

MINUTES

ENERGY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE JUNE 17, 2009

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman McNelly called the meeting to order at 7:30 a.m.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Committee Members Adamson, Avera, Brassett, Buck, Lucero, McCormack, McNelly, Mitchell, Otter, Roberts, and Twineham
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** None
- PUBLIC PRESENT:** None
- STAFF PRESENT:** Water System Manager Dave Schickling, Senior Planner Allen, and Clerical Support Norton
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of May 20, 2009 approved as amended by Roberts, seconded by McCormack

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL:

Committee Member Roberts – asked that the order of business be suspended to allow Item b) to be heard first so that Water System Manager Schickling could leave before the more lengthy discussion items begin.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- b) Update on City Council action on Emergency Water Conservation Plan (David Schickling, Water System Manager)

Schickling – presented a letter signed by the Committee Chair and Vice Chair in support of entering Phase I beginning July 1, 2009 of the Emergency Water Conservation Plan and submitted along with the rest of the agenda to the City Council. During their last meeting Council moved to enter into Phase I with no rate increase with the plan; however, there was a 10% increase in rate (the pass through cost) based on the Metropolitan Water District's water supply. That rate increase is also effective July 1, 2009.

Chairman McNelly – asked if there were any public comments at the Council meeting about that cost?

Schickling – replied there were no comments from the public. Staff did receive 30 protest letters from the post cards sent out earlier to residents. In order to overturn the pass through rate increase, staff would have had to receive a 50% protest response.

Chairman McNelly – asked if any Council members discuss the item.

Schickling – the Council had a lot of comments regarding notifying public facilities of some of the restrictions, especially the 10 am-4 pm restriction on watering. They wanted to be sure the word got out. The handouts were a hit with the Council and asked what can be done if they notice a resident with a broken sprinkler system and no one is home. Council was assured that staff would turn the sprinklers off then back on which would allow time for the valve to drop.

Schickling went on to say the Metropolitan Water District has suspended rebates on toilets, washers and artificial turf due to lack of funds. The rebates became so popular that the district went to a Reservation Program to slow the demand. People with a reservation must now wait until the July 2009/10 budget to receive their rebate. The timing could not be worse being that the City is facing a water shortage.

Committee Member Otter – asked if the Rebate Program is still available for Home Owner Associations. Schickling replied it was still available.

Committee Member Roberts – asked what is going on with artificial turf in the City. Are there any regulations, and is the City going to be promoting artificial turf?

Staff – A new Landscape Ordinance is being drafted. Staff will use the State Ordinance as a starting point, and tailor our ordinance to address turf, setting performance standards and identifying quality products. What we don't want is green plastic grass.

Committee Member Avera – what determines a decent product? This may be a problem. What people think is a good quality product the City may not.

Staff – we would set performance standards and parameters.

Chairman McNelly – said it might be a good idea to check with other cities to see what performance criteria they have set up.

Committee Member Avera – mentioned a company in San Diego that has 13 different products.

Committee Member Mitchell – in regard to water conservation she learned that Pam Keller, a member of the City Council, has programmed the water hotline into her cell phone in case she sees water being wasted.

Chairman McNelly – inquired if Laguna Lake would be affected by water conservation.

Committee Member Brassett – wondered if there are guidelines.

Schickling – said only if the City enters into Phase 3 or 4 would the lake be affected. The City Manager would make that decision if the time came. He went on to say that the report from Metropolitan Water District was more positive than last year. This year the City will receive water from the Colorado River.

Committee Member Roberts – is the Delta Smelt still an issue?

Schickling – said the Smelt are still an issue.

Committee Member Mitchell – some of the decisions that we make now are so important. Some time ago the City had the opportunity to vote on a proposal to bring water to Southern California. Most of the people did not vote and people from northern California voted it down. At the time, it did not appear to be important but had the people voted in Southern California for the proposal, it would have made a big difference in what could have happened (a good reason to look ahead when making decisions).

Chairman McNelly – said he had heard there is a proposal to increase the groundwater replenishment system operation facility in terms of the amount of water actually taken from the street. About 66 million gallons were delivered in April. That is a significant amount of water that is now being diverted from the outfall into a reuse program.

ACTION ITEMS

- a) Review and recommend approval of Proposed Sustainable Framework for the City of Fullerton (Senior Planner Heather Allen)

Allen – in lieu of signing the US Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement, the Council supports staff in developing goals, policies and procedures, for sustainability. She has put together a framework of the opportunity areas of the topic that we would then develop programs and policies to make sure we are all on the same page before moving forward with a larger work effort.

The document defines sustainability as a concept. From Fullerton's perspective what does that mean. Fullerton will align with the Master Elements of the General Plan update.

Social
Economy/Community
Environment/Zone and Natural

The concepts or opportunity areas that we will look for are as follows:

1. Land use, Community Design and Infrastructure – looking at how areas are developed.
2. Transportation and Mobility Systems – looking at efficient transportation systems and reducing auto dependence.
3. Housing Diversity and Access - looking for housing that addresses the varying needs of the public.
4. Renewable energy, Energy Efficiency and Conservation – looking for types of energy, conserving energy and making energy work more efficiently.

