

PORTLAND UTILITY REVIEW BOARD

January 19, 2010 - Meeting Minutes

Attendees

PURB Members: Janis Adler, Michael Crean, Sharon Kelly, Tracy Marks, Charles Rosenthal, Charles Van Rossen, and Lila Wickham

Excused Absence: Bill Dayton and Dave Johnson

Unexcused Absence: None

City Staff: Claudio Campuzano and Bob Tomlinson (OMF - FPD)
Jim Hagerman and Dean Marriott (BES)
Bob Glascock, Arianne Sperry and Bruce Walker (BPS)
Dave Hasson (Water)
David Shaff (Water/Comm. Leonard)
Megan Ponder (Mayor Adams Staff)
Patti Howard (Comm. Fritz Staff)
Amy Trieu (Comm. Saltzman Staff)

Public: Floy Jones (Friends of the Reservoirs)
Paulette Rossi and Brad Yazzolino (Citizens)

Introductions

Tracy called the meeting to order and there was a round of introductions.

Review Meeting Agenda

Tracy quickly reviewed the agenda. As there would be a number of presentations and not a lot of time, it was suggested that follow-up questions come through Bob.

Bureau of Environmental Services Overview

- Dean Marriott and Jim Hagerman gave an overview of BES. Materials were distributed.
- Charles V.R. asked how much interest was in the FY 2009-10 budget. \$125 million.
- Charles V.R. asked how much was being issued. \$450 million with \$255 million spent in FY 2009-10 and the remainder in future years.
- Mike asked about the Maintenance category. Jim H. responded that it was capital maintenance including either replacement after an asset's useful life or a significant upgrade.
- Mike asked if there is a call center and whether it was a 24/7 operation. The answer was that Water Customer Services Group handles calls on a 24/7 basis for both BES and Water. Operators triage off-hours calls. David Shaff said that the number is on the bill or on the web.
- Mike asked what the most frequent complaint was. Dean said backup calls, mostly private property.
- Mike asked who regulates plumbing. Dean said BDS.
- Lila asked what the rate increase will be after the Big Pipe is finished. Jim said maintenance is the next big project so the capital program does not decline. Which projects and when are the big

issues that need to be dealt with? Dean said that knowing the condition of infrastructure that is underground is difficult.

- Charles R. asked about employee productivity metrics. Dean said there were different metrics for different parts of the bureau.
- Charles R. asked about comparisons with other cities. Dean said they do benchmarking with 7 to 8 cities. BES has established some indicators. Portland comes out well against comparison cities on the west coast. The study is updated periodically, not annually because it is expensive.
- Charles V.R. asked about the number of customers. There are about 180,000 customer accounts.

Portland Water Bureau Overview

- David Shaff gave an overview of Water operations. Materials were distributed.
- Charles R. asked where hydroelectric power goes. David S. said there is a license with PGE and the proceeds go to the General Fund.
- Charles V.R. asked about historical usage and about the future of the system. David S. said that in the 50-year plan, there is no third dam planned, the metro area is not anticipated to grow as quickly as recently and usage is expected to go down as conservation goes up.
- David S. said that the bureau re-benchmarks every 3 to 5 years, always with other public utilities, not with private systems
- Tracy discussed his work with the Water Bureau's Administrative Review Committee (ARC). He said that they try to meet ratepayers 50/50 where there is a credible case.

