



APPROVED 2-28-18

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Study Session
February 14, 2018
3:00 p.m.

Chair Trudnowski called the Public Utility Board study session to order at 3:06 p.m. at the Public Utilities Administration Building.

Present: Monique Trudnowski; Woodrow E. Jones, Jr., Bryan Flint, Karen Larkin, Mark Patterson

Tacoma Water: Introduction of the Integrated Resource Plan

Scott Dewhirst, Water Superintendent, made introductory remarks and stated that a more detailed presentation will be provided to the Board at a future study session. Glen George, Sr. Principal Engineer, outlined the objectives of the Tacoma Water Integrated Resource Plan (IRP). The long term objective is to create a robust and analytically sound resource plan to ensure continued water availability for the community and environment well into the foreseeable future. The short term objective is to enhance capabilities to manage water resources and system demands to meet customer needs while minimizing effects on the environment during difficult water years. The communication objective is to use the written plan to articulate the state of Tacoma Water's resource portfolio, including the risks to be understood and managed. Goals for engagement of the public advisory committee engagement were then reviewed. The Public Advisory Committee began meeting in March of 2017. There have been subsequent meetings with the last one scheduled for May of 2018. The IRP schedule is as follows: 1) Model development - spring 2017 and continuing; 2) Groundwater evaluation – Summer/Fall 2017; 3) Definition of future scenarios – Fall 2017; 4) Inclusion of climate change into model – Early 2018; 5) Model runs with scenarios – early 2018; 6) Draft report – May 2018; and 7) Final report – June 2018.

Board Members requested that staff work with stakeholder participants representing Save Tacoma Water so they can share information back with their group and to assist with on-site presentations if desired by Save Tacoma Water. Staff was requested to have on-site presentations with any stakeholder or stakeholder group making the request. The Board also requested to have a summary of the Water IRP efforts at an evening meeting under Reports of the Director.

Mr. George then provided an update on current water supply for this year. There is only 70 percent of average snow pack for the state. The Green River watershed is 40 percent of snow pack. Staff is closely monitoring the situation as there are still five weeks of snow pack building to go. Usually the peak snow pack is reached on average on April 1. The long range weather forecast is calling for below normal temperatures and above normal precipitation. The

precipitation in the Green River watershed is above average, it just hasn't been snow. Decent inflows are expected for the summer.

Tacoma Power: Undergrounding Policy Follow-Up Discussion

Chris Robinson, Power Superintendent, made introductory remarks. Clay Norris, Power Manager, provided follow up to the January 24 Board study session. Mr. Norris reviewed general relocation cost allocations, TMC relevant to public works projects, franchise agreement details, telecom relocation requirements, TMC relevant to developer relocation, and undergrounding policies for commercial contribution. Staff's recommended policy action is to: 1) Utilize the existing TMC for public works project contributions; and 2) Contribute 30 percent for multi-family/commercial distribution for projects. Staff's recommended policy contingencies are that the City of Tacoma requires customers to convert their service connection and require other utilities (telecom) to convert to underground. The next step is to bring the undergrounding policy to a future regular meeting for consideration.

Discussion ensued with the plan for staff to meet with individual Board Members with follow-up information. Once a Board resolution is passed, the Board requested check-ins in the future so they're kept informed in case any course correction is needed. Per a Board request, Clark Mather, Government Relations Manager, will brief interested Council Members on this presentation.

Executive Session

Board Member Flint moved to convene an executive session at 4:00 p.m. for 20 minutes to discuss pending and potential litigation (RCW 42.30.110(1)(i)); seconded by Mr. Jones. Voice vote was taken and carried. At 4:20 p.m., the executive session was extended for five minutes and was adjourned at 4:25. Chief Deputy City Attorney, Tom Morrill, was present.

Discussion of Evaluation Criteria for Director of Utilities Recruitment

Shelby Fritz, Assistant Human Resources Director, reviewed a draft schedule of the recruitment timeline and job posting. The planned posting date is February 20, 2018. Board Members shared their input on the schedule. A discussion on schedules, timing of a special meeting to discuss evaluation criteria, interview dates, mechanics for narrowing the list of candidates, and interview panel participants ensued. The Board decided that the application process should be overseen by City Human Resources Department and Gary Buchanan, Human Resources Director, would be the decision maker who will select semi-finalists for interview and recommend to the Board a smaller group of finalists for the public process that will include participation by the City Council; seconded by Mr. Jones.

Adjournment

The study session was adjourned at 5:25 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled study session on Wednesday, February 28, 2018 at 3:00 p.m.

Approved:

Approved:

Monique Trudnowski, Chair

Karen Larkin, Secretary