



**City of Davis
Utilities Commission Minutes
Remote Meeting
Wednesday, September 15, 2021
5:30 P.M.**

Commissioners Present: Gerry Braun, Andrew Cullen, Steve Gellen, Lorenzo Kristov, Emma O'Rourke-Powell (Alternate), Elaine Roberts-Musser, Johannes Troost

Commissioner(s) Absent: Linda Deos (Chair)

Council Liaison(s) Present: None

Staff Present: Stan Gryczko, Public Works Utilities & Operations Director
Adrienne Heinig, Assistant to the Director
John Alexander, Wastewater Division Manager

Also in Attendance:

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Vice-Chair Braun called meeting to order at 5:30pm.

2. Approval of Agenda

E Roberts-Musser moved to approve the agenda, seconded by A Cullen. Approved by the following votes:

Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Gellen, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Deos

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

- S Gryczko provided an update on City water supplies, with the ongoing drought conditions. He indicated that the Woodland-Davis Clean Water Agency (WDCWA) which provides surface water to the City, is seeking to augment surface water supplies beginning November 1, when WDCWA's primary water right is impacted by Term 91 conditions. He added that the City is being asked to follow the Governor's 15% voluntary water use reductions, and that mandatory reductions from the State may be likely to follow.

- E Roberts-Musser provided six articles for Commission review and provided one book recommendation:
 - AP News - *No bull scientists potty train cows to use 'MooLoo'*
 - Public Policy Institute of California - *California's Water Market*
 - Public Policy Institute of California - *Groundwater Recharge*
 - Canary Media - *Hurricane-driven blackouts in New Orleans send a dire warning about the need for distributed energy*
 - Kansas City Star - *Yes, KC may actually take 80-year-old Army vet to court over his ... butterfly garden*
 - New Civil Engineer - *How should engineers tackle the growing surface water flooding challenge*
 - Book Recommendation: *Waste, by Catherine Coleman Flowers*
- G Braun discussed an upcoming webinar on September 28th that he is presenting, titled “Using Available Local Assets to Achieve Energy Resilience,” hosted by Municipal Sustainable Energy Forum. The link and registration information will be distributed to the Commission.
- S Gryczko informed the Commission of an item (what to do with utility enterprise funds in excess of reserve targets) that went to the Finance and Budget Commission on September 13.

4. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

5. Consent Calendar

A. Utilities Commission Minutes – July 21, 2021

B. Discussion of Modifications to Leaf Blower Ordinance & Recommendation Process (*Informational*)

E Roberts-Musser moved, J Troost seconded, to approve the Consent Calendar. Approved by following votes:

Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Gellen, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost

Noes:

Absent: Deos

6. Regular Items

A. Wastewater Cost of Service Study – Rate Setting and Scenarios.

The item was tabled by G Braun, providing the note that due to unforeseen circumstances, Bartle Wells Associates were not able to attend the meeting. A Heinig provided a brief discussion of the memo from staff included in the Commission packet, provided in response to Commission questions from the discussion of the wastewater cost of service study in June.

Discussion included the following:

- Staff are working with Bartle Wells Associates to provide answers to Commissioner questions from June to be included in the October meeting.
- In response to a question about where the Commission is in the process, Staff indicated that the Commission is considering rate scenarios, after recommending modeling at 5% increases, and how those scenarios align with the financial plan. Currently the review is focused on the breakdown of the strength factors of the wastewater as part of the rate development.
- L Kristov indicated a correction about the memo discussed, asking the Finance Dept. about the possibility of charging for winter water use based on months of highest precipitation. He stated the discussion was focused on the months of lowest consumption, not highest precipitation.

No formal action was taken on this item and no public comment was received.

A. Community Resilience Subcommittee Scope.

The item was introduced by G Braun, who established L Kristov as the item's presenter on behalf of the subcommittee. L Kristov provided background on the formation of the subcommittee to discuss resilience topics, and to come back to the Commission with ideas/proposals/thoughts for consideration. He indicated that the subcommittee met twice, and thought about what kinds of projects or initiatives would make sense, floated ideas to see 1) what aligns well with the thoughts of the group, 2) what thoughts arose as to the focus of the subcommittee, and 3) what further initiative the Commission may be interested in taking up. Recommendations from the subcommittee included a close review of the following (in brief):

1. The progress of Aquifer Storage and Recovery (ASR)
2. Setting up a resilience hub
3. Replacement of diesel backup generators for utilities
4. Increased local recycling capabilities
5. Development of internet hubs

Discussion included the following:

- The recommendation that the subcommittee look beyond ASR to the integrated water resources study, tentatively planned to start once the ASR feasibility study is completed. In response to a question about the impact of ASR on groundwater, staff indicated that ASR would aid the water table by displacing groundwater with surface water.
- In response to a commission question, staff indicated that treated wastewater is not under consideration for injection into the ground. Recycled water is part of the City's long-term water planning, and staff look to the eventual replacement of irrigation in large areas with recycled water.

