



City of Davis

Utilities Commission Minutes

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

Wednesday, August 21, 2019

6:30 P.M.

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

Absent: Linda Deos

Staff Present: Stan Gryczko, Public Works - Utilities & Operations Director
Adrienne Heinig, Management Analyst

Additional Attending: Matt Deussenberry, Water Division Manager
Heather Brown, Water Quality Coordinator

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

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

2. Approval of Agenda

J Franco moved to approve the agenda, seconded by L Kristov. The motion passed as follows:

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

Noes:

Absent: Deos

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

- M Williams discussed two items:
 - Contracting reviews needed for the utilities and
 - The disconnect between recent state and local surveys on climate change, asked about follow up and convening a public workshop (UC/NRC hosting)
- E Roberts-Musser provided five articles for review:
 - *Sacramento Bee* - Is recycling collapsing in California? Advocates call on lawmakers to rescue it
 - Could planting trees halt climate change?
 - *University of Maryland* – North American waterways are becoming saltier and more alkaline
 - *Solar Power World Online* - City of Calistoga looks into community microgrid to combat planned outages
 - *ArsTechnica.com* - Pai's FCC orders cities and towns to stop regulating cable broadband
- S Gryczko discussed three items:
 - Stormwater cost of service study - selected firm, in final negotiations on scope, signed by next month to begin work

- Organics Processing Feasibility Study staff report to Council should be on September 24.
- The Commission request for name and charter change has been approved by Council at their meeting on July 30.
- J Troost discussed three items:
 - Expressed thanks to staff for the work to keep the Commission updated on changes to website and City Council articles
 - Distributed comments from John Johnston (as a member of the public) on the Organics Processing Feasibility Study
 - A workshop focusing on authentically engaging communities, effective public communication, public participation and how to communicate about climate change (Capital Region Climate Readiness Collaborative - information on those presentations and more available at <http://climatereadiness.info/crc-event-materials/>)
- L Kristov discussed one item:
 - The announcement that Valley Clean Energy is looking into the potential acquisition of PG&E distribution facilities in Yolo County.
- O Bystrom discussed one item:
 - The extension of the bankruptcy proceedings undertaken by PG&E.

4. Public Comment

None.

5. Consent Calendar

A. URAC Draft Meeting Minutes - June 19, 2019

B. URAC Draft Meeting Minutes - July 17, 2019

One change to the minutes for July 17, 2019 was included, with the revision of the second paragraph on page 2 of 7 to read: “O Bystrom *indicated that the scope of the cost of service study should include consideration of alternative scenarios for water consumption which will enable staff and council to better understand the sensitivity of our rates to changes in underlying fundamentals that drive water consumption (such as droughts, climate change, and economic cycles).*” This text replaced the following: “...*indicated that the preparation of the cost of service study should include revenue requirements, which would necessitate a review of sensitivity in water consumption. He indicated that the study can be built with variables, and can show the impact of the change in the model.*”

O Bystrom moved, seconded by G Braun, to approve Consent Calendar items A and B (as amended). The motion passed by the following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent: Deos

Abstain: Williams

6. Regular Items

A. Water Division Presentation.

Received PowerPoint presentation from staff (posted online) on the Water Utility.

Covered topics of:

- Water Sources and Uses (water sources and programs including operations and maintenance, water quality, water conservation, current regulations and utility growth, demand and resiliency)
- Management Plans (including the Integrated Water Resources Study, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act/Yolo Subbasin Groundwater Agency, Urban Water Management Plan)
- Major Projects and Studies (Aquafer Storage and Recovery, Water Meter Upgrade Project, water main replacements, water capital improvement projects)
- Upcoming Regulatory Changes (including water quality regulation changes, new water use efficiency standards, water use objectives)
- Rate structures (an overview)

B. Formation of Subcommittee on Recycling and Solid Waste.

Motion: To approve the formation of and charter for the Recycling and Solid Waste Subcommittee of the Utilities Commission (comprised of Johannes Troost and Jacques Franco).

G Braun/O Bystrom. Approved by the following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent: Deos

Formed to focus on:

- Identify and explore the factors driving increased tipping fees at the Yolo Central Landfill
- Identify and explore the history, purpose, status, direction, and expectations for Yolo County with respect to its bio-digestion project
- Implications of greater Davis solid waste system

Requested to have more information on the timeline of the review of the items

C. Recommendation to Require City Studies to Consider Impacts of the Climate Change in the Scope of Work.

Recommendation Language was presented as follows:

- The City adopt a policy of requiring RFPs for any utility services and/or cost of service studies include in their scope requirements a GHG reduction and climate impact assessment and recommendations for adaptation actions relevant to the utility study being solicited.

Bid evaluation criteria should include the following: bidder must demonstrate appropriate understanding of the most recent scientific evidence/reports on the impact of climate change for our geographic area for the service/utility.

Further, bidders must identify the qualifications of key staff or subcontractors having these skills, and the proposing team's experience related to climate

impact assessment and adaptation related to utility services. Bid evaluation should be aligned to reflect the new policy.

Concerns presented included:

- The use of “any” in the first sentence (*requiring RFPs for any utility services*)
- Modification of the section including: *utility services and/or cost of service studies* to wording closer to: consultant for utility services and studies; OR related consultant studies; OR consultant services; OR studies.
- Changing the term “climate impact” to climate resiliency (to read: ...*GHG reduction and climate resiliency assessment...*)
- Modification of the section including: *most recent scientific evidence/reports* to wording closer to: knowledge and experience on the impact of climate change. (it was suggested by staff that this section also include a request for the bidder to include references that demonstrate work associated with climate change.
- Suggested should be shorter.
- First paragraph insert when applicable and where applicable language - some RFPs should not require such a policy

Requested subcommittee come back with revised language for review at next meeting for further review.

D. Review of Subcommittee to Determine the Plausibility and Net Benefits of Moving the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

Motion: To approve the dissolution of the Subcommittee to Determine the Plausibility and Net Benefits of Moving the Materials Recovery Facility (MRF).

E Roberts-Musser/O Bystrom. Approved by the following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent: Deos

Abstain: Williams

Subcommittee dissolved.

7. Commission and Staff Communication

A. Matt Williams - Brief Comments Re: Solid Waste Rate Study.

To request for review of City contracts for services with language on pass-through expenses for asset management responsibilities (either individually or through study process)

B. Matt Williams - Brief Comments Re: Recent Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) report on the results of their statewide Climate Change voter survey and the recent City of Davis resident survey findings.

Follow-up with CMO on disconnect between state survey (PPC) and Davis satisfaction survey re: climate change, and consider convening a workshop (with UC/NRC hosting)

C. Gerald Braun - Brief Comments Re: Support next steps toward evaluating whether a zero carbon water standard is appropriate for Davis and how best to implement it. Requested to have item to look into Carbon Free water, to 100% renewable power for utility. S Gryczko indicated that review would be done with all utilities, to show power consumption costs and analyzing cost of 100% renewable tariff (back to Commission in October)

D. Long Range Calendar

Add to next meeting:

- Stormwater cost of service study scoping
- Carbon Free utility power discussion
- The revised recommendation to require city studies to consider impacts of the climate change in the scope of work
- Review contracts for on pass-through expenses for asset management responsibilities

8. Adjourn

O Bystrom made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by G Braun. The motion passed by the following votes and adjourned at 9:12 pm:

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

Noes:

Absent: Deos