



City of Madison

City of Madison
Madison, WI 53703
www.cityofmadison.com

Meeting Minutes - Approved WATER UTILITY BOARD

Tuesday, April 27, 2010

4:30 PM

119 E. Olin Ave.

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Gregory Harrington called the meeting to order at 4:34 p.m.

Present: 6 -
Lauren Chare; Dan Melton; Gregory W. Harrington; Bruce Mayer;
Madeline B. Gotkowitz and Larry Palm

Excused: 1 -
Thomas Schlenker

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made by Melton, seconded by Mayer, to approve the minutes of the March 23 meeting with amendment(s). The motion passed by voice vote.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present to address the board.

ADMINISTRATION REPORTS

1. [17152](#) General Manager's Report

Attachments: [General Manager Report April 2010.pdf](#)
[Employee Recognitions April 2010.pdf](#)

General Manager Tom Heikkinen highlighted the employee recognitions included in his report.

Heikkinen was asked for the dates of the last over-chlorination and under-chlorination incidents. He said there were no such events in the last 12 months; they would be reported to the Board if they occurred.

Heikkinen was asked if the board could see a proposed repayment schedule for the short-term loan from the city at next meeting. He said it could.

There was discussion of the Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT) the utility pays to the city every year. It is calculated based on the value of all the utility's assets, so as the utility improves its system by replacing mains, etc. the annual payment increases. The PILOT has been increasing at a rate faster than inflation, and the utility paid approximately \$3.6 million in 2009. This expense is passed on to ratepayers. It is the last bill the utility pays during the year, and the past few years the utility has had to borrow funds from the city to pay it because of low sales and the lag in implementing rate increases.

Heikkinen was asked how many people attended the screening of Tapped. He said it is estimated that 250 people were in attendance.

2. [14503](#) Annual Report to the Public Service Commission (PSC)

Attachments: [2009 Annual PSC Report.pdf](#)
[2009 Water Conservation Program Report.pdf](#)

There was a discussion of the 7% unaccounted water loss. Heikkinen said it is the difference between what was pumped and what was sold, accounting for estimated unmetered water use from flushing, main leaks, etc.

Finance/Accounting Manager Robin Piper said the utility could not account for everything. For example, the fire department would not provide any information about estimated water used fighting fires or for training. Alders Cnare and Palm suggested that they could request this information from the fire department.

Mayer observed that if the utility had actually earned the 7% allowable return, it would not have needed to borrow money from the city. This demonstrates the importance of Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) to allow the utility to bill more frequently and implement rate increases sooner.

NEW BUSINESS

3. [17967](#) Authorizing the Mayor and the City Clerk to execute a Professional Services Agreement with Black and Veatch Corporation of Kansas City, Missouri, for professional engineering services in conjunction with the professional engineering services project titled "East Side Water Supply Planning and Project Development" (Multiple East Side Districts).
- Heikkinen said the utility went through a structured selection process and Black and Veatch was the unanimous selection by the committee. He was asked if this evaluation of alternatives would take into consideration the cost of electricity for pumping. He said power consumption would be considered, since it makes up about ten percent of the utility's operating cost.**
- A motion was made by Ald. Palm, seconded by Cnare, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by the following vote:**
- Ayes:** 4 -
Lauren Cnare; Bruce Mayer; Madeline B. Gotkowitz and Larry Palm
- Noes:** 1 -
Dan Melton
- Non Voting:** 1 -
Gregory W. Harrington
4. [18014](#) Authorizing the Mayor and City Clerk to execute a contract with BT Squared, Inc. for engineering services for a well siting study for Madison Water Utility Pressure Zone 4 (15th and 16th AD).
- Heikkinen said this is for a well siting study for Zone 4 in southeast Madison. The utility owns property on Femrite Drive, but it is not a good candidate for a well site because of groundwater contamination in the area. He was asked if there had already been a search for a well site in that pressure zone. He said this is the first attempt in this zone. The Public Participation Process for this project is in the site selection phase.**
- A motion was made by Ald. Palm, seconded by Cnare, to RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL TO ADOPT - REPORT OF OFFICER. The motion passed by the following vote:**
- Ayes:** 4 -
Bruce Mayer; Madeline B. Gotkowitz; Lauren Cnare and Larry Palm
- Noes:** 1 -
Dan Melton
- Non Voting:** 1 -
Gregory W. Harrington

5. [18046](#) Authorizing the execution of a Declaration of Public Water Main Easement pertaining to lands located within Knollwood Conservancy Park.

