



**APPROVED**

**UTILITIES COMMISSION**  
FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2013, 7:15 A.M.  
Water Treatment Plant, 555 Lincoln St,  
Large Conference Room

Members Present: D. Grumman, M. Landis, D. Lanyon, J. Nieuwsma, M. Smith  
Members Absent: N. Fracasso  
Staff Present: C. Hurley, A. Price, D. Stoneback  
Guest Present: J. Freeman, E. Rosenberg  
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 APRIL 12, 2013 MEETING MINUTES**

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of the April 12, 2013 meeting be approved. A voice vote was taken and the minutes were unanimously approved.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS / COMMUNICATIONS**

**Utilities Commission membership**

Chair Lanyon reported that the recommendation for Mr. Rosenberg's appointment will now be on the agenda for the City Council's meeting on May 13<sup>th</sup>.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**a. Work Plan Item 1.1 Update on development of a building energy rating system – Next steps – Meeting scheduled with the Evanston Chamber of Commerce**

Chair Lanyon said that his meeting with the Evanston Chamber of Commerce Executive Board has now been rescheduled for May, but he does not have an exact date yet.

Mr. Grumman reported that he attended a meeting with Eleanor Revelle for the Adaptation Committee of Citizens' Greener Evanston. He said that they were interested in three Utilities Commission projects: develop or adopt the building energy rating system; reduce the amount of storm water entering the combined sewers; and develop long term needs for municipal sewer and water infrastructure two of the sewer/stormwater projects, and they would like to work with the Utilities Commission in a helpful way.

**b. Work Plan Item 1.2 Develop a plan to reduce energy consumption at the water treatment plant – Status of additional response from Baxter & Woodman**

Mr. Stoneback said that he still has not received a response from Baxter & Woodman.

**c. Work Plan Item 1.3 Develop a baseline for energy consumption in municipal buildings update – Status of energy consumption database update**

Ms. Hurley said that she will be meeting with the main intern working on this project and will focus on the majority of the bigger facilities that are using 80% of the usage. She said that all of the information that she already had is being inputted into the Energy Star Portfolio Manager, and that the next step will be to see what additional information is needed. She said that she would like to have four years of information

going back to 2009 in order to determine the value of the energy efficiency projects that have been done. Chair Lanyon said that he would draft a letter to the City Manager asking for the data. Mr. Stoneback said that he will ask ComEd at the TRG meeting today for the missing electricity information going back to 2009.

**d. Work Plan Item 2.1 Investigate the potential for water conservation and wastewater reuse in city-owned buildings update – Response to questionnaire for additional water consumption data for city-owned buildings and review of recent data for select facilities**

Chair Lanyon reported that he and Mr. Freeman will be meeting with the Library again in June. Mr. Freeman distributed a graph showing six days of metered water usage at the Library in February. He said that the graph shows that there is more usage at certain times and days that may coincide with Library programs, scheduled events, and after hours housekeeping. Mr. Rosenberg said that he would get a calendar of Library events to compare with the usage. Mr. Freeman said that he would also like to compare winter usage with summer usage. Mr. Freeman distributed another graph showing usage at the Robert Crown Center. He noted that water meter usage was still being recorded while the facility was closed in the early morning hours. Chair Lanyon said that he will schedule a meeting with the Robert Crown Center.

**e. Work Plan Item 2.2 Reduce the amount of stormwater entering the combined sewers in sandy subsoil areas of the City – Report on meeting with community groups**

Mr. Stoneback said that permeable pavement will be put in the parking lanes along Davis Street as part of the Davis Street project. He said that the city ordinance for developments requires stormwater detention, and those requirements can be met by either detention vaults or permeable surfaces. Chair Lanyon said that they should include in the letter to the City Manager that someone keeps track of what type of water management program a developer is putting in.

**f. Work Plan Item 2.3 Develop long term needs for municipal sewer and water infrastructure – See staff reports for current status of projects approved for the 2013 budget**

**g. Work Plan Item 2.4 Evaluate the potential impact of pending USEPA sewer/water regulations on the sewer system and water treatment plant**  
No action was taken.