Bureau of Planning and Sustainability Overview

- Bruce said he would only discuss solid waste. BPS was created out the Bureau of Planning and the Office of Sustainable Development. He would not discuss the primarily General Fund-funded planning division.
- Twenty four of BPS's 120 employees are responsible for recycling and sanitation.
- Residential and commercial are split: Commercial is not rate-based. Residential is a rate-based franchise system.
- Bruce distributed materials. He said the city has a 67% recycling rate.
- Charles V.R. asked about 'review' versus 'agreed upon procedure'. Bruce said he would follow up.
- Tracy asked if BPS receives full financial statements. Bruce said no because that would include commercial and other operations as well as residential.
- Bruce said he would share a copy of a standard contract.
- Tracy asked if expenses included capital costs. Bruce said yes, it included trucks.
- Bruce said Metro tipping fees are going up.
- Bruce discussed the Portland Recycles! Plan. Phase I delivery of carts is complete. Phase II is beginning as a pilot of composting food waste. Rates will be developed prior to the May PURB meeting.
- Bruce also said that there is a potential leaf collection fee that will be charged on behalf of PBOT.

Public Comment

Paulette said that public comment should be held before the PURB takes any votes.

Floy presented the attached memo for the record. She wanted to confirm that everyone was on the distribution list. She encouraged everyone to read the EPA language that requires burying or treating water. She noted that the Friends of the Reservoirs presented materials to the PURB in June 2009 and the information was ignored. She said the PURB Water Subcommittee's report is misleading.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Next Meeting

The next PURB meeting will be held at 4:30 pm on Thursday January 21, 2010 in the Lovejoy Room of City Hall.

Minutes respectfully submitted by the Financial Planning Division, Office of Management & Finance.

From: floy jones [mailto:floy21@msn.com]

Sent: Thursday, January 21, 2010 12:49 PM

To: OMF-Portland Utility Review Board; Tomlinson, Bob; Howard, Patti; bradyazzolino.com

Cc: Anderson, Susan; Bessee, Dominique; Campbell, Edward; City Elected Officials; City Elected Officials Exec's; Glascock, Bob; Greisen, Mila; Grumm, Matt; Hagerman, James; Hasson, David; Huynh, Cecelia; Keil, Sue; Klobertanz, Sue; Koch, Kathy; Marriott, Dean; O'Sullivan, Babe; Ponder, Megan; Rust, Ken; Scott, Andrew; Shaff, David; Sims, Jennifer (FinPlan); Sperry, Arianne; Trieu, Amy; Vizzini, Dan; Walker, Bruce; karl.ockert@bridgeportbrewing.com; Bixby, Richard; chuckl@portlandfrench.com; dhendricks@mcdd.org; davidw@orra.net; dkampfer@wm.com; dorothy.sperry@portofportland.com; jpowell@resource-recycling.com; tjabrahams@aol.com; Rossi, Paulette; rapaul@farwestfibers.com; Fernandez, Scott; clackamas9@aol.com; valerie.hunter@providence.org; v.hunter@comcast.net; yahogroup-reservoirs; Frank Ray; Stephanie Stewart - MTNA Board; Regna Merritt

Subject: Re: Correction PURB December Meeting Minutes- non infectious bacteria
PURB,

Please correct the December 2009 PURB minutes to reflect the information provided by David Shaff regarding the Thanksgiving bacteria detect. While a great deal of media attention was devoted to the Thanksgiving "scare", little to no effort was made by the Bureau to make clear when speaking with the media and the public that the bacteria was harmless non-infectious, not unlike the bacteria we encounter in our everyday lives. And that e-coli is detected in other parts of the system as documented by the State Drinking Water Program.

Please correct the minutes to include: David Shaff's report that the detect was non-infectious harmless bacteria and that "Dr. Gary Oxman Multnomah Co. public health officer did not approve of the Bureau's reporting that the source of the bacteria was avian." Shaff stated that the Bureau "just barely detected the presence that triggered the 24-hour resample". He also stated that regulations prohibit making a statement that the detect was just a trace when issuing a boil water alert.

Also for the record, I made a public comment questioning how the PURB intended to inform City Council regarding the open reservoirs when the issue had never been discussed by this PURB. The response was that the PURB would not be giving a presentation to Council on January 12, the Water Bureau would do so. David Shaff told the PURB that Council did not want a recommendation by the PURB. Given the community interest in these issues, these statements need to be included in the record.

Thank you,

Floy Jones