



City of Davis

Utility Rate Advisory Commission Minutes

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

Wednesday, July 18, 2018

6:30 P.M.

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

Absent: None

Staff Present: Stan Gryczko, Assistant Public Works Director

Additional Attending: Richard Tsai, Environmental Resources Manager
Adrienne Heinig, Administrative Analyst
Rose Radford and William Schoen (R3 Consulting Group)

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Meeting was called to order by Chairperson Braun at 6:31pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

Prior to the approval of the agenda, G Braun requested Item 6B be moved to after Item 6C on the regular agenda. J Troost moved to approve the amended agenda, seconded by G Braun. The motion passed as follows:

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

Noes:

Absent:

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

- G Braun announced that the Commission's liaison Lucas Frerichs was out of town, and was not able to attend the meeting, but had mentioned to G Braun that he was trying to schedule the joint meeting between the City Council and URAC as soon as possible.
- S Gryczko updated the Commission on the actions taken at the City Council meeting on July 10, specifically the re-appointment of Lucas Frerichs as the commission's council liaison, and the appointment of Dan Carson as the alternate. He also updated the commission on the expanded scope of the Organics Processing Facility Feasibility Study (going to Council for approval on July 31) and the process outlined by the City Manager's Office for a joint chair/vice-chair meeting between commissions.
- O Bystrom indicated there would be an integrated resource plan formulated for Valley Clean Energy, which is required by all utilities (load serving entities).
- E Roberts-Musser discussed four articles:

- Mitsubishi Hitachi Power Systems using AI technology to operate power plants
- A Global Plastics Crisis - New Republic
- Irvine Ranch Water District Adds Tesla Powerpacks, Estimates Annual Savings of \$500,000 - Clean Technica
- Supreme Court sides with Florida in decades-long dispute with Georgia over water rights - USA Today

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Consent Calendar

A. URAC Draft Meeting Minutes - June 20, 2018

One correction was made to the minutes based on feedback from William Schoen, the city's consultant on the Solid Waste Rate Study. On page 3, in the middle of the first paragraph, the sentence "*William Schoen indicated that 10% of jurisdiction in Northern California still offer LITS collection.*" was modified to read "*William Schoen indicated that 10% of the 60 jurisdictions surveyed by R3 in Northern California still offer LITS collection.*"

O Bystrom moved to approve the consent calendar with the amendment to the 6-2-18 URAC minutes. The motion was seconded by R McCann, and passed as follows:

Ayes: Braun, Bystrom, Franco, Kristov, McCann, Troost

Noes:

Absent:

Abstain: Roberts-Musser

6. Regular Items

A. Long Range Calendar Updates.

G Braun introduced the item on the Long Range Calendar, outlining updates provided by staff since the last review of the calendar. Updates included providing topics for all of the meetings listed on the calendar. In response to comments by the Commission, the following edits were made to the calendar:

- Added "Transfer Station" or another identifier to the 2727 2nd Street item on the calendar for clarity
- Added the Enterprise Fund Subcommittee Report to unscheduled items
- Reviewed and revised the Rate Increase box (suggest include date of approval and date of last rate increase)

After the brief discussion concluded, J Franco moved, seconded by J Troost, to approve the calendar as modified. The motion passed by the following vote:

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

Noes:

Absent:

Item 6B was moved to after Item 6C on the agenda

C. Review of Solid Waste Rate Study Model and Updates.

The item was introduced by G Braun, who suggested the Commission members hold questions on the item until after the initial staff presentation. A summary of the items requested by the Commission at the prior meeting in June was provided via a PowerPoint

presentation from staff. R Tsai also outlined staff and consultant efforts to meet with Recology staff to obtain data on actual costs for program operations, which will be forthcoming. William Schoen, representing R3, the city's consultant in the Solid Waste Rate study, presented the items as requested by the Commission. These items included:

