

MINUTES

ENERGY AND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

FEBRUARY 17, 2010

- CALL TO ORDER:** Chairman McNelly called the meeting to order at 7:35 a.m.
- MEMBERS PRESENT:** Committee Members Adamson, Avera, Buck, Lucero, McCormack, McNelly, Mitchell, Otter, and Roberts
- MEMBERS ABSENT:** Brassett, Twineham
- PUBLIC PRESENT:** Donald Kinda, Solar Consultant
- STAFF PRESENT:** Water Systems Manager Schickling, Senior Planner Allen, Planning Technician Dove, and Clerical Support Norton
- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Minutes of October 21, 2009 approved with one amendment showing Lucero as absent.

INTRODUCTIONS/ROLL CALL:

Chairman McNelly acknowledged a visiting guest.

Committee Members Mitchell and McCormack arrived as the meeting was getting underway.

ACTION ITEMS

a) Election of Officers

Committee Member McCormack nominated Patrick McNelly for Chair, seconded by Committee Member Roberts.

Committee Members Mitchell and Avera nominated Jeff Twineham as Vice Chair, seconded by Committee Member Lucero.

Committee Members unanimously voted to re-elect Patrick McNelly as Chair and Jeff Twineham as Vice Chair for 2010.

b) Meeting Scheduling

Recommended Action – Adopt a schedule which meets the third Wednesday of every other month.

Energy and Resource Management Committee
February 17, 2010

Chairman McNelly – it appears that in so many cities and agencies staff has been pressed for time.

Senior Planner Allen – suggests that the Committee consider adopting a bi-monthly schedule for their meetings. Some months there are not enough items to discuss for a full agenda. Due to the City's upcoming reduced work schedule with every Friday off, staff will have the same amount of work with less time to research and prepare for the meetings. A special meeting could be scheduled if something came up that could not wait for the next regularly scheduled meeting. Any additional meetings could be set based on discussions between staff and the chair.

Chairman McNelly - asked if other committees have considered reducing their number of meetings.

Senior Planner Allen – none that she is involved with; however, the Redevelopment Design Review Committee meets twice a month. If there are no projects they do not meet.

Committee Member Buck – supports meeting bi-monthly with the option of calling a special meeting as needed.

Committee Member McCormack – agreed that if there are items that need to be discussed in the interim, the chair could name a subcommittee to meet separately with or without staff.

Committee Member Roberts – made a motion to adopt a bi-monthly meeting on the third Wednesday of the month for the year 2010 with the option to be dark in the month of August.

The motion failed due to discussion whether the months should be odd or even.

Committee Member Mitchell – wondered if it might be easier to cancel a meeting rather than to change to a bi-weekly schedule.

Senior Planner Allen – explained that it is easier to schedule a special meeting if needed than to notify the Committee; post formal cancellation notices on the City's public bulletin boards and website. To not have cancellations is better for the public in case they show up on the scheduled day.

Committee Member McCormack - suggested scheduling six meetings.

Committee Member Otter – favored meeting on the odd months to keep a nice simple schedule, August and December would be dark since they are even months.

Committee Member Adamson - agreed with Member Otter's suggestion.

Chairman McNelly called for a vote.

MOTION by Committee Member Roberts SECONDED by Committee Member McCormack and CARRIED by all members present to set the 2010 ERMC meeting schedule to meet on the third Wednesday of the even months (April, June, September, and November).

DISCUSSION ITEMS

- c) Briefing on Water System Management from Water System Manager, David Schickling,

Schickling – the City will end with 28,200 acre feet of water produced in 2009. The last time the City used that amount of water was during the drought in 1977 when the population was 96,000. The City also suffered a drought in 1991 when the City's water use dropped down close to 28,200 but did not go below it. That number is extremely low.

Chairman McNelly – asked what percentage was used.

Schickling – the last 10-year average of water used is about a 12 percent reduction in demand from our current 10-year average. Our City facilities are down about 15 percent in water use. Those numbers conservation-wise are pleasing to see.

Committee Member Buck – said where is the 12 percent decrease in water usage coming from?

Schickling – the decrease is mostly from residential. Revenues are down but will come back once the rainy season is over.

Committee Member Otter – asked on a per capita basis what is the consumption?

Schickling – Fullerton is approaching 130 gallons per person per day. We have been in the two hundreds, a tribute to everyone who is more efficient with their water usage.

Committee Member Roberts – asked if the production figure includes Metropolitan water plus what Fullerton is pumping.

Schickling – that number includes Metropolitan and Fullerton's well water. He talked about water meters and how resources are managed. The production number comes from a combination of customer and well meter readings. Staff then compares to see how much water is unaccounted for. The industry standard is 10 percent.

For us over the last 30 years, our number is about 6.8 percent. If you take that number and look at our 10-year average that is about six hundred twenty-five million gallons a year or 1.5 million gallons a day that is unaccounted for.

Where is that water going? Leaks, fire hydrants, flushing, sewer cleaning; street sweeping all of that amounts to only about 1 percent unaccounted for water. Paper water loss is when a meter slows down it registers less. The City does test the larger meters like Kimberly Clark; the smaller meters are changed out. The City tries to make the meters as efficient as possible and has a 15-year Change-Out Program.

Schickling – what is being pushed is the magnetic meters that have no moving parts they do not wear out and are extremely efficient but expensive and they are not available in 5/8" size for residential water utilities.