5. Water quality and Conservation – looks at water supply and storm water.
6. Green Sourcing, Building and Operation – these products are used for developing the operations - are the products recycled and are they coming from local producers or other.
7. Waste Reduction, Recycling and Recycled Products – recycling and recycling products source reduction, and construction demolition.
8. Community Economic Development – looking at our economic development opportunities against not being a detriment to the community.
9. Natural System – utilizing natural biological or hydrological systems.
10. Arts, Cultural, Heritage – arts, cultural, and historical elements of the City's identity
11. Community Education and Civic Participation – Civic engagement and community involvement.
12. Health, Happiness, Dignity – a follow-on to goals/policies/procedures to implement these topics.

There are pieces of legislation or state policies that will also be guiding us in this process such as:

AB32 – Requiring emission reductions in California to 1990 levels by 2020.

Regulatory Building Standards - green building standards effective 2009 will be voluntary and mandatory by 2012.

California Public Utilities Commission – established a goal of net zero energy by 2020 for new residential and 2030 for new commercial projects.

Water Conservation Draft – 20% reduction by 2020.

AB939 – requires a 50% diversion rate in solid waste.

Regional Quality Board – requires sight design principles.

Open for Committee comments.

Committee Member Buck – asked if renewal energy also includes solar panels, etc.

Allen – said it could be.

Chairman McNelly – recommended that the Committee mull over the proposed sustainable framework and discuss further.

Chairman McNelly – the State is broke -- where will the money come from to implement the mandates in relationship to emission reduction, standards and energy. We don't have sustainable economy in the State of California right now.

Allen – this should not be a political debate. The elements are specific to Fullerton to decide whether or not they make sense for our city.

Committee Member Twineham – wanted to know how the staff came up with the list of elements.

Allen - the four sustainable sections came from the general plan. The opportunity areas are topics that are considered sustainable. Staff looked at what other cities are doing and at other scholarly documents and tailored them to Fullerton. Staff does not want to implement anything in areas that the public does not buy into.

Committee Member Adamson – said he would like better definitions, commentary about consequences, and standards for how these are met.

Allen – we are not at the point of specifics yet.

Committee Member McCormack – this proposal was an alternative to the Mayor's Climate Agreement and is a starting place. So you see a diverse list of topic areas that include things like economic development. It is important to find areas that we can agree. He recommended that the committee provide definition. It is not all about Global Warming it has to do with building a community so that 50 years from now our successors' can still enjoy a good quality of life.

Allen – once we have a framework then we can focus on areas that are important to the Council and the public.

Chairman McNelly – when we talk about sustainability there are 8 to 10 general categories with infrastructure questions that still have not been addressed in this community in terms of funding, where the funding is coming from; how it will be applied, and what the criteria will be to establish those priorities. How will we maintain what we have and then move forward in sustaining that which we have created?

Committee Member Otter – wanted to know who would be using material.

Allen – The material will be incorporated into the General Plan and would provide policy documents for the City making it user friendly for all City Departments providing criteria for evaluating projects for the City as well as helpful to the public to understand the basis for their decisions.

Committee Member McCormack – thought infrastructure should be added into the opportunity area. It is a key element that should be spelled out.

Committee Member Twineham – said he does not think any member is against the idea of sustainability; they have different ideas about what the word means.

MOTION made by Committee Member Twineham, SECONDED by Committee Member McCormack, CARRIED unanimously by all present that staff would provide more information on the subject.

- b) Report on Metropolitan Water District activities (James Blake, Director representing Fullerton, Metropolitan Water District)

Mr. Blake was unable to attend the meeting today. The item will be rescheduled.

- d) Report on Burbank Food Waste Program (Robert Adamson, Committee Member)

Committee Member Adamson – reported that Burbank has two small projects that they are working on with schools and restaurants. He promised to e-mail a report called Burbank Green Food Scrap Management Options to each Committee Member. The report talks about six different options. Option 1 - On and Off-Site Commercial and In-vessel Composting, Option 2 – Thermophilic Composters; Option 3 – Vermicomposting; Option 4 – Biological Food Waste Digesters; Option 5 – Piggy Backing and Option 6 – Creative Solutions.

COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS:

- c) Update on West Coyote Hills Comprehensive Public Review Process (Heather Allen, Senior Planner)

Staff – All City committees that have a relevant review on the project are invited to attend an update on West Coyote Hills on July 8, 2009 prior to its going to Planning Commission and the City Council.

Chairman McNelly – asked if the Metropolitan Water District tour still available?

Schickling – There will be a tour October 16, 17 and maybe the 18th. There are talks about cutting back to two days and combining with Fullerton and Anaheim.

Due to the urgency of discussing the proposed sustainable framework the committee rescinded their prior request to go dark in the month of July.

The Committee agreed to hold a regular meeting at 7:30 a.m. on July 29 to discuss sustainability and to attend the West coyote Hills Comprehensive Public Review Process at 6:30 in the evening.

Committee Members Avera and Brassett left the meeting at 8:45 a.m.

Energy and Resource Management Committee
June 17, 2009

ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business the meeting was ADJOURNED AT: 8:50 a.m.

Beverly Norton, Clerical Support