



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
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Meeting Minutes - Approved WATER UTILITY BOARD

Tuesday, December 16, 2008

4:30 PM

119 E. Olin Ave., Rooms A & B

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

General Manager Tom Heikkinen was absent.

Present: 7 -

Bruce Mayer; Dan Melton; Lauren Cnare; George E. Meyer; Jonathan H. Standridge; Gregory W. Harrington and Thomas Schlenker

Excused: 1 -

Michael Schumacher

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Minutes of the meeting of November 25, 2008 were approved with four or five minor corrections.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Glenn Christians of 109 Alden Drive and Carin Clauss of Priscilla Lane registered to speak.

Glenn Christians said on behalf of the citizens who worked on the ? project, and wanted to encourage the Water Utility to welcome the public into the process, not just an open door but active engagement—the right body language and posture. He'd like the Utility to help make public input more effective, show people how they can get involved and that they should get involved. Please welcome people into the process. Help make our public input more effective, making information available with clear opportunities for feedback will result in better decisions. Welcoming the public builds trust. Allow citizens to become advocates for projects in their areas. Demonstrate that the Water Utility is actively and aggressively engaged in finding solutions for new water. Madison needs clean reliable water; that's the purpose of P3 and that's our mantra as we were working on it. We need public consensus because we need water. The public, myself included, only notices the pipes and the valves and the tanks and the trucks, but you shouldn't take that infrastructure for granted any more. It needs work, and he's just asking the Water Utility to please welcome and encourage the public to take part in it.

Carin Clauss said she wanted to speak about the public participation process. She said we face a lot of problems today and most of us are happy to turn those over to our elected representatives, but it's different in local government, and it's different because we, as citizens, have information and

knowledge that would be useful to the decisions that are being made. So it's not enough that we are represented at the table of our elected representatives and by appointed officials, even if we don't have a seat, we want an opportunity to be heard and an opportunity to be heard before decisions are made. Within that spirit, a group of us are working with many of you in the room in development of the Public Participation Process. We have great hopes for this process, not just because it provides assurance to the community that they are going to be heard, and to develop a kind of trust that there has to be for government decisions. This seemed like a good time to thank you all again for getting the two big projects off the ground, and secondly, we'll be watching how the process plays out. You can be assured if we see glitches in the implementation, we'll be the first to come back with suggestions and ideas.

George asked Robin if the PSC would make a decision on the 18th. Robin said it is supposed to be on their agenda to discuss the Madison request for a rate increase. Their agenda won't be posted tomorrow to verify we are on that agenda. He's been told it should be. We can go in person or via web cast. He has also been told that once the Commission debates it, they won't actually write the order; that will be left up to the Water Administrator to write so we should have an order by the end of the year. George said so it's possible there will be a decision on the rate structure and the toilet rebate. Robin replied yes.

Jon thanked Carin and Glenn for coming out tonight and sharing their thoughts and encouraging us on the public participation process.

ADMINISTRATION REPORT

1. [13034](#) General Manager's Report

General Manager Tom Heikkinen was absent due to illness.

2. [13035](#) Steering Team Update

Robin presented the report in the absence of the team member who was going to do so and was sick.

The survey was presented that had six strategies on it. These were blown up and posted on the lunchroom walls to have employees mark what they considered the most important, etc. The summary is as follows: No. 1 ranked was a 4-day workweek so we created a design team to study that. It includes 9 members, 6 from the Operations Center, 2 supervisors and a person from HR Labor Relations who has done memos of understanding with other unions regarding 10-hour workdays. We may do a trial next summer to see how that works.

The composition of the Steering Team has changed a little. Don Russell resigned; he's a leadworker at the Op Center, and Mike Heiss who works in Maintenance in Chuck Engelhart's section has joined the team.

There will be one new member joining in 2009 as Joe Stein will be retiring, and Tammy Buss is leaving the steering team as her job duties have changed and she doesn't find the time to be involved, so we'll be looking for a new member to replace Tammy.

We've been handing out the Customer Feedback Cards and we're gotten 82

responses and all have been positive. Ken has been compiling the information and getting back to customers as necessary.

One design team we created in the summer was to look at the purchase of a bobcat or skid loader. We decided it would be a valuable asset to the Utility. We have since purchased one and it's in use.

Robin said we're updating the employee handbook. Dan Rodefled has been working on that. It will be completed by early 2009.

Jon asked if the Steering Team is still feeling positive about the process and accumulating information about things that need to be worked on. Robin said yes, we're still feeling very positive. We talked about, at our last meeting, at the end of 2007 we put together a mini-assessment and presented it to the board, and we plan to do that again.

STAFF REPORTS

3. [13036](#) Water Quality Monitoring Report

Joe Grande was absent so there was no verbal report.

4. [13043](#) Water Supply Report

Joe DeMorett reported the Nakoosa Trail Phase 1 part came back with no surprises. We turned it over to city Real Estate and they're going to talk to the DNR also. The only concern was the borings that were taken last year, and we may need to do a couple of more borings at the property. George asked how many were done last summer, and Joe said only four. They were done in conjunction with a geo-technical study so they weren't environmental. Jon said to Joe that you have three new certified operators, including yourself, and that is to be commended. Joe said they would now proceed with iron filter certification.

