaf, and Janine Calfo. Also in attendance were John Richardson, Carollo Engineering; Karen Nichols, HDR; Trevor Lindley, Brown and Caldwell; Keith Larson, Bowen Collins; Sam Owen, Salt Lake City Council; Will Peterson, AECOM; and Mike DeVries, Metropolitan Water District.

Welcome and Introductions

Ted Boyer and Laura Briefer welcomed the attendees.

Approve Minutes of May 25, 2017 Meeting

Committee member Kent Moore moved and Committee member Roger Player seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the May 25, 2017 meeting, as submitted. All members present voted aye.

Financial Report – Kurt Spjute

Kurt Spjute presented the Department's financial report. A copy of Mr. Spjute's presentation is attached. Overall, everything is looking very positive. All funds revenue is \$13 million higher than prior year. The rate study final report is expected to be completed by January 2018.

Committee member Sydney Foncesbeck questioned about why sewer sales are higher this month. Kurt stated that some businesses have not been classified properly and this has been a higher water year. Laura added that the 30 percent rate increase has been implemented.

Committee member Sydney Foncesbeck questioned why the operation costs are above budget for last month. Laura stated that the first two months of the fiscal year are usually higher in expenses due to contracts being started at the beginning of the year. It's more an issue of timing than budget.

Water Conservation Report Stephanie Duer, Water Conservation Manager

Stephanie Duer presented on the Department's water conservation goals and outcomes as they apply to state goals. A copy of the presentation is attached. The master plan is updated every five years, as required by the State.

Committee Member Lynn Hemmingway asked about how rebates affect water conservation. Our customers can get a rebate through the Central Utah Project in connection with irrigation and lawn watering. Advertising of these rebates is spotty but it is starting to expand.

How does water pricing affect conservation? This is a question that is being asked by the Rate Advisory Committee. Water is not as elastic as other commodities. For every 10 percent increase in rates, you can anticipate a one percent decrease in use. As household income increases the impact of the rate increase declines.

Stephanie explained how to review personal water bills online and set up a new account to see conservation metrics.

Committee Member Lynn Hemmingway pointed out an article about a man in Orem, UT who let his lawn die and got cited. Stephanie stated that Salt Lake City has ordinances that indicate that residents are not required to have turf, and only 1/3 of a yard needs to be planted. There are alternatives to grass and Stephanie welcomes calls about landscaping issues.

Open Meeting Training Rusty Vetter

Rusty Vetter provided a handout (see attached) that outlined the Open Meeting Law (Utah Code 52-4-104). Rusty reviewed each portion of the Law with Committee members present.

Report on July 26, 2017 Storm Event Laura Briefer, Director Cory Lyman, Salt Lake City Emergency Manager

Laura provided a short overview on the 200-year storm event that occurred in July, 2017. A 200 year event has a 0.5 percent probability of occurring at any time. There were areas of damage to homes and public buildings.

At approximately 4:00 a.m. on July 26, 2017, 911 dispatch started receiving calls about flooding in basements. However, it wasn't until approximately 5:00 a.m. when Public Utilities started receiving calls. Several City departments were able to gather and deploy resources where they were needed most.



There were 172 homes that had some amount of basement flooding. There was a potential that there could be some FEMA funding and the Mayor declared an emergency. However, the event was not large enough to qualify for funding.

Special curb-side pickups from sanitation were implemented in the areas that were affected. There was a multi-agency resource center that was set up at Horizonte School. The Red Cross, Rubicon, insurance agencies and other partners were available to give help and information to residents. This continuing outreach will be carried forward in future emergencies.

Committee Member Ted Boyer asked about coverage from insurance companies. Laura indicated that some homes were covered if the water was coming up through sewer lines. Other homes may not have been covered if they didn't have specific flood coverage.

There was an amazing team from Public Utilities that worked long hours. Dispatch, Storm Water and Sewer crews created a lot of good will with their immediate response.

With regard to climate change, weather intensification can be expected with a changing climate. This will be something that the Department is looking at and considering.

Update on Central Wasatch Commission/Mountain Accord Carly Castle, Special Projects Manager

The Central Wasatch Committee had its first organizing meeting in July of this year. They also created a subcommittee composed of their staff to do most of the work of an interim executive director. Next meeting will be October 18th to adopt a budget and a staffing plan and framework of a government entity.

Laura mentioned that the main purpose is to implement the Mountain Accord.

Update on State of Water Right Adjudication in the Salt Lake Valley Jesse Stewart, Rusty Vetter, Carly Castle

Laura mentioned that this agenda item will be a regular updated item. Letters and summons are being mailed to residents. Unless you have a well or a water right, you can disregard the letters. Jesse made a short presentation that is attached.

Jesse outlined the 13 step generic adjudication process. Salt Lake City has created a process to track water rights and to ensure that rights are not double counted and all of the water rights are accounted for. There are a couple of objections that are going on and being tracked. Most of the subdivisions have 10,000 people or less so that the state can manage the amount of public engagement that is required. The subdivisions covering two headwaters (City Creek and Red Butte Creek) were the beginning. There have been only one right that needed to be further determined.



Other Business

Committee Member Sydney Fannesbeck mentioned City Creek Canyon and the guard at the station. She wanted to say that the new guard is enforcing the ordinances and working hard to tend the trail. She would like to send a letter of gratitude to the new guard.

Committee Member Sydney Fannesbeck also wanted to make the PUAC aware that the City Council is considering re-zoning the entire city with regard to affordable housing. Sydney asked the City Council what the impact of this affordable housing will be on water, sewer, parking and other utilities. Sydney feels that the City has not done their due diligence and infrastructure is a major problem. Committee Member Kent Moore asked who is driving the initiative. Sydney indicated that the Mayor is the major initiator. Sydney feels that the PUAC should respond to the City Council regarding requesting a study on the sewer capacity in the areas that are affected. Committee Member Ted Boyer suggested that Public Utilities monitor the process.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54 am.

The next PUAC meeting will be October 26th, 2017 at 7:30 a.m. at Salt Lake City Department of Public Utilities Administration Building.

Minutes approved October 26, 2017

Minutes approved October 26, 2017 by PUAC Board
Record Copy to City Recorder October 27, 2017