Chairman McNelly – asked about Remote Sensing Reading Programs.

Schickling – there are Automated Reader Meters plus the technology that goes with that. The meter itself has not changed. The new developments will have these Automated Reader Meters installed. When you get within a distance of 1/2 mile from them they will send a signal out so that they can be read. They also store the data.

The next step from that is the fixed meter that sends out all of these signals directly to City Hall. You will get a constant read every 15 minutes so that staff can track any leaks. This year's water unaccounted for is at 6.1 percent.

Chairman McNelly – asked if there has been an increase in water system failures and what other key issues are we seeing on a short-term basis? What is the projection between now and the end of the rainy season as to what the recommendation will be under Stage 1 of the Emergency Water Conservation Plan?

Schickling – as the system ages the number of leaks are trending upward due to the infrastructure. Even though we have had some rain, the challenges in the Delta still remain. Fullerton will remain in Stage 1 for a couple of years.

Committee Member Roberts – what are the key issues that will affect us in the Water Bond being introduced in the fall? What about additional storage capacity, a canal or a project to circumvent the smelt?

Schickling - within that bond there is money allocated for the delta. The preferred path is to build a forty-three mile tunnel to circumvent the delta. Metropolitan is paying about twenty-five percent of the cost. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2019.

Chairman McNelly – mentioned rates and revenues.

Schickling – Metropolitan is looking at a supplemental water supply and at a 12.6 percent rate increase in January 2011. The City is pressing Metropolitan to break that increase up into two years. If that happens, Fullerton would be looking at a 5 percent increase.

With the water main leaks in Fullerton we are pushing more money into that program. Our tanks are old and we have had to go through and repaint them. We would be looking at about a 3 percent rate increase on our side. Added to Metropolitan's increase the total increase would be 8 percent.

Committee Member Otter – has any consideration been given to the type of rate structure that Irvine Ranch Water District has?

Schickling – it is extremely expensive to set up that type of structure. It would mean increased rates and staff.

Allen – the City has received grant money to develop a Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan through that process we identified mitigation projects. One item on the list is a setup like the Irvine system. By having it on the list it does make it eligible for FEMA funding.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Donald Kinda, Solar Consultant

Mr. Kinda - said he attended a presentation on the new proposed parking structure to be developed on Santa Fe Avenue. The Director of Engineering Hoppe mentioned that the City was looking into putting a solar installation on top of the structure. He wanted to take this opportunity to explain the benefits of using solar power for the parking structure and for the renovation of the Senior Center.

He introduced the Solar Power Purchase Agreement designed specifically for schools and cities. A third party designs and maintains the solar system. The electricity the system produces is sold back to the user (the City) at a lower rate than the current utility rate paid. To maximize the amount of savings, the City would have to include other City facilities such as City Hall, and Police in order to realize a larger savings.

The City could apply for block grant money or renewable energy stimulus money.

Allen – mentioned that the Assistant City Manager has been looking into a program along these lines and she will check with him to see if it makes sense to continue research.

Committee Member Avera – asked Mr. Kinda for as many details on the project as possible, especially percentages.

Chairman McNelly – asked staff to obtain information from the Planning Department about how solar projects such as Mr. Kinda has presented would be handled.

COMMITTEE/STAFF COMMENTS:

Committee Member Roberts – stated that this meeting would most likely be his last one. He has served 13 ½ years on the ERM Committee and did not reapply. It has been a pleasure working with all of the Committee Members.

Chairman McNelly – thanked Committee Member Roberts for his support, friendship and his good humor.

Committee Member Buck – asked if there has been any movement on the sustainability policy.

Allen – staff’s goal is to create a General Plan that is sustainable. The update has four natural elements the built environment, the natural environment, the economy and the community. By the nature of the plan’s design it is sustainable. Staff has tabled the work the Committee did during the implementation process. Once the plan reflects the vision of the community, then those programs will be brought back to the Committee to decide which ones should be put in place.

Staff is working on writing the policies and actions now and hopes to have that part wrapped up to go back to the General Plan Advisory Committee in April. Staff is also looking to do a Climate Action Plan.

Committee Member McCormack – how does the SP-375 fit in?

Allen – SP-375 is the legislation that deals with Green House Gas reduction from transportation and land use. What it does is set the target for the State to hit in terms of green house gas reductions in that segment. The County of Orange has agreed to come up with a strategy at the local level to hit a yet to be determined target.

Allen – The applicant for the West Coyote Hills project did not implement any of the Committee’s recommendations. The first public hearing with the Planning Commission is set for March 10, 2010 and will consist of a presentation of the project; with a special meeting set for March 18, 2010. The project will then go to City Council date not set at this time.

There will be time for public comments. Members are encouraged to attend the special meeting on behalf of this committee.

Committee Member McCormack – asked if staff would mention the Committee’s recommendations.

Allen – the fact that the Committee’s comments were not addressed will be conveyed. Chevron’s argument for not acting on the committee’s comments was and still is that they are not the ones that will build the project.

Chairman McNelly – advised that there will be another composting workshop the 2nd Saturday of March at 10:00 a.m. at the Arboretum. Also, he will be giving a childhood education presentation about worms on March 28th at the Arboretum from 1-3 p.m. A successful workshop to learn about red worms was held in January with about 125 people attending. Keep up with the bin ordering. There was talk of have bins for sale at the Arboretum.

ADJOURNMENT:

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

Beverly Norton, Clerical Support