**h. Program to incorporate local renewable energy and/or efficiency benefits in the next aggregation contract after 2013**

Mr. Nieuwsma said that he has had several meetings with Ms. Hurley and attended a webinar sponsored by the Environmental Law Policy Center (ELPC) that spoke directly to the issue of going above and beyond aggregation. He said that he is compiling a list of options to go above and beyond the use of Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) in Evanston's aggregation program and still achieve the carbon footprint reduction goals, and in conjunction with Ms. Hurley, develop an action plan to engage the community. Mr. Nieuwsma said that he could report in more detail at next month's Commission meeting.

**STAFF REPORTS**

**a. Recent Electric System Outages, Basement Flooding Concerns, and Water Service Interruptions**

Mr. Stoneback said that there were no power outages at the circuit level in April, but there were three outages that were not at the circuit level on April 18<sup>th</sup> due to the major rain event.

Mr. Stoneback reported that there was only one water main break in April. He said that it was on Lake Street, but noted that there have been no previous breaks on that water main.

Mr. Stoneback said that April was not a good month for basement backups due to the major rain event. He stated that there was a survey setup through the City's website for potential FEMA reimbursement. He said that there was one basement flooding on Greenwood that was caused by a sewer in the alley with a restrictor. Mr. Stoneback said that he believes the basement floodings in northwest Evanston were due to too many sump pumps kicking on at the same time and overwhelming the combined sewer. Mr. Stoneback stated that the MWRD interceptor was surcharged and floodwater discharge to the lake started at 1:20 a.m. at the Wilmette Pumping Station. Chair Lanyon said that he would like to get an engineering analysis of those areas where there were many incidents of flooded basements. Mr. Stoneback replied that there is no money in the budget to do a sewer study this year but that it could be put in the budget for next year. Mr. Stoneback also expressed concern that the models used by MWH for the sewer improvement program may not be applicable to smaller drainage areas or be out-of-date.

**b. Status of consultant contracts and implementation of capital improvement projects**

Mr. Stoneback said that everything is moving along but the schedule is slipping. He noted that there was a sink hole due to the combined sewer failing on Dobson Street at Custer Avenue that required emergency repair.

**c. Potential New Wholesale Water Customers – Status of negotiations**

Mr. Stoneback said that the City Manager and he met with Lincolnwood yesterday, and that they are working to resolve some issues and come to an agreement. He said that a letter went out to the Northwest Suburban Municipal Joint Action Water Agency (NSMJAWA) with the proposed rate, and that next week the City Manager and he will be meeting with representatives from Des Plaines, Park Ridge and Niles.

**d. Community-wide Water Conservation Initiative – Status of actions to implement recommendations in CMAP report**

Ms. Hurley said that there have been activities all week for National Water Week, and that the bottle filling station at the Civic Center has already displaced 5,000 plastic water bottles. She said that by the end of this spring or early summer the rest of the water fountains at the Civic Center will also be bottle filling stations. She said that next year there will be money budgeted to start putting bottle filling stations at other community centers.

Ms. Hurley announced that the Utilities Department's new water trailer will be unveiled this summer, and will be at Bike the Ridge, the Green Living Festival, and the Farmer's Market.

Ms. Hurley said that the Utilities Department will be going out to bid for the new paper water bill contract. She said that there will be more information and education listed on the back of the bill, and they will strive to have an online login where the resident can see more data.

Chair Lanyon announced that the Evanston Green Ball will be held on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

**e. Status of the second year contract for community aggregation electrical energy supply**

Ms. Hurley said that the Mayor just gave her approval of the contract yesterday. She said that everyone will receive the opt-out notices again and that residents with another supplier will receive a letter to opt-in. Ms. Hurley said that they want to have all of the customers switched over seven to ten days before the end of July so that everyone is moved over by the August meter read date.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38a.m.

Respectfully submitted  
Angela Price,

Executive Secretary  
Utilities Department