**CITY OF BELLEVUE**

**ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMISSION**

**MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday Conference Room 1E-113

February 4, 2016 Bellevue City Hall

6:30 p.m. Bellevue, Washington

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chair Swenson,Vice Chair Wang, Commissioners: Howe, Strom, Morin, Shin

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Commissioners: Mach

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Andrew Lee, Deputy Director; Susan Fife-Ferris, Manager Environmental Communications & Outreach; Don McQuilliams, Acting Water Quality Supervisor – Operations & Maintenance Division; Doug Lane, P.E., Sr. Engineer – Engineering Division; Pam Maloney, P.E., Water Resources Planning Manager – Engineering Division; Paul Bucich, Assistant Director – Engineering; Regan Sidie, Design Services Manager – Utilities

**MINUTES TAKER:** Laurie Hugdahl

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Swenson at 6:30 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion made by Commissioner Howe, seconded by Commissioner Shin, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

**3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

January 21, 2016 Regular Meeting Minutes

**Motion made by Strom, seconded by Commissioner Shin, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

**5. REPORTS AND SUMMARIES**

* ESC Calendar/Council Calendar

Deputy Director Lee noted that a presentation on the Utility property management plan had been added to tonight’s agenda. He asked commissioners who know they will miss a meeting to let him know.

* Conservation & Outreach Events & Volunteer Opportunities

Commissioner Wang referred to page 2 and noted that there appears to be a mistake because two events are happening on the same day at the same hour. Ms. Fife-Ferris replied it may not be a mistake because the schools don’t coordinate their schedules with each other. She indicated she would verify that.

**6. NEW BUSINESS**

* NPDES Letter of Recommendation – 2016 Stormwater Management Program Plan – Request for Council Approval

*Presenters: Susan Fife-Ferris, Manager Environmental Communications & Outreach; Don McQuilliams, Acting Water Quality Supervisor – Operations & Maintenance Division*

Ms. Fife-Ferris requested an ESC recommendation for Council approval. She distributed a draft letter for the Commission’s consideration.

**Motion made by Commissioner Wang, seconded by Commissioner Morin, to authorize the Chair to sign the Memo on behalf of the ESC to recommend approval of the NPDES Permit 2016 Stormwater Management Program Plan. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

* Water System Plan – Request ESC approval & recommendation for Council adoption

*Presenter: Doug Lane, P.E., Sr. Engineer – Engineering Division*

Deputy Director Lee reminded the Commission that Mr. Lane had been before them several times and noted that this was the culmination of all those meetings. Mr. Lane explained that a SEPA review has been conducted. Comments have been received from other utilities, and a log of all comments received and staff’s responses was included in the Commission’s packet.

Commissioner Wang commended Mr. Lane for compiling the list of comments and responses. Mr. Lane explained he also sent that list to the Department of Health, and that Department of Health staff said the responses to comments are adequate.

Mr. Lane distributed a draft memo for the Commission’s consideration.

**There was unanimous consent to send the memo to the Council with the Commission’s recommendation to adopt the Water System Plan.**

* Review Proposed Changes & Additions to Utility CIP

*Presenter: Pam Maloney, P.E., Water Resources Planning Manager; Paul Bucich, Assistant Director – Engineering; Regan Sidie, Design Services Manager - Utilities*

Ms. Maloney reviewed the proposed ESC CIP calendar. She then reviewed the items on the summary of proposed changes to the adopted CIP programs and proposed new capital investments.

**WATER**

W-16 Small Diameter Water Main Replacement

The proposed budget is 2.8% higher because of increased costs to replace pipes, but the scope of the project is the same. Commissioner Strom asked if additional escalation is included for later years. Ms. Maloney replied that 2% escalation is assumed for later years in addition to this one-time increase. As more information is received about forecast inflation indices, future escalation may be adjusted.

W-85 Structural/Seismic Reservoir Rehabilitation

The goal is to design and construct one reservoir project per year through the CIP window in order to maintain the necessary levels of service. Based on pre-design work, staff found that the Horizon View #1 reservoir and the Pikes Peak reservoir needed to be rescheduled so that the reservoir rehabilitation could be coordinated with the pump station upgrades. Staff also found that Horizon View #1 would cost $100,000 more than was thought. In order to accommodate these changes the budget would need to be increased in this CIP window by $573,000.

W-91 Water Pump Station Rehabilitation or Replacement

This project has a proposed cost increase of $2.5 million. The pre-design work done last year for the Cougar Mountain #3 reservoir identified a substantial body of work that had not been included in the original estimate.

Regan Sidie explained that the original estimate and recommendation was based on a report that was done in 2007 where all the pump stations were assessed and prioritized. The original recommendation was a modest upgrade to the pump station at $600,000. The subsequent pre-design study took a closer look and found out the original pumps had been used at a prior station and were older than originally thought. Some issues with the controls for the fire pump were also discovered.

