MINUTES

ENERGY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

MAY 20, 2009

CALL TO ORDER: Chairman McNelly called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Committee Members Adamson, Avera, Brassett, Lucero,

McCormack, McNelly, Mitchell, Otter, Roberts, and Twineham

MEMBERS ABSENT: Buck

PUBLIC PRESENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Senior Planner Allen, and Clerical Support Norton, Water

Quality Specialist Chad Blais and Water System Manager

Dave Schickling

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Minutes of April 15, 2009 approved as written by Twineham,

seconded by Avera

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL:

The City Council re-appointed Elaine Mitchell and Gene Brassett to the Committee. Committee Member Brassett arrived as Minutes were being approved.

ACTION ITEMS

a) None

DISCUSSION ITEMS

b) Update on City water supply and status of actions per Emergency Water Conservation Plan

Dave Schickling, Water Systems Manger updated the Committee on two items related to actions by the Metropolitan Water District that will be moving forward to City Council:

- 1) a 10% pass through rate increase based on the water supply cost
- 2) entering Phase I of our Emergency Water Conservation Plan for mandatory conservation measures effected July 1, 2009.

The City Council has the option of increasing the water rate under Phase 1, however staff is not recommending an increase at this time.

Energy and Resource Management Committee May 20, 2009

If the City does not push for conservation we will be about 400 acre feet short, just a little over 1% of what we use. Some cities that depend almost 100% on Metropolitan Water District are looking at 17% cuts. Even though there has been a reduction in water use from last year, the City needs a more aggressive conservation campaign. Dave Schickling asked the Committee for their support of entering Phase 1 by drafting a letter of approval to the City Council.

Chad Blais, Water Quality Specialist – this past year the City's Water Engineering Department has been actively trying to obtain money from the Metropolitan Water District's rebate programs to ramp-up the Conservation Program. By installing waterless urinals, the City has saved \$100,000-\$200,000. The biggest change comes from installing centralized irrigation controllers in the parks and facilities that the City operates.

The Water Engineering Department has created a door hanger as a proactive way of informing residents of water waste. City water meter readers place these hangers on doors along their routes if they observe water being wasted by a resident.

Committee Member Avera – suggested putting an article in the newspaper in order to get the word out to more people letting them know there is a need to conserver water. The City should be more active in getting the word out.

Chairman McNelly – said it would not be too difficult to get an article published in the Fullerton Observer. He also agreed that more people need to know about conserving water and that there is a Water Conservation Hotline that they can call to report water waste. The Neighborhood Watch groups might be helpful in passing out information perhaps in the form of a flier that lists the five or six things to <u>not</u> do.

Chad Blas – replied that he would not recommend publishing in the form of a door hanger. He is concerned that people might become desensitized. The door hanger seems to get the home owner's attention to take immediate corrective action. However, he would consider publishing general information on the subject.

Committee Member Lucero - suggested as a way of getting the word out, that the volunteer group that does vacation checks in the neighborhood could help by distributing the door hangers.

Committee Member Avera – said that he is president of his Home Owners Association and many home owners are Korean. Even though cutting back on water usage has been put in the newsletter it hasn't taken affect. It makes sense to place a hanger on every door. He offered to pass the hangers out with his next newsletter. People need to take water conservation seriously.

Committee Member Mitchell – would like to be able to reach landscapers and gardeners who take care of people's yards.

Committee McCormack – some type of out-reach effort (not necessarily the door hanger) is needed to let people know the seriousness of conserving water.

Energy and Resource Management Committee May 20, 2009

Committee Member Adamson – The door hanger is a great idea for the purpose as design and asked what other programs are in the planning stage to reach the public.

Chad Blas – the Water Engineering Department is reaching out to the Home Owner Associations with programs that they can receive funds to upgrade their systems. Fairway Village HOA has just signed a contract with Metropolitan Water District. The association will get paid for the water that they save by installing new equipment. They are projected to save 15 million gallons of water in a one-year period. If that goal is achieved, they will receive about \$45,000 for that one year's worth of savings.

Committee Member Brassett – said he is impressed with the job that Fairway Village's Association is doing as an active participant in the Water Program.

Chairman McNelly – Grace Ministries might be a good candidate to reach out to Korean residents.

Committee Member Otter – asked if the funding for Home Owner Associations is available through the City.

Chad Blas – replies that the funds are through the Metropolitan Water District Program and encouraged other Home Owner Associations to apply.

Committee Member Adamson – asked if restaurants have been approached about installing waterless urinals in their restrooms.

Chad Blas – said restaurants are not good candidates for the waterless urinal because they require a high level of maintenance.

Committee Member McCormack – mentioned having an outreach program for businesses.

Committee Member Otter – said the library would be a good place for public out reach. He suggested displaying water-saving devices used in the home and including a description of Fullerton's programs.

Heather Allen – replied that Dave Schickling who is the City's Water Systems Manager, would take the lead in this endeavor. This Committee offers suggestions to him on Water Conservation Programs. The Green Pages also talks about the City's Conservation Programs. It is not specifically the role of this committee to develop outreach tools. The Committee is working on sustainable programs and some will address water conservation.

Chairman McNelly - stated Committee Members can contact any staff member, the City Manager or members of the City Council if you have an idea.

Chairman McNelly entertained a motion based upon the information presented today by Dave Schickling.

Energy and Resource Management Committee May 20, 2009

MOTION made by Committee Member McCormack, SECONDED by Committee Member Adamson and CARRIED unanimously by all members present to send a letter in support of moving to PHASE 1 of the Water Conservation Plan, as was presented that would follow staff's perspective (with no rate increase).

Chairman McNelly requested that both the chair and vice chair sign the letter.

c) Report on Compost Giveaway

Heather Allen – reported that all went well this year; the giveaway was a success again. Mark McGee, MG Disposal said there was a line of cars all morning. The whole parking lot was open this year alleviating prior issues with traffic circulation. There were many repeat customers. Approximately a ton of compost was left at the end of the day. However, people who showed up too close to closing time had to be turned away.

There is a new news website called <u>www.fullertonstories.com</u>. The reporter did a news clip and interviewed Mark. The only negative feedback from some people was that the giveaway compost was a little bit late for people planting vegetables.

d) Report on Burbank Food Waste (Robert Adamson)

No information at this time.

COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS:

Chairman McNelly – said there is a lot going on regarding organic recycling and any good food program is coordinated with the Green Waste Program.

Committee Member Roberts – mentioned he had received the new trash containers. He would like to recommend that after all of the trash containers are distributed and people have a better sense of their container needs that MG Disposal does another pick up using the "take this container" sticker.

Committee Member Lucero – said there is a free seminar put on by the Association of Energy Engineers Congress on June 10th and 11th at the Long Beach Convention Center. There you can learn more about energy conservation.

The Committee agreed that the month of July would be dark.

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business the meeting was ADJOURNED AT: 8:30 a.m.

Beverly Norton, Clerical Support