5. [13037](#) Operations Report

Dan Rodefled stated that cameras are in the process of being added to the Operations Center to improve safety for the workers. George asked if they are monitored here at Olin Avenue, and Al said they would be.

Dan Melton wanted to discuss the well rehab schedule, saying he understands why they might want to put off work on Well 7 because there is a filter planned there. He asked Greg Harrington if he thinks it is safe to put off well maintenance for four to 15 years. Greg said we'd have to know more about potential problems. If it is pulled up earlier, we might be doing unnecessary work. Al said all of our wells don't run the same number of hours so to apply a universal standard of pulling them every 10 years isn't necessary. Well 7 for example, for many years was a seasonal well that only ran during the summer. It was last worked on in 1998, when Well 3 got shut down—we started running it year-round. Wells that run all year round should be watched closer.

Jon said when he looked at the schedule and saw 10 years, he thought was that the gold standard, and then he saw the revised schedule and some are

staying on the 10 year and some are moving to a 15-year schedule. He asked if any of the revised schedules were due to money issues, or is it all engineering. Dan Rodefled said he thought one or two dropped off and some pushed back because of the operating budget. Al said Tom asked them to cut \$1.8 million and one of the things we looked at was well maintenance. Jon asked Chuck Engelhart and Dan Rodefled if there are any of these wells that they are worried about, that need attention sooner than the list tells us. Chuck said he doesn't think so, adding that can happen but we do monitor average readings, pumping levels, draw downs etc. He said the 10-year goal is a good one, but we need to have flexibility depending on what is happening.

Dan said there is only one well rehab scheduled for 2010, one for 2011 and two for 2012, so we're not going back to three a year until at least 2013. He wants to make sure that we, as board members, understand what the implications of eliminating two of the preventative maintenance projects is. He said that would be one of his priorities where we should restore money. Dan said his dad always told him you can spend \$300 on a car now or \$2,000 later—isn't that true of wells also to some extent? If you put off regular maintenance on your car, sometimes you might end up on a country crossroads and the engine isn't starting, so regular preventive maintenance would be a good way to spend less now. Al said there's a lot to be said for that but the major expense is pulling the well, so we either replace the pump or rebuild it, so the analogy isn't accurate—the cost to us is a wash basically.

George asked about the chart where it says "actual interval years," if that is based on the revised schedule. He said it looks like 16 out of 23 will be done in 10 to 11 years. Greg asked the lifetime of a pump. Al said it depends on how much it is run. When Well 12 was pulled in 2006, it had been in for over 20 years. Well 26 pulled this year and replaced, had been in since 1988 or 1989, so we expect to get 20 years from them. Well 26 had a lot of hours on it. As long as they don't pump sand, they last longer as sand is real hard on a pump.

6. [13038](#) Staffing Report

7. [13039](#) Engineering Report

Al stated that in Sunday's paper, there was a notice for a public meeting at 6:30 p.m. at Sennett Middle School. Postcards were mailed out to all residents in Zone 4, the southeast corner of the city bordered by McFarland and goes up to Buckeye Road on the north side. Jon said this is a real opportunity for the Utility to really look good with the new process. Al said there was a filter meeting today and that is on schedule, that we hope to have it in operation by late April or early May. Dan asked if there is a meeting scheduled with Alder Bruer on this and Al said he wasn't involved. Janet Piraino said Tom Heikkinen and Alder Bruer were going to meet regarding this.

8. [13041](#) Public Information Report

Ken Key said this is a challenging time of year because of weather conditions. We've been delayed in our hiring process for Admin Clerk 1 because of city

budget cuts, and we were also waiting to see if there would be any bumps because of layoffs at the Overture Center.

Gail Gawenda said she had nothing to add. Jon asked what a zoo poster is. Gail said she and Tom were approached by Adams about starting a new advertising program, with new sign boards throughout the zoo, to sign up sponsors to pay to put up messages on their sign boards. The signboards are not large, being around 3'x4'. She said we have one with the slogan "Only Tap Water Delivers." Lauren Cnare asked the cost and Gail said she doesn't have that information. Lauren asked if the zoo would continue to sell bottled water. Gail said she doesn't think they do. She added that the ad would run for a year.

10. [13042](#) Fund Balance Report

Robin Piper said because of the short time frame between the November and December meetings, he would present two reports at the January meeting. He said they completed the Interest and Principle Account money that they needed in the Special Redemption Fund and in October they were able to put some \$304,850 into our PILOT Fund.

NEW BUSINESS

11. [12771](#) Establishing sustainability goals to guide the development of the plan for the Northeast Neighborhoods.

Janet Piraino said their preference was that this be referred to the January meeting.

A motion was made by Cnare, seconded by Harrington, to Rerefer to the WATER UTILITY BOARD, due back on 1/27/2009. The motion passed by voice vote/other.

CORRESPONDENCE AND SPECIAL INTEREST ITEMS

NEXT MEETING DATE

12. Next meeting date: January 27, 2009.

ADJOURNMENT

Greg Harrington made a motion to adjourn the meeting. George Meyer seconded; unanimously passed.
Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- * Regional Collaboration with other Water Utilities.
- * Water Loss and Leak Detection
- * Annual Flushing Report
- * Annual Lead Service Replacement Report
- * Presentation on Madison Water Utility Master Plan and Infrastructure Management Plan.
- * Funding Options for Private Well Abandonment.