



**APPROVED**

**UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
FRIDAY, MARCH 14, 2014, 7:15 A.M.  
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St.  
Large Conference Room

Members Present: D. Grumman, M. Landis, D. Lanyon, J. Nieuwsma, E. Rosenberg,  
M. White  
Staff Present: C. Hurley, A. Price, D. Stoneback  
Guest Present: S. Kismohr, D. Koch, M. Smith  
Presiding Member: D. Lanyon

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**DECLARATION OF QUORUM**

A quorum being present, Chair Lanyon called the meeting to order at 7:16 a.m.

**APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 14, 2014 MEETING MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the February 14, 2014 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved with a minor change.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Work Plan Item 1.1 Update on development of a building energy efficiency white paper and meetings with city staff**

Chair Lanyon introduced Mr. Kismohr of the Midwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (MEEA). Mr. Kismohr gave a slide show presentation to the Commission on benchmarking or building energy tracking for existing commercial and large residential buildings, and said that a benchmarking ordinance is the best way to start. Mr. Kismohr said that it is all about measurement and that there are three ways to measure; one is to measure against yourself, another is to use a tool that provides some baseline, such as the Energy Star Portfolio Manager, and the third is an asset rating. He said that it is important to gather information about the size of buildings in the city limits and what the threshold should be. Chair Lanyon said that Mr. Muenzer, Director of Community & Economic Development, has starting collecting this information. Ms. Hurley said that the Green Building Ordinance has its first threshold trigger at 10,000 sq. ft., and at 20,000 sq. ft. it is mandatory, so she thinks this is probably going to be the size that they are looking at. She said that she knows from the annual energy data that ComEd provides that there are 3,300 commercial/industrial accounts and 300 of them are making up 50% of the energy usage so this might be the place to start in the first phase. Mr. Kismohr said that the City would also need to decide if they want to make the program mandatory or voluntary, and whether disclosure will be private or public. He said that there are currently nine U.S. cities with benchmarking programs and another twelve to fifteen looking at it right now. He noted that in the preplanning there should be at least one person in charge of both the legislative and the implementation side who will be able to answer questions from the City's Aldermen. Chair Lanyon thanked Mr. Kismohr and said that the Commission will have a discussion and decide how to proceed.

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- b. Work Plan Item 1.2 Develop a plan to reduce energy consumption at the water treatment plant – Item complete pending pump replacement schedule**  
Mr. Stoneback clarified that the pump replacement will be scheduled five to seven years from now.
- c. Work Plan Item 1.3 Develop a baseline for energy consumption in municipal buildings update – Status of energy consumption database update and update of the Aukeman report**  
No action was taken.
- d. Work Plan Item 2.1 Investigate the potential for water conservation and wastewater reuse in city-owned buildings update – Status of draft report on water conservation at five city facilities**  
No action was taken.
- e. Work Plan Item 2.2 Reduce the amount of stormwater entering the combined sewers in sandy subsoil areas of the City – Item complete pending the annual report of the Director of Public Works on the Complete and Green Network Approach for Construction Projects in the Public Right of Way**  
Chair Lanyon said that this item is complete pending the annual report of the Director of Public Works. Mr. Stoneback noted that there are plans in 2014 to put porous pavement on two streets. He said that one is Ingleside Place, east of Sheridan, and the other is on Oak Avenue, between Church and Clark Street.
- f. Work Plan Item 2.3 Develop long term needs for municipal sewer and water infrastructure – Item is inactive until consideration of the 2015 budget**  
No action was taken.
- g. Work Plan Item 2.4 Evaluate the potential impact of pending USEPA sewer/water regulations on the sewer system and water treatment plant – Item inactive pending regulatory proposals**  
No action was taken.
- h. Program to incorporate local renewable energy and/or efficiency benefits in the next community aggregation contract**  
Mr. Stoneback said that Ms. Hurley, Mr. Nieuwsma, and he had a teleconference on March 5<sup>th</sup> with Integrys, MC Squared, First Energy, Verde, and Constellation. He said that the Request For Proposal has been prepared and will be sent to the suppliers next Thursday, and then the indicative pricing is due back on April 8<sup>th</sup>. He said that they will then get the actionable pricing on April 28<sup>th</sup>, and take it to the City Council meeting that evening for approval.
- i. Dusk-to-Dawn Street Lighting – Item pending warmer weather to conduct power consumption measurement in select lighting circuits and check the accuracy of the lamp listing supplied to ComEd – Mr. Stoneback is seeking a portable power meter that can be borrowed**  
Mr. Stoneback said that he did not have a chance to follow through on this item yet.

**Comment [D1]:** Please insert the date of the teleconference.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**a. Recent Electric System Outages, Basement Flooding Concerns and Water Service Interruptions, and status of 2014 improvement projects**

Mr. Stoneback said that there were no reported power outages at the circuit level, but he was made aware of five smaller power outages through 311 calls.

Mr. Stoneback said that there were fifteen water main breaks in February making a total of thirty-three breaks so far this year, noting that it has been a very challenging year. He said that generally the breaks that have been occurring are on water mains that have not had previous breaks, but he noted that the 2100 block of Dempster Street has had five water main breaks now and the water main will be replaced at the same time that the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) schedules to repave the street either in 2016 or 2017.

Mr. Stoneback reported that there were two Water Service Repair Permits and four Sewer Service Repair Permits issued in February.

Mr. Stoneback stated that there were twenty-two basement backups this year and that they were all determined to be private lateral problems, and noted that this is fairly low.

**b. Status of negotiations with potential new wholesale water customers**

Mr. Stoneback said that he just read an article last night from Park Ridge's Public Works Director indicating that they plan to stay with the City of Chicago despite the higher rates. He said that since they were part of the group with Niles and Morton Grove, and the options presented to those communities provided the lowest cost if there were three communities participating so, he is unsure what they will want to do now.

**c. Community-wide Water Conservation Initiative – Ideas on development of a city water use efficiency policy for city buildings**

Mr. Stoneback announced that the City of Evanston will receive the first Utility Water Saver Award, presented by the Illinois Section American Water Works Association's (ISAWWA) Water Efficiency Committee next week at the Illinois Water Environment Association (IWEA) and ISAWWA's joint conference and expo, WATERCON 2014.

Ms. Hurley said that Mayor Tisdahl announced that the City of Evanston has received a Certified 4 Star rating from STAR Communities for national excellence in Community Sustainability at the 2014 State of the City Address. She noted that Evanston is the second city nationwide to receive a 4 Star rating and that no one has received a 5 Star rating yet.

Ms. Hurley said that District 65 won an Illinois Green Ribbon Schools award from the Illinois State Board of Education. Mr. Stoneback said in that same vein they just made a grant application for \$75,000 to the Illinois Science & Technology Coalition (ISTC) for the High-Efficiency Toilet Rebate Program. He said that if accepted, this along with assistance from the City for low income residents would replace close to 200 toilets citywide.

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Ms. Hurley said that she would like to put on the Agenda for next month's Commission meeting a vote to support An Invitation to Climate Action Plan from the Sustain Evanston 20% by 2016 Campaign Working Group.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Discussion of revised draft annual report**

It was moved and seconded that the revised draft annual report be approved. A voice vote was taken and the annual report was unanimously approved.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Angela Price  
Executive Secretary  
Utilities Department