- The observation that resilience hubs fit in with current focus on emergency preparedness, especially with the recent Public Safety Shutoffs conducted by PG&E; a group working on community resilience would like to see hubs in every major City of Yolo County.
- The consideration of school buildings as possible assets for community hubs, as the student populations are shrinking, and schools are situated to serve most neighborhoods in Davis. If there is a thought for possible joint use, internet service hubs could be in schools, and the focus could be on repurposing existing facilities rather than new construction. In other areas of the country that are prone to regular or repeated disasters, the Red Cross will use schools as a base for emergency shelters.
- The University of California at Davis was also listed for consideration.
- The importance of considering how populations will have different medical needs, disabilities, etc.
- A recent statement from the Mayor that there is a need for City hotspots for students to have internet access, as there are students without internet access in their homes.
- The consideration of working with housing co-ops or housing owners to open up multifamily residences to provide spaces for a resilience hub.
- The suggestion to review the School District's facility master plan to determine where a resilience hub might fit.
- The suggestion to continue to agendize the discussion to allow for staff to provide more detailed feedback.
- The suggestion that the subcommittee could take the idea of looking at the resilience hub and come back with more information. Staff would be asked to review in parallel to keep things moving.
- The request that the Commission weigh in on any areas of consideration presented that are not of interest.
- The suggestion that some items (such as 2&5) could be combined.
- Interest in discussions around ocean rise and seepage, as well as salt water encroachment with the Integrated Water Resources Study.
- Consensus that items 2&5 are of the most interest, and the Commission wants to hear from staff on long-term planning around items 1&3.
- With the support of items 2&5, members of the subcommittee suggested they could expand the description into a paragraph or page, to describe what a resilience hub would look like, and get more specific direction on next steps.
- The importance to check in with staff, and have them weigh in on the suggestions.
- In response to a question, staff indicated that work has been done to add backup power to all City wells, and the City is in the middle of installing

backup generators at sites. Staff would like to discuss alternatives (such as installing battery walls and solar power), and could look at grant opportunities. However staff is not on the same page with providing electric generators at this moment, as they are not as reliable. Staff also indicated that the solar generators have a minimal footprint, and staff can look for ways to make diesel generation as the last option.

- The suggestion that the City consider lessons learned with large weather events, such as Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, in looking at portable power infrastructure that could be moved to target areas in need.

No formal action was taken on this item, and no public comment was received.

C. Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Process.

The item was presented by G Braun, who stated that the Commission may wish to support a subcommittee to review the draft CAAP with a focus on items that would be within the Utilities Commission's purview. A Cullen also provided a report on his attendance at Natural Resources Commission (NRC) meetings as a representative of the UC.

Discussion included the following:

- The recommendation that the Commission develop a subcommittee to review the CAAP vulnerability assessment.
- The concern that the release of the Vulnerability Assessment took longer than originally indicated.
- Concern about the implementation of the CAAP, and financial support for the CAAP once completed.
- The importance of the subcommittee focusing their view from the perspective of City utilities.
- A request that once formed, the subcommittee let the Chair and Vice Chair know when a report will be produced.

Motion: To form a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) Process Subcommittee, with members of the subcommittee being A Cullen and J Troost.

Moved by E Roberts-Musser, seconded by G Braun. Approved by following votes:
Ayes: Braun, Cullen, Gellen, Kristov, Roberts-Musser, Troost
Noes:
Absent: Deos

No public comment was received on the item.

7. Commission and Staff Communication

A. Long Range Calendar

The item was introduced by S Gryczko, who outlined the next few months for the Long Range calendar.

Discussion included the following:

- The addition of the Community Resilience Subcommittee follow-up and the CAAP subcommittee to the October agenda.
- Discussion of possible changes around the SB 1383 regulations related to food banks. J Troost will follow-up with staff on the possible changes.
- G Braun indicated that in the Tracking/Periodic Check-in section of the Long Range Calendar, about the water supplies would be a part of the discussion of ASR and the Community Resilience Subcommittee.
- E Roberts-Musser stated that any insights related to the use of American Rescue Plan funds and SB 1383 would be helpful for the Commission.

8. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:30 p.m.