- A quantitative analysis of the four options for the Loose in the Street (LITS) options chosen by the URAC at the meeting in June (this analysis included a review of potential environmental impacts based on street passes of the Recology trucks). In response to a Commissioner inquiry, W Schoen explained that the data used for the analysis comes from estimates of Davis Waste Removal (DWR) operations.
- A chart presenting a per capita greenwaste comparison for agencies in the Northern California area (this chart included an indicator of whether or not the agency offered LITS collection). In response to Commissioner questions, W Schoen provided the following:
 - Residential greenwaste includes 1-2% food waste when the jurisdiction provides organics collection
 - Most jurisdictions do not offer a LITS collection service, regardless of the per capita greenwaste poundage.
- A pie chart showing the breakdown of the costs associated with DWR operations (based on data provided by the company prior to the sale to Recology) to demonstrate the components of cost for waste haulers.
 - Discussion of this item also included an update of the number of trucks updated to diesel fuel in the DWR/Recology fleet (upwards of 2/3rds of the trucks have been converted), with full replacement anticipated over the next few years. W Schoen also mentioned a discussion with Recology on the possibility of bean-generated diesel fuel as a potential for cost reductions.

Rose Radford, also from R3, presented the revised chart showing the 10-year financial plan model, which utilized the "smooth" rate increase option B of the prior meeting. The Commission discussion on the rate increases included a consensus on maintaining predictability of the increases. Discussion of the financial plan also included:

- Some necessary corrections to the model to include full revenue numbers.
- The need for an outline to provide the details of the components of all escalators and values utilized in the model, as well as a breakdown of costs associated with the forecasted rates.
- A request for historical data on revenue loss from migration of customer accounts (when rates are increased, a number of customers will often switch to a smaller sized can to reduce costs, thus reducing the projected revenue).
- Further detail on the budgeted costs for the city's Solid Waste Diversion programs and the actual expenditures.
- The need for staff recommendations to provide a baseline for the commission discussion.
- The need for the corrections to the model and the additional information to be released for review sooner than the standard 72 hour deadline for commission packet posting (suggested at least a week before the August meeting of the URAC).
- The possibility of calculating the cost of converting the existing LITS program to an on-demand service.

- A request from the Commission to ensure that the revenue increases from increased rates are related to costs, and demonstrate how those costs can be mitigated by the potential changes to the LITS program.
- The importance of demonstrating the impact of cost (by month, in dollars) to show the public how much the different options of the LITS program will impact rates, as well as providing a discussion of environmental impacts of the program.

After review of the draft model, G Braun requested staff provide recommendations for the next meeting in August, indicate ideas for the modification of the LITS program, and break out each year recommendation for rates.

R Tsai suggested that the Commission could review the possibility of slowly reducing the level of the LITS program over the next five years, with a look to mitigate the cost impacts of the LITS program on rates without ending the program abruptly. The possibility of creative options, e.g. phasing out the LITS program, for addressing costs, along with offering additional containers for free, or additional containers on a seasonable basis was discussed by the Commission and staff was encouraged to bring back such options for consideration. Additional discussion included the need for public education on why it may be necessary or in the community's interest to phase out the LITS program, and the potential for the state to limit or ban LITS programs over stormwater quality issues.

B. Request Assistance from Subcommittee on Enterprise Fund Reserve Policies.

Carried over from the meeting in June, staff requested the assistance of members of the Enterprise Fund Reserve Policy Subcommittee for the next few weeks on establishing the amount required for the Solid Waste utility reserve. The review with staff would include the components of the reserve and percentage goals. Discussion between the subcommittee members indicated that one of the three, R McCann, will be unavailable for the start of the effort, however consensus of the commission was granted for the remaining members of the subcommittee to meet with staff and follow-up with R McCann after he returned.

D. Assignment of URAC Representative to the Broadband Advisory Task Force.

As discussed at the commission meeting in June, the regular liaison to the Broadband Advisory Task Force (BATF), J Franco, announced his intention to step down. J Troost indicated interest at the June meeting, however determined that due to travel conflicts he could not commit to the appointment. L Kristov offered to look into the Task Force, and stated he would attend the next meeting to see if he was able to take the appointment.

7. Commission and Staff Communication

A. Long Range Calendar.

No specific changes to the Long Range calendar were discussed during this item. There was a brief discussion on the items included in the "unscheduled" section, and if the commission should remove the "*Student-Focused Housing Proposals and Impacts on Utility Capacity and Rates*" item. E Roberts-Musser indicated that the projects, which initiated the original discussion of the item, had been approved and were moving forward. S Gryczko remarked that the city is looking into the costs of student housing, and suggested leaving the item on the Long Range.

L Kristov indicated that he would be absent for the URAC meeting in August.

8. Adjourn

J Troost made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by O Bystrom. The motion passed by the following votes and adjourned at 8:40pm:

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

Noes:

Absent: