



APPROVED 6-12-19

MINUTES
City of Tacoma
Public Utility Board Study Session
May 22, 2019
3:00 p.m.

Mr. Jones called the Public Utility Board study session to order at 3:00 p.m. at the Public Utilities Administration Building.

Present: Woodrow E. Jones, Jr., Christine Cooley, Mark Patterson, Bryan Flint, Karen Larkin

Tacoma Water: Seismic Response Plan

Chris McMeen, Deputy Water Superintendent, began by reviewing a timeline of Tacoma Water resilience planning from 1996 to the present. In 2018, America's Water Infrastructure Act required new all hazards vulnerability assessments. The all hazards vulnerability assessment encompasses proximity threats, dependency threats, natural hazards, and malevolent threats. The water supply forum resilience project prepares for water supply disruption caused by earthquake, water quality, climate change, and drought. Mr. McMeen then specifically addressed earthquake resiliency which addresses physical damage, restoration time, economic impacts, and likelihood. Mr. McMeen then shared graphical representations from the vulnerability assessment of potential water system damage and restoration time after a seismic event. Mr. McMeen then reviewed conceptual levels of service goals and posed a policy question to the Board about establishing a post-event level service goal. The key work ahead on Tacoma Water seismic issues was then summarized. Infrastructure: focused hardening of groundwater supply and operations center components; continued development and policymaker adoption of target post-earthquake levels of service and a seismic resiliency investment plan; priority decisions with respect to hardening supply to hospitals; build seismic resilience more directly into infrastructure renewal. Programmatic: continued development of a robust emergency management capability; continued and sustained relationships with emergency managers and responders; and conversations with customers and employees about realistic expectations and personal preparedness. Discussion ensued with Board Members requesting a timeline for the key work ahead for staff and for future updates on this topic.

Miscellaneous

When Chair Jones' term on the Board ends, that will leave a vacancy on the Council's Audit Advisory Board (AAB), which supports the Council's Government Performance and Finance Committee. Discussion ensued with Mr. Patterson being named to succeed Mr. Jones on the AAB starting in July 2019.

Discussion of Board Policies

Bill Slaton of Leading Resources, Inc. (LRI), attended to assist the Board in their development of their strategic directives. LRI assisted the Board at the two-day retreat in January as well. Mr. Slaton and the Board discussed best practices for developing strategic directives, framework, level of detail, measurements, addressing conflicts between directives, and including staff and subject matter experts. Mr. Slaton walked through different version of policies from the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), where he served as a four-term, elected Board Member. Discussion ensued and the Board developed a schedule for the review of strategic directives during Board study sessions: June – Rates and financial stability; July – Stakeholder engagement; August – Environmental leadership; and September – Innovation.

Executive Session

Board Member Larkin moved to convene an executive session at 5:25 p.m. for 15 minutes for the purpose of discussing pending litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(i); seconded by Board Member Flint. At 5:50 p.m., the executive session was extended for ten minutes. The executive session was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

Adjournment

The study session was adjourned 5:59 p.m. until the next regularly scheduled study session on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.

Approved:

Approved:

Woodrow E. Jones, Jr., Chair

Bryan Flint, Secretary