UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

November 13, 2014

Public Works Department – Water Utility Conference Room

Board Members Present: Scott Willis - Chair; Geoff Larson - Vice-Chair; George Porter; David Hanna; Janet Hall Schempf

Board Members Absent: Grant Ritter; Leon Vance

Staff Present: Kirk Duncan; Dave Crabtree; Sam Stoughtenger (via teleconference); Geraldine McIntosh; Michelle Elfers, CBJ Engineering

I. CALL TO ORDER
a. 5:30 p.m. by Mr. Willis, Chair.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
a. A motion was made to switch the order of agenda items V and VI.

b. With no objections, the Agenda was adopted as amended.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
a. The minutes from the October 2014 meeting were approved with minor changes.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
a. No members of the public were present.

V. ACTION ITEMS

Biosolids discussion & recommendation to Assembly:

a. Sam Stoughtenger updated the committee of meetings with the Assembly and the CBJ Planning Dept. which was completing a planning level CSP (City-State permitting process) review.
b. Michelle Elfers informed the committee of meetings with the Juneau Commission on Sustainability (JCOS). The JCOS drafted a letter to the Assembly stating the CH2M Hill report is in line with the CBJ Climate Action Plan.

c. Sam Stoughtenger noted that there is currently $20 million earmarked for the biosolids project improvements in the Wastewater CIP.

d. Questions/Comments:

a. How is the aerobic digestion in the proposal different than what is currently in place?

   i. It is not necessarily different, it just provides additional digestion/treatment. Both plants currently have aerobic treatment, but only digestion at JDTP.

b. How are tires used as compost buffering system?

   i. Tires provide necessary bulking material that is relatively inexpensive; wood chips are much more expensive.

c. Alternative sources for bulking materials? Previous option may still be viable – the UAB should revisit this before making a recommendation to the Assembly re: biosolids.

   i. There were 2 previous RFPs for biosolids – composting and a heat dryer. Both were rejected for various reasons. One major issue related to the amount of control the city needs to have over its projects.

      1. Composting produces more end product, so is not ideal.

         a. End product is useful (compost).

      2. Waste Management may not be able to handle the high moisture content.

      3. Concerns related to the smell produced by in-vessel composting as well as the high costs that result from the 2-stage process.
a. The old proposal was a continuous process and could possibly address issues related to these concerns and it may be more efficient.

4. The details related to composting as a possibility should be flushed out for the public.

d. Should the UAB make a biosolids recommendation to the Assembly?

i. The UAB decided to delay any recommendation related to biosolids until more information has been provided to the Board.

ii. Helpful biosolids information would include:

1. How other communities in SE are addressing this problem.
2. Composting as an option for biosolids.
3. Examples of other city-owned composting systems.
4. Examples of successful composting operations that are comparable to CBJ’s needs.

iii. The UAB should make a recommendation to the Assembly that states the importance of the issue and weighs in, rather than making a recommendation backing a specific option.

1. This letter should include examples of how other cities in SE address this issue as backup.

2. A letter will be drafted and discussed at the next UAB meeting.

iv. The letter from the UAB will not disregard the recommendations made by the consultants; rather, it will address the concerns that the public will likely have related to composting as an option for biosolid disposal.

e. Is there a timeline for the biosolids discussion?

i. The timeline is indeterminate at this time.

ii. Depends on the Assembly.
VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

Water Report
   a. Discussion about broken hydrants

Wastewater Report
   a. Discussion of filamentous bacteria
   b. DEC inspection

Biosolids Update
   a. Discussion under (V), Action Items.

Utilities Merger
   a. Discussion postponed.

VII. NON-AGENDA ITEMS

   a. There were no non-agenda items.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

   a. Next Meeting: Thursday, December 11, 2014
   b. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Geraldine McIntosh

Geraldine McIntosh, Administrative Assistant I
CBJ Water Utility