



Approved 4-26-23

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Meeting
April 12, 2023
6:30 p.m.

Mr. Watson called the Public Utility Board meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Present: William Bridges; Elly Claus-McGahan; Carlos Watson; John O’Loughlin

Excused: Holland Cohen

Minutes of the Previous Meetings

Mr. Watson moved that the minutes of the previous meetings be adopted; seconded by Mr. O’Loughlin. Voice vote was taken and carried. The minutes were declared adopted.

Comments by the Public

Steve Hatcher made comments in favor of more robust advertisement and strong marketing of the BCAP+ program.

Kit Burns spoke in favor of high-speed internet owned by the City of Tacoma.

Regular Agenda

Departmental

C-1 Resolution U-11375– Award contracts and approve purchases:

1. Increase contract with HDR Engineering to supplement the scope of work to include consulting services for the upcoming comprehensive assessment of Mossyrock Dam (\$450,000. Cumulative total \$925,000) [Paul Lennemann, Chief Dam Safety Engineer].
2. Increase contract to HD Fowler Company for AMI meter box lid procurement (\$189,737.15, plus applicable taxes. Cumulative total \$2,363,649.15, plus applicable taxes) [Corey Bedient, Sr. Engineering Project Mgr].
3. Award three-year contracts to Northwest Cascade, Inc., (dba Honeybucket) and United Site Services of Nevada for portable toilet rental, servicing, septic, and vault pumping services (\$750,000 each, plus applicable taxes. Includes option to renew for as many as three one-year periods for a projected contract total of \$1,500,000) [Patsy Best, Procurement and Payables Division Manager].

Mr. Watson moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mr. O’Loughlin.

In response to a Board request for additional information on item number one, Paul Lennemann, Chief Dam Safety Engineer, reported that this is to enter the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) assessment for a five-year independent consultant audit. The assessment in May is to analyze failure mode and conduct a risk analysis. Part of the study is to examine fragility of the spillway and the drop lake elevation to reduce risk to the

public. The outcome will inform the roadmap to analyze both the spillway and embankment dam to determine remediation necessary to bring the lake back. The analysis will begin at year end and will identify remediation and engage the design consultant to reinforce the dam. The Department of Energy has jurisdiction over all water containment, but once a dam is installed, it falls under FERC jurisdiction.

Voice vote taken and carried. The resolution was adopted.

Tacoma Power

C-2 Resolution U-11376 – Authorize Tacoma Water to participate in the City of Tacoma, Department of Environmental Services, Larchmont District Green Infrastructure Project by replacing approximately 7,600 feet of water main (\$1,607,170.70, plus a 15 percent contingency for a cumulative total of \$1,848,246.31, plus applicable taxes).

Mr. Watson moved to adopt the resolution; seconded by Mr. O’Loughlin.

Mr. Saghafi, Professional Engineer, summarized the resolution. Tacoma Water requests authorization to participate in the City of Tacoma, Department of Environmental Services’ ES contract for the water main replacement for the Larchmont District Green Infrastructure Project. Tacoma Water is partnering with ES to reconstruct the existing roadway and replace approximately 7,600 feet of 12-inch, 8-inch, and 6-inch water main, constructed circa 1955 to 1970, along the following streets: Along “A” St., between E. 84th Street and E. 96th St; E. “B” St., between E. 84th St. and Larchmont Elementary School; E. 88th St., between “A” St. and E. “B” St.; S. Walters Rd., between S. 19th St. and S. 18th St. The overall project will minimize long-term road maintenance by improving roadway surface with pervious pavement, upgrade underground utilities, and bring ramps into ADA compliance. Tacoma Water’s water-related project construction costs are \$1,607,170.70, plus a fifteen percent contingency, for a cumulative total of \$1,848,246.31, plus applicable taxes. Tacoma Water believes it is in the best interests of the utility and its customers to include the water main work in ES project and will improve project delivery, reduce project costs, improve system reliability, an consolidate construction disturbance to adjacent businesses and the general public.

Voice vote was taken and carried. The resolution was adopted.

C-3 Resolution U-11377 – Authorize Tacoma Rail to execute Amendment 1 to the Washington State Department of Transportation rail bank loan numbered RRB-1286.

Kyle Kellem, Roadmaster, summarized the resolution. Tacoma Rail’s track infrastructure in the Tideland’s area is heavily used and in need of periodic upgrades in order to safely enable the switching of railcars destined for, or originating from, the Port of Tacoma and other industrial customers. Resolution U-11333 authorized Tacoma Rail to execute Bank Loan RRB-1286, with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) for the purpose of upgrading 770 feet of railroad tracks along the Alexander Wye and Storage Tracks located in the vicinity of Alexander Avenue and Lincoln Avenue, in the Port of Tacoma/Tidelands area. Bank Loan RRB-1286’s terms and repayment schedule are based on an estimated project completion date of June 30, 2023, which is no longer viable and Tacoma Rail and WSDOT desire to amend Rail Bank Loan RRB-1286 to allow the estimated project completion date to be extended until December 31, 2023, and revise the repayment schedule to run from February 2024 through February 2033.

Voice vote was taken and carried. The resolution was adopted.

D. Reports of the Director

Strategic Directive Five (SD5, Environmental Leadership)

Subject matter experts from each operating division outlined accomplishments and plans for this strategic directive.

Tacoma Rail: In 2022, Rail received a \$3.6M grant for acquisition of two zero emission locomotives. Rail maintained statutory/regulatory compliance of the oil spill contingency plan, the current version expires November 23. In looking forward to 2023, Rail will continue to explore alternative fuels and other options to accelerate decarbonization of the locomotive fleet. Rail will also continue routine engagement with various stakeholder groups to ensure readiness for rapid implementation of the oil spill contingency plan, if necessary.

Tacoma Water: In 2022, Water completed and launched a five-year watershed strategic plan. Water worked with the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers Howard Hanson Dam downstream fish passage team to select a preferred design. In looking forward to 2023, Water will continue to work with the U. S. Army Corp of Engineers Howard Hanson downstream fish passage team to develop 35 percent design. Water will also implement watershed strategic plan implementation and the Green River watershed land acquisition.

Tacoma Power: In 2022, Power developed the Natural Resources mission and vision. Power reared and released over 10M fish and transported over 750,000 fish supporting salmon recovery efforts. Power expanded chinook recovery efforts into the South Fork Skokomish Basin in collaboration with Skokomish Tribe and agencies. Power completed and began implementing comprehensive plans toward recovery for 15 fish species within the Cowlitz Basin. Power also enhanced upland habitat through forest thinning, allocated \$1.5M in grant funding to install 100+ EV charging ports in parking lots, multi-family dwellings, business districts, and the Port of Tacoma. Looking forward to 2023, Power will begin relicensing planning for the Nisqually, Cowlitz, and Wynoochee hydro projects, initiate Mayfield juvenile bypass system improvement project, initiate Cowlitz trout hatchery renovation project, develop forest and road inventory programs, and complete the study to investigate the benefits and costs of installing a micro-grid at Franklin Pierce High School to increase community resiliency and accommodate future fleet electrification.

E. Comments by the Board

There were no final Board comments.

F. Adjournment

There being no further business or comments, the Public Utility Board meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m. until Wednesday, April 26, 2023 for a study session at 3:00 p.m., followed by a regular meeting at 6:30 p.m.

Approved:



Carlos Watson, Chair



Holland Cohen, Secretary