



City of Davis

Utility Rate Advisory Commission Minutes

Community Chambers Conference Room, 23 Russell Boulevard, Davis CA 95616

Wednesday, May 16, 2018

6:30 P.M.

Commissioner Members Present: Gerry Braun (Chair), Jacques Franco, Lorenzo Kristov, Richard McCann, Elaine Roberts-Musser, Johannes Troost

Absent: Olof Bystrom

Staff Present: Stan Gryczko, Assistant Public Works Director

Council Liaison Present: Lucas Frerichs

Additional Attending: Richard Tsai, Environmental Resources Manager
Adrienne Heinig, Administrative Analyst

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Braun at 6:32pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

J Troost moved to approve the agenda, seconded by E Roberts-Musser. The motion passed as follows:

Ayes: Braun, Franco, Kristov, McCann, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Bystrom

3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commission Members, and City Council Members

- L Frerichs reported his recent attendance (along with L Kristov and G Braun) at the Cool Davis panel discussion of Valley Clean Energy (VCE), earlier in the evening from 4:30-6:30. Around 50 people were present for the discussion.
- E Roberts-Musser presented her research into the boundaries of confidentiality and the legal boundaries of closed session activities as it related to the DWR transfer negotiations. She presented a summary of her findings, and offered full text of two cases and an attorney general opinion if the Commission wished to review them (included as an attachment to the minutes).
- J Franco updated the Commission on the work of the Broadband Advisory Task Force (BATF), including the presentation to Council given by the consultant on the project and staff on April 3. He acknowledged the Council's approval for the BATF to continue

working on the effort, specifically related to the need for data on expected penetration of multifamily housing. He also discussed ending his tenure on the BATF, having been appointed in late 2015, and indicated that J Troost had expressed interest in representing URAC on the BATF. He stated since the BATF would be beginning “Phase II” of their work, it would be timely for J Franco to step aside and for J Troost to serve. G Braun requested an item be added to the next agenda to formalize the transfer of assignment. At the close of the update, E Roberts-Musser asked about the cost of Broadband service to the city, brought up by Mayor Pro Tem Lee in the Council deliberations. J Franco replied that the consultant’s estimates of cost are by nature on the conservative side, but that the BATF intended to look more closely at the assumptions and parameters in ‘Phase II’ work.

- After a question from R McCann, there was an update provided by staff on the work underway currently on L Street; the city is replacing the water main down L Street, as well as the sewer main. When asked if the trenching of conduits was being done to allow for installation of future broadband infrastructure, S Gryczko stated he would check with the construction team and return with an update.
- S Gryczko presented two items for staff updates:
 - The status of a future joint meeting between the URAC and City Council, TBD.
 - The approval of an inter-fund loan by the Council on May 15, from the Wastewater utility fund to the Solid Waste fund to fund the ongoing deficit accumulating in the organics program, while work is underway on the Solid Waste Rate Study, and the URAC-led review of the city’s Solid Waste service. The item came as a surprise to URAC members, and S Gryczko acknowledged the error, assuring the Commission that future items related to the Utilities that go directly to Council will be noticed to the Commission. In response to Commission inquiry, he also stated that short-term loans between utility funds are not new, and that the loan needed to take place before the end of the current fiscal year. G Braun mentioned that the shortage in the Solid Waste fund had been discussed during a previous meeting, and the URAC was aware of the shortage issue.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Consent Calendar

A. URAC Draft Special Meeting Minutes - April 2, 2018

B. URAC Draft Special Meeting Minutes - April 5, 2018 – *pulled and continued to June meeting*

C. 2018 Yard Material Survey Preliminary Results

Item 5B was removed prior to voting, as the minutes had been released for review on the same day of the meeting and there had not been time for adequate review. During discussion on the item, minor modifications were made to the draft minutes of April 2, 2018 by E Roberts-Musser and G Braun. The Commission determined to separate out the approvals for each consent item.

L Kristov moved to approve the draft minutes of April 2, 2018 with minor modifications. The motion was seconded by R McCann, and passed as follows:

Ayes: Braun, Franco, Kristov, McCann, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Bystrom

Abstain: Roberts-Musser (*not present at the meeting*)

E Roberts-Musser moved, seconded by R McCann, to approve item 5C on the Consent Calendar. The motion passed as follows:

Ayes: Braun, Franco, Kristov, McCann, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Bystrom

6. Regular Items

A. Discussion of Council Direction for Utility Services Long Term Planning.

G Braun introduced the item for discussion with statement about moving forward, after a brief reflection on the prior discussions related to Solid Waste and the transfer of the city's solid waste franchise. He offered the following points:

- In his estimation, there were two legitimate ways for looking at the Recology/Davis Waste Removal (DWR) transfer - some saw a strategic opportunity while others saw an unexpected addition to the existing workplan. Both perspectives were legitimate.
- An observation about the importance of mutual understanding and mutual desire to move forward between advisory groups and their clients before launching major advisory tasks.
- The view that the solid waste franchise was a strategic opportunity was related to resilience, but did not have grounding in terms of a long-term Davis resilience vision nor specific Davis resilience metrics.
- The Commission now has opportunity to address questions like, "what is the long term vision for Davis utility services" which could include both rates and resilience, in addition to city goals.

