

MINUTES

ENERGY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MAY 16, 2007

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman McNelly called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Adamson, McNelly, Mitchell, Petrella, Twineham

MEMBERS ABSENT: Avera, Lucero, McCormack, Roberts

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Water System Manager/Assistant City Engineer Dave Schickling, Acting Senior Planner Allen, and Clerical Support Norton

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of March 21, 2007 approved as corrected
Minutes of April 18, 2007 approved as corrected

INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL:

The Committee extended a welcome to new member Susan Petrella.

ACTION ITEMS

- a. Elections of Officers

MOTION made by Committee Member Twineham, SECONDED by Committee Member Petrella and CARRIED by all members present to re-elect Chairman McNelly and Vice Chair Mitchell.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

Old Business:

- b. Compost Giveaway Report

Staff reported that the second annual compost giveaway was held at Independence Park on April 28. MG Disposal said most of the material was given away with the exception of maybe a pickup truck worth of compost.

Chairman McNelly attended the event, speaking to people and handing out copies of the Green Pages (a publication put out by this committee to inform and educate the public on recycling). Three publications have already been published and a fourth issue is under consideration.

Committee Member Mitchell said in talking to the gentlemen who was in charge of the event, he expressed disappointment that more people did not attend.

Committee Member Mitchell suggested that the event be more widely publicized next year. Committee Member Petrella suggested a banner hung across Harbor Boulevard a few weeks ahead of the event would remind people of the upcoming event. Committee Member McNelly said next year's agenda should also include ideas for marketing and advertising the Compost Giveaway program.

Committee Member Petrella mentioned she had planned to attend the Compost Giveaway, but was not certain what type of a container to bring to haul the compost home. Maybe this is a dilemma of others as well. Chairman McNelly suggested that sturdy containers could be made available at the event for those people who do not have a pick up truck.

New Business:

a. Water Systems Update

Water Systems Manager Dave Schickling talked about the various City projects planned and underway. Hillcrest Reservoir, being one of them, was started two years ago and is scheduled to be completed on June 8, 2007 with a ribbon cutting later in the year once the landscaping is established. The reservoir right now is in full use. It is 5M gallons and completely buried. It has been a successful project with very few change orders. The reservoir was recently hit by graffiti but vines are being planted that will cover the wall discouraging repeat graffiti.

Chairman McNelly said security issues are a concern in today's world and asked if the reservoir have a surveillance system. The reservoir is completely buried. The entry hatches are fenced and locked. There is a 7-foot-high wrought iron fence with spikes around it making it a difficult climb. All hatches have contact alarms so if there is any intrusion our control system (SCADA) (which is currently being updated) will alert us. The upper Acacia Reservoir (Skyline) is being redone and the City is doing some security measures up there. Installing surveillance cameras at our other sites are being considered. The control system does not feed to the Police Department at this time, but operators on standby are notified and the watch commander is alerted if an alarm goes off.

Most of our water supply comes from our well field located to the north in Anaheim. The water comes in and is boosted up into the higher zones. There are 4 zones and 12 sub-zones. Fullerton has emergency connections with the Cities of Anaheim in two areas, also connections with the cities of La Mirada, La Habra, Placentia, Brea, Buena Park, and the Suburban and Metropolitan Water Systems allowing cities to help each other in times of a shut down.

Committee Member Twineham asked what the current percentage is between the well water used and that used from Metropolitan Water District. Schickling said currently it is 69 percent not counting any extra water Metropolitan might have. For the upcoming water year the percent will go up to 74 percent. It is cheaper to pump well water.

Chairman McNelly said every year readings are taken in the Orange County Basin that measure

the amount of water. A calculation is used to determine what percentage can be pumped. As dry as it was this year the City is still living off two years ago when it was 35%. We have a 10-year running average. If we have another record low year, the City will be down in the 60s.

Ground Water Replenishment (GWR) is coming up in October or around Thanksgiving. Orange County Sanitation District water is being treated to a high level; being used for the sea water intrusion barrier, and is being pumped into Anaheim to replenish the ground water. It is another source of water for Orange County.

Schickling said the reservoir would be dedicated in September. Chairman McNelly asked that the committee receive an invitation.

Regarding the water main replacement projects -- if everything is replaced, the cost should be around \$20 million. The City is behind schedule, only replacing 2-1/2 miles instead of 4 as originally planned. The budget has been increased from \$600,000 to \$900,000 and 1.2 million the following year. Typically the City has 6 main line leaks a year, however in January there were 30 leaks. Some of the reasons for the leaks are colder weather with joint movement.

Chairman McNelly said what is our water loss figure and how do we compare with the rest of the state? We are at 6-1/2%, we want to be under 10%. Most of the water loss is caused by old meters that stop registering. The City does have a large meter replacement program which accounts for a large amount of revenues.

Chairman McNelly asked if the City would be adopting the new Plumbing Code. Schickling said he does not know, the Building Department would be making that decision. Committee Member Twineham asked if the Emergency Conservation Plan would be implemented. Schickling said it would not be necessary at this time. Within the next 3 months the plan will be updated and be presented to Council in the event that the City would need to implement it.

Committee Petrella asked if there were any conservation measures that people should take now. Schickling advised that the most current conservation plan is not yet on the web, however, the City's website does offer water conservation information, and has links to the Metropolitan and Orange County Water Districts. Chairman McNelly stated that in order to implement the Conservation Plan the Committee would have to make a recommendation to the City Council. However, the Committee should be cautious about making recommendations that are mandated until it is necessary. As residents you can certainly ask people to make more of an effort to conserve water.

Whenever the City sells less water it means less revenues but the City is not in the marketing business. Chairman McNelly stated The Orange County Sanitation District knows how much water is coming in and being used. Conservation has greatly increased over a period of 20 years. There is no way to measure use in landscape areas. Committee Member Mitchell agreed that people do always have to be reminded to conserve. The Orange County Sanitation District has a program called "Are You Smarter than a Sewer Rat" geared to 4th and 5th grade students. The City also has an education program sponsored by the Metropolitan Water District that sends representatives out to Fullerton schools. FACES is also a program aimed at children held every year here in the City -- perhaps next year the Committee could have a booth.

The annual Colorado River trip is coming up October 19, 20, and 21 if any member is interested in going. There is a pass-through rate increase starting July 1, 2007 based on a Metropolitan rate increase of 5.4%. Orange County has also raised their rates. The City is proposing a 3.54 per 1,000 gallon raise, which amounts to 56 cents a month for an average user.

Committee Member Pertrella asked if the rates were tiered. Yes, 7,500 gallons is the first tier and is considered an average resident use; 12,500 is the next tier and then anything over 20,000 is the third tier. There is a public hearing on this July 17th.

b. Fullerton: Going Green Forum

Is coming up May 21, 2007. Chairman McNelly will be a guest on the panel. Staff said she will be attending but this forum is not being sponsored by the City.

ACTION ITEMS:

None

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None

COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS:

Bruce Hotstetter will be attending our meeting next month.

Committee Member Petrella talked about a recent forum "Cities Going Green" and the U.S. Mayor's Climate Protection Act started by a Seattle mayor. Over 200 cities (six in Orange County that has signed on) Fullerton has not signed on yet.

Staff said Fullerton will have an opportunity to review the program.

Handouts included:

City Council Agenda Letter on SOCO District Trash Enclosure/Wash Rack – Rejected enclosure for additional pickups

Norcal's Food Waste Process (information only)

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business the meeting was ADJOURNED AT: 8:55 a.m.

Energy and Resource Management Committee
May 16, 2007

Beverly Norton, Clerical Support