Commissioner Morin asked what the City typically does with used pumps. Mr. Sidie explained that the old components usually go with the contractor in exchange for a better price for doing the work.

Commissioner Howe asked about the Pikes Peak project which is spread out over four years. Mr. Sidie explained that Pikes Peak will have a lot of public involvement. There are many stakeholders with a high level of interest in that area. The City will need to do some upfront work to get the word out that this project is needed. The City is also looking at a few options to potentially move that out of the state park which will involve additional work to research as well. An extra year was added to the normal schedule to accommodate that.

W-103 Increase Drinking Water Storage Availability for West Operating Area

The scope on this project was refined to prioritize options such as transmission main improvements and pipe optimization as opposed to just increasing storage. Costs have been adjusted to reflect revised scheduling.

Commissioner Wang asked if the analysis Doug Lane was working on regarding moving water from east to west had been completed. Ms. Maloney replied it had. Commissioner Wang asked if that analysis studied Pikes Peak. Mr. Sidie explained that the study showed additional storage is needed for the 550 zone, which the Pikes Peak reservoir serves. There are also structural concerns related to Pikes Peak reservoir due to the age of the structure and its deterioration over time. It might be able to be reinforced at a pretty high cost, but can likely be replaced for only slightly higher cost. This would provide a newer structure and the extra volume of water that is needed. Assistant Director Bucich noted that the City will be looking at different alternatives for the Pikes Peak reservoir. One option includes relocating the reservoir to a completely different site. Staff will also be looking at what can be done at other locations that can allow the City to not need to build more capacity in that area.

Ms. Maloney summarized that the projects proposed are about $200,000 more than were expected in this window, but doing them would defer the need for additional storage to 2030 or beyond. Staff believes this is an appropriate investment.

W-105 Water Facilities for Spring Boulevard Multi-Modal Corridor

Water mains will need to be constructed as the roads are built. Development is starting to happen out there so it is expected that money which has been collected will start to be used in this CIP window. Ms. Maloney explained that the schedule for this is driven by Sound Transit and development.

W–NEW-2-M Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Implementation

The estimated cost of implementation is $23 million. The proposal is to implement the AMI rapidly in 2018 and 2019. The cost would be split 50/50 between water and wastewater utilities. Deputy Director Lee noted that the ESC would receive a more thorough presentation on this project at the March ESC meeting. Commissioners Shin and Morin asked about the proposed rapid implementation. Deputy Director Lee responded that the benefits of AMI are the reduced need for meter readers and more accurate capture of the actual flow rate. The sooner the City can implement the better, to realize those benefits.

W-NEW-3 W. Lk. Sammamish Pkwy AC Main Replacement SE 18th – NE 8th

This project would accelerate the replacement of 11,000 LF of 6” AC pipe on W. Lk Sammamish Parkway based on an analysis of risk of that pipe. Deputy Director Lee discussed the analysis of risk for this project. The pipe is being tested acoustically and by sight, but the results are not yet completed. Based on the results so far the pipe appeared to be in very good condition. When completed, the results of the tests may affect the scope of this project significantly.

Commissioner Wang asked how the 5-mile pipe replacement synchronizes with Transportation’s West Sammamish Parkway Improvement project. Ms. Maloney commented that Transportation is planning to do some work in this CIP window in this area such as pedestrian and travel lane adjustments. She noted that Utilities communicates regularly with Transportation in making plans and decisions, to assure coordination.

W-NEW-5-M Land Acquisition for North End Yard

This would acquire land for siting a new municipal maintenance facility. Ms. Maloney noted an analysis of need will be included as a separate Operating Budget proposal, different than stated in the ESC notebooks.) This is a placeholder. The estimate is approximately $20 million to be divided equally across three utility funds (Water, Sewer, Storm).

W-NEW-7 Richards Road Inlet Supply Station Improvements

The inlets are where the City pulls water off the regional system. Richards Road Inlet Station is critical and has old components that are requiring increased maintenance. The estimate is about $500,000 to do this work in 2017. Staff believes it is important to do the work soon.

W-NEW-8 NE 40th & Enatai Inlet Supply Improvements Study

This would provide for a study of two other inlets to see what improvements are needed, to inform future CIP updates.

**SEWER**

S-16 Sewage Pump Station Improvements

This would provide for an increase of $387,000 to the 2017 Budget to accommodate accelerating the Grange Pump Station upgrade.

Assistant Director Bucich explained that during the course of evaluation staff determined that lowering the lakeline in front of Meydenbauer Park would enable operational staff to spend less time out there and improve its function. In order to do that the design for improvements at Grange Pump Station had to be changed. Commissioner Strom asked how long the project would take. Mr. Bucich replied that it should be completed in 2017.

