

# MINUTES

## ENERGY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

APRIL 15, 2009

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman McNelly called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Committee Members Adamson, Avera, Buck, Lucero, McCormack, McNelly, Otter, Roberts, Twineham
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** None
- PUBLIC PRESENT:** Brassett
- STAFF PRESENT:** Senior Planner Allen, and Clerical Support Norton
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of March 18, 2009 approved as amended.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Note that Committee Member Otter arrived at 7:40

### **INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL:**

No introductions

### **ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Approve 2008 Annual Report on Accomplishments for forwarding to the City Council

Senior Planner Allen – stated Committee Members received a copy of the Activity Report in their meeting packet. She noted that Beverage Container Recycling should be number three and the remaining items renumbered accordingly. She is open to any other edits or changes. The report will go, with a cover letter from the Chair, to City Council as an item for their reading file so that the Council knows what the Committee has done during the year. This report to the City Council is done annually as part of the Committee's authorizing resolution.

Committee Member Twineham asked fellow Committee Members their thoughts on changing the paragraph titled Ordinance Revisions and write something more on solid waste and the changes that were made. We spent quite some time on the new waste collection bins and everything else shouldn't we write a separate paragraph on this instead of just leaving the subject as a follow-on sentence at the end?

Note it was the consensus of the committee that staff would write a new paragraph on the new solid waste program instead of leaving the paragraph as is. This is documented and approved by the committee at the end of our discussion on the subject.

Chairman McNelly – suggested that the paragraph should be moved to the top of the list. He noted that the year should be changed from 2007 to 2008 in the last paragraph under Composting.

Chairman McNelly – asked if the sub-committee met on water conservation in 2008. Staff replied that the sub-committee met prior to 2008 and recommended adoption of what was then called The Emergency Water Conservation Plan.

Chairman McNelly – asked staff to verify whether the Committee had not only supported the adoption of the Emergency Water Conservation Plan but also made a recommendation to the City Council. Senior Planner Allen said she would check.

Chairman McNelly - asked what members attended the Metropolitan Water District tour.

Committee Member Lucero – added in regard to energy conservation, Maintenance Director Bob Savage spoke to the Committee about the City's energy saving programs.

Senior Planner Allen – noted the last paragraph under Sustainability mentions the City Programs completed or underway to improve sustainability of City operations.

Committee Member Twineham – thought that energy should not be included under Sustainability and that it should be separate. He would like to see the Committee do more on energy and electricity needs in 2009.

MOTION made by Committee Member Roberts to FORWARD the 2008 ERM Activity Report as AMENDED to the City Council, SECONDED by Committee Member Twineham and CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY by those present.

Chairman McNelly – thanked staff, on behalf of the members, for putting together the key highlights of what the Committee has done throughout the year. He asked staff to notify himself or any other Committee Members who may want to attend the Council meeting or if Council would like someone to speak about the report we would be glad to assist.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### b. MWD Allocation Update

Chairman McNelly – Reported on the actions on the MWD based on new reports. He stated that the MWD called for a 10% cut in water delivery with a 20% price increase.

Committee Member McCormack – asked what percent of the City's water comes from the Metropolitan Water District.

Chairman McNelly – approximately 70% comes from ground water with the remainder from MWD.

Committee Member Roberts – said he is bothered when residents have to pay more money in rate increases because the City is not buying enough water to cover some agencies' fixed cost of running the department.

Chairman McNelly – for our May meeting maybe it would be possible to ask Jim Blake to come in to speak to the Committee on water issues. He has been a member of the Metropolitan Water District Board for well over 20 years.

Committee Member McCormack – said it would be interesting to hear what Metropolitan Water District has in place that would reduce their operating overhead. If they don't have anything in place that is something this Committee would recommend. If we are trying to get reductions, we should also reduce cost.

Committee Member Adamson – stated they raised the rate 10% two years ago, a 14% general increase last year and another 10% this year.

