



APPROVED 6/29/22

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Study Session
June 8, 2022
3:00 p.m.

Chair Patterson called the Public Utility Board study session to order at 3:00 p.m. at the auditorium of the Public Utilities Administration Building.

Present: Mark Patterson, Christine Cooley (arrived 3:47 p.m.), Carlos Watson, John O'Loughlin

Excused: Holland Cohen

Human Resources Update

Shelby Fritz, Human Resources Director, provided an overview of the HR organization chart. Ms. Fritz had each manager summarize their work group functions and focus: Kari Louie, Compensation and Benefits; Cheryl Bidleman, Talent Solutions; Olivia Polynice, EEO Office; and Ben Thurgood, Continuous Improvement. Ms. Fritz concluded the presentation by outlining planned work for the HR Department. These include adding tools and resources to support and develop city leaders; expand use of technology; add capacity and expertise to critical areas; expand EEO and civil rights education and programming; and exploring and developing new programs to support employee behavioral health.

Tacoma Power: Resource Adequacy Overview

Ray Johnson, Assistant Power Manager, reported that Washington, California, Oregon, and other western states have enacted multiple clean energy and decarbonization regulations. The state energy strategy calls for utilities to fulfill energy and capacity demands created by electrification of transportation, buildings, and industry. Mr. Johnson detailed industry challenges that include electrification impacts, limited capacity options, and dam removals. Graphical illustrations detailing energy emergency alerts, peak/net peak load, solar over-qualification, natural gas gen over-qualification, and 2022 summer reliability assessment were reviewed. The Western Resource Adequacy Program (WRAP) has been formed to help address industry challenges. WRAP creates strong incentives to add capacity to address resource adequacy deficiencies and establishes more transparency/price signals to spur investment in capacity resources where and when needed by targeting capacity critical hours. WRAP also establishes standardized approaches to forecasting, capacity requirements, and accreditation and provides

regional-level monitoring and oversight. Mr. Johnson plans to bring a presentation on WRAP to the Board at a future meeting with the intent of seeking contract approval before the end of the year.

Tacoma Rail: Strategic Plan

Alan Matheson, Asst. Rail Superintendent, began by outlining Rail's mission and relationship to stakeholders. The planning and development of the strategic plan were described. Areas of strategic focus include diversity, equity, and inclusion; stakeholder engagement; financial stability and rates; growth and economic opportunities; environmental leadership; and government relations. Mr. Matheson then expanded on the objectives and engagement on each of these areas of focus. The Mountain Division was then discussed. Rail operates, on behalf of Public Works pursuant to an operating agreement in 2011, the Mountain Division. Revenues and expenditures accrue on a separate ledger tied to Public Works. Rail would not support a proposal that ownership be transferred to TPU and any further divestment would not affect Rail's operations on the South Tacoma line or result in reduction of staff. Next steps in the implement plan include sharing the plan with stakeholders; developing an action plan with prioritized opportunities; adjust and report on outcomes of each element.

Adjournment

The study session was adjourned at 5:20 p.m. until the June 29, 2022 for a study session beginning at 3:00 p.m.

Approved:



Mark Patterson, Chair



Carlos Watson, Secretary