Attachments: [Knollwood Easement Exhibit A - Description 5.6.10.pdf](#)
[Knollwood Easement Exhibit B - easement 05.06.10.pdf](#)
[Knollwood Easement Exhibit B - location 05.06.10.pdf](#)

A motion was made by Cnare, seconded by Gotkowitz, to Return to Lead with the Recommendation for Approval to the BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS. The motion passed by voice vote.

6. [14501](#) Introduction of Future Agenda Items

The following items were suggested:

- **Discussion of Board membership; there is currently a vacancy on the board. This could include desired characteristics of future board members.**
- **Adoption of the recommendations in the Well 8 Water Quality and Microbial Occurrence Investigation Report.**
- **Discussion and vote on whether or not Well 8 should be turned on this summer.**
- **Discussion of pursuing a countywide, regional aquifer management plan.**

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Dr. Thomas Schlenker arrived at 5:12 p.m.

Present: 7 -

Lauren Cnare; Dan Melton; Gregory W. Harrington; Thomas Schlenker;
Bruce Mayer; Madeline B. Gotkowitz and Larry Palm

7. [18210](#) Unit Well #8 Water Quality and Microbial Occurrence Investigation Report

Attachments: [Summary of Findings- Well 8 Investigation.pdf](#)

Heikkinen said this report was discussed at the April Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee (WQTAC) meeting. Water Quality Manager Joseph Grande was present to answer questions about the report and the WQTAC discussion.

Grande was asked if the committee was concerned that implementing the first recommendation could increase metals concentration through oxidation. He said this was one of the concerns discussed at the meeting regarding the first recommendation. Other concerns included corrosion of the casing, impact on pumping equipment, metals release, reduction in water quality, impact on pumping capacity, and build-up of disinfection byproducts. It was the unanimous opinion of the WQTAC not to implement the first recommendation.

Grande was asked if there was discussion of whether implementing the recommendations would produce a statistically significant change. Grande said this was not clear. Treatment had an impact on the first few minutes of pumping, but there was really no difference in the long-term baseline concentration before and after treatment.

There was a discussion of the second recommendation in the report. Larson said there is no reservoir water getting back into the well; the discharge pipe is higher than the water level in the reservoir. The question is how much bacteria is in the pipe reinoculating the well. He did not think it was a significant amount. There are physical constraints at the well that might make the installation of a check valve impossible. Harrington said the recommendation did not specifically mention a check valve but that was the implication. However, there would still be 250 feet of pump column downstream from the check valve. Larson added that check valves are not perfect; they can leak.

Grande was asked if the only option left for Well 8 was a filter. He said there had been a prevailing thought that iron bacteria were influencing the levels of iron and manganese, and if the bacteria were controlled through adequate disinfection at the wellhead the concentration of these metals could be reduced. However, what was found in the investigation is that there is a baseline concentration of iron and manganese. The prevailing thought now is that anaerobic conditions under the lake are probably producing reducing conditions that are contributing to the release of the metals within the aquifer, and this may or may not be augmented by the bacteria. The bacteria could have an influence in the immediate area of the borehole and/or the casing, which could explain the elevated levels of iron and manganese when the well is first turned on. In the end, the levels are around .6 milligrams per liter of iron and 50 micrograms per liter of manganese. The options, then, are treatment or not using the well. Larson said there are many alternatives for treatment including filtration, sequestering, and flushing, and these could be part of the east side evaluation.

Grande was asked if the utility was considering implementing the recommendations or doing investigations at other wells. Grande said this had not been considered. Well 19 could be a possibility, but it is also very close to a lake and there seems to be a relationship between proximity to the lake and metals release within the aquifer. Larson said the utility has to weigh the cost

and risk against the benefits. This investigation cost over \$25,000 for little or no benefit. In addition, the chlorine treatment is hard on the pumping equipment and dangerous from safety standpoint.

Gotkowitz suggested that if there was concern about source water from the lake, another option could be to deepen the casing.

8. [18212](#) Water Quality Technical Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [WQTAC Meeting Minutes 4-13-10.pdf](#)

BOARD EDUCATION SESSION

9. [18211](#) Session Two: Developing Executive Limitations Policies

Attachments: [Board Education Session 2.pdf](#)

A two-hour education session and discussion of board policies was facilitated by A.B. Orlik and Don Percy.

The Board Process Policies (Documents 2.1 and 2.2) were provisionally approved by consensus, with a few small changes made.

The Board discussed the drafts of the Global Executive Constraint Policy (EL-1), Treatment of Consumers Policy (EL-2A), and Treatment of Staff Policy (EL-2B). Orlik took the board's suggestions to prepare revised policies for presentation at the next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Cnare, seconded by Gotkowitz, to Adjourn at 7:30 p.m. The motion passed by voice vote.