Chairman McNelly – Every day there is 1.3 billion gallons of treatable water very similar to what is going into the ground water replenishment system from sewage outfalls into the Pacific Ocean. Due to no treatment capacity a lot of water was wasted in times when we were flush. It seems that we are headed toward a Stage 1 and the citizens need to know how the funding will be handled. All future comments on the Metropolitan Water District will be reserved until the May meeting.

c. Priorities for 2009

Water

- Conserving water at City parks and other City landscapes
- Model Landscape Ordinance
- Policy for right-of-way planting
- Information on drought tolerant planting
- How to regulate existing landscapes including apartments, Home Owners Associations and commercial users including timing, quantity, and maintenance of broken sprinklers

Energy Efficiency

- Alternative technologies
- City facilities and infrastructure
- Unnecessary lights
- Edison programs
- Anti-idling policies
- Assistance for residents to go green
- Public information

Waste  
Source Reduction and Recycling Element  
Food Waste

Sewer  
Upgrades

- d. Compost Program Update
  - a. Giveaway 2009
  - b. International Compost Awareness Week
  - c. Greenscene

Senior Planner Allen – MG is sponsoring the compost giveaway on May 9, 2009 in Independence Park from 8am-11am in conjunction with Awareness Week. A press release has been issued along with advertising of the event on the cable channel, the City's website, in the April water bill, and in the Parks and Recreation schedule distributed at the beginning of May. Additionally, a banner will be hung to let people know about the event.

Chairman McNelly – make sure the load is pre-checked and the quality of the compost is good. He has always pushed for International Compost Awareness Week as part of a United States Council Composting Program. The City has been doing proclamations every year as a result of that program. The Compost Program is one of the Committee's outreach programs. He would be glad to accept this year's proclamation and welcomes any other members of the committee to attend that meeting

Senior Planner Allen – The Proclamation will be given at the City Council meeting on May 5<sup>th</sup>. The Greenscene at the Fullerton Arboretum will be this weekend on April 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>.

- e. Committee policies and procedures

Senior Planner Allen – Reminded Committee Members about a policy of no more than two unexcused absences in a row, if more they must be reported. The Committee has a quorum which is set at four regardless of the size of the committee.

Chairman McNelly – said he is asking the City Council to look at the issue of quorums especially for Committees that are advisory. Quorums should be more flexible.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Mr. Brassett – discussed the Metropolitan Water District tour and mentioned how knowledgeable the tour guide is.

### **COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENTS**

In regard to an earlier discussion on the importance of seconding a motion, Chairman McNelly said that he has been reading a new book called "Modern Parliamentary Procedures." The flexibility in seconding a motion is not as critical as it is in more efficacious organizations, particularly where there is no dispute regarding the issue. Would the group be open to a change?

Committee Member Avera –commented that seconding a motion is necessary.

Committee Member Twineham – said there should be no change "in our current parliamentary procedure."

The procedure will remain the same.

Committee Member Adamson – said the largest single water users are the commercial real estate irrigation systems, home owner associations, and apartment buildings. The Elks Club, as an example, waters every day of the week. There should be some type of a program for these home owner's associations; apartment owners and commercial people to reduce their irrigation water schedules and systems. Home owners are not the biggest water wasters. He supports a proactive approach to this problem.

Committee Member Buck – wondered if the City has any workshops or information on planting native plants.

Committee Member Avera – said the City needs to take a look at their watering issues especially the parks.

Chairman McNelly – stated that a lot of work has already been done inside people's homes. There is still a little bit more to be done in leak detection. Is there a creative way to get a volunteer group of people together to help people that can't afford to have their plumbing leaks repaired? He added that the Activity Report should include waterless urinals if they were installed in 2008.

Committee Member Avera – advised as a follow up on the City's Solid Waste Program that the new trash barrels will be given out May 17 – mid July.

Committee Member Twineham – mentioned that members might want to read an article in the Fullerton Observer written by Susan Petrella, a former member, about Fullerton's water supply. If anyone is interested in taking a tour of the West Coyote Hills area please contact him.

The following items were identified for future meeting agendas:

- City water update in response to MWD action – any changes to ground water allocation

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- Presentation from Jim Blake, Fullerton representative to MWD, to receive update on situation and on financial impacts (are costs being reduced to compensate for a reduced supply and where do fee increases stop)
- Update on programs for sharps and medical waste

**ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business the meeting was ADJOURNED AT: 8:40 a.m.

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Beverly Norton, Clerical Support