S-59 Add On-Site Power at Sewer Pump Stations

This was originally scoped to add on-site power generation capability at three high priority pumping stations which currently reply on portable generators during power outages. The increased cost of $438,000 for the first two stations is based on preliminary design study. Design and construction cost for the third station is not included in this budget, pending a value engineering assessment because of significantly increased cost. Commissioner Howe asked if the third station isn’t feasible, would we maintain status quo response. Mr. Sidie responded that is possible.

S-60 Wilburton Sewer Capacity Upgrade

This project is in the construction phase and will be completed next year; however, permit-required post-construction monitoring was not included in the original budget. Staff is proposing to add $10,000 a year between 2017 and 2022 for that monitoring. Mr. Sidie explained that the monitoring is standard as the project will be going through a wetland area under S.E. 8th Street. The City will need to monitor plantings to make sure the plants are surviving and that everything is functioning as expected.

Commissioner Wang asked about the extent of the monitoring. Assistant Director Bucich replied a consultant would need to check on the plants, write a report, and replant if necessary.

Commissioner Strom asked if monitoring costs are considered for future projects. Ms. Maloney explained that normally those costs are included. Mr. Sidie added that this project was different because the intention was originally to be in the street, but S.E. 8th Street has a lot of challenges from the peat underlying the street. Monitoring is one of the impacts of having to push the project out toward the wetland.

Commissioner Wang asked about the possibility of automating the monitoring. Mr. Sidie explained that due to the location of these projects, having someone do the visual inspection is the best way. Asst. Director Bucich concurred and noted there is no way to monitor plant health, plant growth, weeds, etc. remotely. This requires a person who is trained in plant health to go out in the field to inspect the project.

S-66 Sewer System Pipeline Replacement

This Program would add two significant projects – Newport Shores Sewer Line and Woodridge Open Space Sewer Replacement. The budget for this project would be increased by $2.7 million in 2017. Commissioners Swenson and Wang asked about the cement pipe type and condition. Mr. Sidie and Mr. Bucich responded with more information that explains the urgency. Ms. Maloney reminded the Commission this program is expected to grow rapidly to reach a sustainable rate of pipe replacement in the coming years.

S-68 Sewer Force Main Condition Assessment

Project costs have been reduced $398,000 based on refined program scope and preliminary engineering.

S-NEW-2-M Land Acquisition for North End Yard

(Discussed above under Water)

S-NEW-4-M Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) Implementation

(Discussed above under Water)

**STORM**

D-59 Minor (small) Storm Capital Improvement Projects

This is for unanticipated minor projects that come up. Staff is finding that this $170,000 a year is not enough to cover the expenses, so an increase of $50,000 annually is recommended based on historical expenditures.

D-81 Fish Passage Improvement Program

An increase of $373,000 is being proposed specifically for a mitigation project that was needed for Alcove Creek.

D-94 Flood Control Program

Projects were shuffled around, but there is not much of a difference in costs.

Commissioner Wang asked about the costs for D-103 – Replacement of Coal Creek Pkwy Culvert - since the culvert is complete. Assistant Director Bucich explained this is for monitoring plants as required by Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife and other permits associated with the project. Commissioner Wang asked if the permit requires the City to measure the effectiveness of the project. Assistant Director Bucich replied that it does not, but it does require monitoring of the habitat to allow fish to pass through. Ms. Maloney noted that D-103 is not on the list of projects being discussed because no changes are proposed.

D-104-B Stream Restoration for Mobility & Infrastructure Initiative (MII)

This is the stream restoration for the Bel-Red corridor as mandated by Council. The money is to go toward the replacement of culverts and stream opening enhancements. Ms. Maloney reported that Utilities has been accumulating money as mandated and is now starting to expend money, coordinating with Sound Transit and other is going on in the Spring district. It is expected that $238,000 will be spent in the next CIP window.

D-105 Replace NE 8th Street Culvert at Kelsey Creek

The original plan was to construct the project over two years. Pre-design showed it would be much more cost effective and less disruptive to do it all in one year. Pre-design also increased the cost $332,000 based on the new engineer’s estimate.

D-106 Lower Coal Creek Flood Hazard Reduction

This $8 million-plus project is fully funded by the King County Flood Zone District. It will improve the Coal Creek carrying capacity through Newport Shores. This is on the list of changes because the budget in each year is being adjusted to match the Flood Zone District’s budget.

Chair Swenson asked if the money from the King County Flood Zone District was the result of a county-wide measure a few years ago. Ms. Maloney affirmed this and noted that King County continues to collect money every year from all the county resident, including Bellevue citizens, to do regional flood control projects.

D-NEW-1 Stormwater Quality Retrofit in Kelsey Creek

This project would design and install three water quality retrofit improvements using bio-filtration and rain garden techniques within city rights-of-way. Assistant Director Bucich reviewed plans to help improve stormwater sufficiently to result in salmon survival. This will need to be monitored for several years.

