



**City of Davis**

**Utilities Commission Minutes**

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

**Wednesday, December 18, 2019**

**6:30 P.M.**

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

Absent: Matt Williams (Alternate)

Staff Present: Adrienne Heinig, Management Analyst

Additional Attending: None

**1. Call to Order and Roll Call**

Chairperson Troost called meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

L Deos moved to approve the agenda, seconded by O Bystrom. The motion passed as follows:

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

Noes:

Absent: Williams (Alternate)

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

- A Heinig provided an update of the status of the Enterprise Fund Methodology report and reminded the Commission of upcoming elections (in January 2020).
- E Roberts-Musser provided two articles for review:
  - The Story of Stuff Project - *California Water Board Directs Nestlé to Immediately Cease Unauthorized Use of California's Water*
  - Business Insider - *This Spanish company found a way to produce a fuel without emitting CO2, and it's made of sewage*
- L Kristov discussed one item:
  - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) is proceeding to enable micro grids for critical facilities (including wastewater treatment facilities, water pumping facilities, community buildings etc.) over the State, and have been urged to create accelerated tracks for implementation projects, using a plan and checklist system, to bring independent systems online as soon as possible. CPUC has agreed and is looking to develop a process by March 2020.

- E Roberts-Musser discussed disaster preparedness at the County level, particularly in Winters, and the challenges with inadequate remote power stations brought by PG&E during extended power outages.

#### **4. Public Comment**

None.

#### **5. Consent Calendar**

Prior to the approval of the Consent Calendar, Item 5B was pulled for discussion.

##### **A. UC Draft Meeting Minutes - November 20, 2019**

Two content changes and one minor correction was made to the minutes. The content changes were as follows:

- On page 3 of 4, within the second bullet on the page, “and criteria that is used to determine if a project should be debt financed” was added after “Discussion of debt financing” to read “Discussion of debt financing, and criteria that is used to determine if a project should be debt financed”
- On page 3 of 4, a third bullet was added after the first two on the top of the page to read: “Discussion of the use of historical data and whether it would reflect reserve calculations based on factors no longer applicable to that utility.

E Roberts-Musser moved, G Braun seconded, to approve the minutes as amended. Approved by following votes:

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

Noes:

Absent: Williams (Alternate)

##### **B. Alternative Uses for Overland Flow and Pond Areas Located at the City’s Wastewater Treatment Plant**

The Commission added the item to the discussion of the Long Range Calendar by consensus.

#### **6. Regular Items**

##### **A. City of Davis Utility Resiliency**

- Received staff report on the City’s current strategies (included within division budgets) to maintain resilient Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater utilities. Discussion included:
  - Plan for organics waste disposal within the next 10 years. Negotiating with Yolo County landfill for the next 10 years (short term solution), then deciding on which options are the most beneficial (the UC recommended that none of the suggested options be off the table.)
  - A request for a larger “ecosystem” view of disruptions to service, including resiliency of energy supply, cyber threats, etc., discussion of all that is necessary to keep services going.
  - The possibility of developing a model to assess resiliency of city utilities.

- The need for a list of threats to each utility (most likely and worst case scenarios), include short-term and long-term threats, with level of threat and preparation described, including what emergency plans are required by the state. Then develop strategies to mitigate the threats coupled with costs, e.g. use of recycled water, gray water, rainwater capture during water shortages, micro grids for long term power outages.
- The consideration of reviews of resiliency planning would require more time for each utility than one meeting for all.
- Consideration of including infographics in utility bills to demonstrate costs associated with threats to utility (and how those costs affect rates).
- Request to managers of Utilities to include a response in the table drafted below:

Utility	Threat to Utility	Intensity of Threat (Immediate, Medium, Low)

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- Return to discussion with staff report (including more information on each section) and list from Utility Managers to a future meeting.

*No formal action was taken on this item.*

**B. Update from Subcommittee on the Downtown Plan**

- Received update from members of the Subcommittee on the Downtown Plan and discussed the following:
  - Feedback on the Plan is due to staff on January 15, however, the UC meets on January 15. A Heinig discussed the due date with Community Development department staff, and the UC can provide comments on the 16<sup>th</sup> to be included in the Planning Commission and City Council discussions of the plan.
  - Two concerns were highlighted: the assumption made on the ability of the infrastructure in place to handle the increase in use based on density of populations in the area (age of infrastructure a concern as well) and whether or not a survey has been done of agencies that have adopted form-based planning and how successful it has been.
  - Concern that there is no discussion of broadband infrastructure included in the Downtown Plan.
  - Concern that the costs associated with developers and increasing the capacity of the City’s utilities not included in the plan.

- The concern that it is too early to understand all of the variables - the need for the Commission to include perspective on policy issues. Need to zero in on infrastructure issues, and increase the level of detail provided.

*No formal action was taken on this item.*

**C. Formation of a Subcommittee to Review Self-Generation Opportunities for Collaborative Development by the City of Davis and Valley Clean Energy (VCE)**

- Continued discussion of the creation of a subcommittee focused on looking for and reporting back on opportunities for collaboration between the City and VCE. Topics included:
  - VCE seen as “wholesale distributor” of electricity, but does the City want to do more?
  - With the bid for PG&E distribution assets from VCE, each jurisdiction might have a different approach to the use of assets (if awarded), and jurisdictions need to prepare.
  - Whether or not City staff have the ability or interest to support these topics.
  - VCE will be making determinations in the next 18 months (locations of batteries, solar opportunities); subcommittee could help the city with those discussions.
  - The importance of the City assigning a staff person within the organization to the energy topics at hand as their focus; and the need for that person to have energy management experience. The City needs to pay attention.
  - The larger issue with the combination role of the Interim Manager of VCE/Sustainability Manager for the City, and the need for a Sustainability Manager full-time.
  - Consider going to Council first to request the establishment of the subcommittee, to ascertain their interest and support in pursuing the topic.
  - The need to expand on each of the categories within the subcommittee charge to further define the goals of the subcommittee, and looking to the subcommittee to deliver the expanded thoughts.
  - Voiced trepidation of going down the road of providing advice that might be seen as unsolicited.

Motion: the formation of a subcommittee (members: Olof Bystrom, Lorenzo Kristov and Gerry Braun) to inquire and report back on the following:

- i. Self-generation opportunities for collaborative development by the City and VCE to drive down the City’s carbon footprint and/or increase the City’s energy resilience; and
- ii. Specific projects that could be jointly developed; and

- iii. The City's possible interest in forming a municipal utility if VCE acquires PG&E's electricity distribution assets.

J Franco moved, E Roberts-Musser seconded. Approved by following votes:  
Ayes: Braun, Bystrom, Deos, Franco, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost  
Noes:  
Absent: Williams (Alternate)

## **7. Commission and Staff Communication**

### **A. Unscheduled Long Range Items Discussion**

- By consensus of Commission - 'Develop New Mission Statement' and 'Student-focused Housing Proposals' removed from Long Range Calendar.
- Suggested that Chair and Vice Chair review the unscheduled items on the Long Range Calendar and offer suggestions to the Commission on what can be removed.

### **B. Long Range Calendar**

- The following items were agendaized for January: the Enterprise Fund Reserve Methodology discussion, discussion of the Downtown Plan.
- The following items were agendaized for February: the Re-Use of Decommissioned Ponds; the Utility Resiliency reports to return (with update to the Resiliency report requested during the meeting).

## **8. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:33 p.m.