Councilmember Frerichs offered appreciation for the work of the commission, and reiterated his and the Council's commitment for the prospective work that lies ahead.

R McCann began general discussion on the item by questioning whether or not boundaries between the work of the commissions involved with the effort, the URAC, Natural Resources Commission (NRC) and the Finance and Budget Commission (FBC) should be established, as there will be overlap between areas of focus. S Gryczko reiterated that the recommendation to Council (and ultimately approved by Council) was crafted so URAC will lead the effort, with input from NRC and FBC.

S Gryczko began the staff portion of the item by shifting the focus of the commission back to the Solid Waste Rate study. He suggested that over the next few months, staff work with the Chair and Vice Chair to craft a workplan, and guiding principles for a long-term solid waste discussion. He requested that the focus of the Commission, in the meantime, should be on the Solid Waste Rate study, as the Council needs to take action on the rates. The Commission would then return to the long-term effort with a document prepared by the Chair and Vice Chair. In response to Commission questions, S Gryczko clarified that the Organics Processing Facility Feasibility study, though important to the overall solid waste effort, most likely would not feed into the current Solid Waste Rate study. He suggested a placeholder of a set charge (\$2/month, for example) could be built in to the current study. J

Franco stated that the NRC had requested that staff expand the scope of the Organics Study after the fact, which would delay the completion of that study even further.

Returning to the discussion of the long-term solid waste planning effort, G Braun requested brainstorming ideas on the vision for the process (an integrated look, or enterprise by enterprise, etc.) L Kristov suggested the Commission begin with identifying desirable outcomes, for 20 years from now, and characteristics of well-functioning systems, with a review of what it will take to get there. G Braun compared the process to what was undertaken for Community Choice Energy (now VCE). The Council approved the vision statement which consisted of short-term and long-term outcomes. R McCann suggested the Commission review the VCE outcomes, and statements of other jurisdictions.

E Roberts-Musser asked for clarification on the focus, whether it was for long-term strategies of utilities as a whole, or the solid waste management in particular. S Gryczko responded that based on discussions with the Chair, staff was comfortable with the review as a utility-wide perspective, as long as the Commission would provide Council with the strategy requested by them, for solid waste.

R McCann suggested that the Commission could use the review of moving the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) from the current location at 2nd Street as a seed for the larger review of the future of solid waste service, to build the discussion. S Gryczko reiterated that while the question of moving the MRF does have a limited timeframe (2 years), the overall long-term planning effort does not have a prescribed timeframe.

J Troost requested further discussion on the structure of the work between commissions, and the plan for communication between and within each commission.

G Braun read over some of the short-term vision statements of the VCE, and provided the summary document to the Commission for review. R Tsai suggested the Commission also review the introduction of the city's Waste Management Plan, and the Urban Water Management Plan to guide them in determining long term solid waste vision and guiding principles.

There was discussion on the value of metrics to assess progress and keep everyone accountable, and discussion of the next steps for the meeting between staff and the Chair and Vice Chair. URAC members will be able to comment individually with whatever long term vision statement or guiding principles the Chair, Vice Chair and staff come up with, to be revised by the aforesaid based on URAC members' feedback, before it comes back to the URAC for full discussion. There was verification that the Council would need to approve the vision statements prior to the Commission diving in to the long-term planning effort, and approval from the Commission to move ahead with the Solid Waste Rate study as scheduled. S Gryczko stated that the long-term vision drafts would probably return to the Commission in August.

7. Commission and Staff Communication

A. Long Range Calendar.

The Commission discussed the following items:

- During the Regular Item 6A, J Franco stated his concern with recent updates to the Long Range Calendar, which included the removal without full URAC approval of several items that had been listed as unscheduled. Specifically, he stated his opinion that the review of soil moisture sensing technologies was important to determine the merits of the technology. G Braun and S Gryczko acknowledged removing some items from the long range calendar. G Braun also indicated that he had a list of suggested items to put on the long range, and would provide the list for Commission consideration at the next meeting.
- The June meeting plan was updated to include the Initial Solid Waste Rate study draft, a report on the Loose in the Streets (LITS) Yard Materials Survey, and an informational item on soil moisture capture irrigation systems. The meeting would also include a high-level summary of the work undertaken on the Organics Processing Facility Feasibility study to date.
- The July meeting plan was updated to include a second look at the Solid Waste Rate study.
- The Commission was updated on the tentative timing of the last few meetings of the Council before the recess in July/August. Councilmember Frerichs reported that after the election, the “new” council would be undergoing a review of commission liaison appointments.

8. Adjourn

J Troost made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by L Kristov. The motion passed by the following votes and adjourned at 8:11pm:

Ayes: Braun, Franco, Kristov, McCann, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Bystrom