Chair Swenson commented on the requirement to remove copper from brake pads and asked if any determination has been made about how much of the toxicity is attributed to the copper. Assistant Director Bucich explained that the legislation regarding getting copper out of brake pads stipulates, “if a suitable alternative is found.” The challenge is that stormwater is a blend of many pollutants: lead, copper, zinc, pharmaceutical, caffeine, herbicides, pesticides, etc. Most is in very dilute concentrations. Science is showing that the highest toxicity of urban runoff is on roads that have a high average daily traffic count. A lot of the research done was on water that came off 520 and I-5. Staff knows that Bellevue has a problem because 100% of the planted salmon died in Kelsey Creek and 20% died in Coal Creek. The goal is to reverse this.

Commissioner Morin asked if this has to be done on a fairly wide scale to measure whether the desired results are happening. Assistant Director Bucich indicated this is part of what staff intends to look at with additional research. Once the water quality retrofit improvements are made, the City will want to monitor them for several years.

Commissioner Wang noted that Kelsey Creek flows through the Bel-Red development area. Assistant Director Bucich concurred and noted that Bel-Red is located in the middle of the Kelsey Creek watershed comprises over 50% of the City’s drainage. Commissioner Wang recommended keeping an eye on new development to prevent more problems. Assistant Director Bucich concurred, but noted the City is usually in a catch-up game for existing development. The good news is that most of the land is being redeveloped and will have to meet the new water quality standards.

Commissioner Morin asked if there has been any effort to work with any of the large software corporations in the area to do a public/private partnership. Staff was not aware of any.

D-NEW-3-M Land Acquisition for North End Yard

(Discussed above under Water)

Ms. Maloney distributed information about projects that will not have changes. She invited the Commission to contact her any time with comments or questions, and reminded them she’ll be back next time with a roll-up of proposed changes.

* Utilities Property Management Plan

*Presenter: Andrew Lee, Deputy Director - Utilities*

Deputy Director Lee gave a presentation regarding the Property Management Strategic Plan - Operation Yard Space. Staff is proposing to utilize Maximo to be a property management records retention system and then complete and maintain a thorough property inventory. Next, staff intends to maintain and optimize beneficial use of properties for utilities and City long-term needs. In order to do this it is necessary to upgrade operations facilities to support current and future needs; pursue strategic property acquisition opportunities; and pursue strategic property surplus and sale opportunities.

Existing operational space includes Bellevue Service Center, Crossroads Facility, and Eastgate Yard. He reviewed the location, function, and challenges of each of the sites. Staff is planning on developing a master plan and business case for Eastgate Yard improvements considering options such as housing staff, vehicles, and equipment at the Eastgate Yard. The City intends to acquire additional North-end Operational Yard space considering options such as adding equipment, storage, materials, and operational space at North-end Operational Yard. This would address existing site, space, and parking challenges at Eastgate and/or the BSC. It would ensure compliance with stormwater pollution prevention plan requirements. It would reduce travel times and increase staff efficiency by 10-30% which equates to 6-18 operational staff. Additionally, Utilities could partner with other departments to provide multiple benefits to the City. Property acquisition could potentially help to address future needs in Solid Waste Utility. Acquiring property will only increase in difficulty and cost in the future.

Chair Swenson commented that this seems like an enormously valuable study to do. He asked if there has been any comprehensive study about the property owned by all of the departments because there might be some real tradeoffs. Deputy Director Lee stated that the City has desired to do a comprehensive property study for a number of years, but it hasn’t happened. He noted that Utilities is willing to take the first step forward in the hopes that the other departments will follow suit.

Commissioner Morin asked if the City should wait for a downturn in the property market instead of buying when prices are high. Deputy Director Lee noted that would be nice, but it is not known when that will be. Commissioner Morin expressed concern about taking out more trees in the City. He asked if the City has considered building up. Deputy Director Lee replied that they have. Commissioner Morin then noted that instead of selling any property it would be nice to give it back to the community for parkland. Deputy Director Lee explained the City is not allowed to donate property, but it is offered for purchase first to other departments.

Deputy Director Lee noted that in future years staff expects to be able to provide a stronger business case.

Commissioner Wang asked if the City has GIS. Deputy Director Lee replied that the entire city is in GIS, but the information may not be completely accurate.

**7. COMMISSION REPORT** – None

**8. DIRECTOR’S OFFICE REPORT**

The Utilities department has received a number of questions from the Council and community regarding what happened in Flint, Michigan. He distributed and discussed questions and answers related to this.

**9. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION**

Councilmember Vandana Slater sent her regrets at not being able to attend this meeting.

**10. CONTINUED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

**Motion made by Commissioner Wang, seconded by Commissioner Strom, to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:41 p.m.