



**ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS
DEPARTMENT**
Utilities Division
2009 Radcliffe Road, Juneau, AK 99801
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UTILITIES ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

*Thursday, November 10th | 17:15pm
2520 Barrett Ave. & Teleconference – Zoom*

I. CALL TO ORDER

- a. *The meeting was called to order at 5:19pm by Board Chair Andrew Campbell*
- b. Members Present: Andrew Campbell (teleconference), Geoff Larson (teleconference), Stuart Cohen, Janet Schempf (teleconference)
- c. Staff Present: Chad Gubala (teleconference), Denise Koch (teleconference), Brian McGuire

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

- a. *Agenda was approved unanimously by Board vote.*

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. *September 8, 2022 UAB Meeting Minutes were approved unanimously by Board vote*

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- a. *None*

V. ACTION ITEMS

- a. Legislative Priorities Board & Committees Memo
 - i. Denise gave a brief explanation of Legislative Priorities. This process was resurrected last year to a select number of CBJ Boards to nominate large, visionary projects to the Assembly. The Assembly then prioritizes the projects to present to the State Legislature as a “wish list” of projects to be funded by State or Federal money. This year the Assembly opened submission to all Boards in CBJ to submit two projects.
 - ii. Brian continued that there are three projects to discuss and vote on. Two would be presented to the Assembly. Legislative Priorities submissions are due December 1. Two projects were scoped by GV Jones.
 - iii. The first project is to install equipment at the MWWTP to reduce FOG/Grit from entering the facility. MWWTP gets quite a bit of FOG and this equipment would not remove all, but most of the material that would infiltrate the plant. This project was scoped by GV Jones and is estimated at \$6 mil.
 - iv. The second project scoped by GV Jones is part of plant compliance is installation of micro screens, a type of mechanical clarifier, at the MWWTP. These are influent screens that would remove fine suspended solids that contribute to BOD. The latest testing showed that micro screens removed about 40% of material. This project is estimated at \$9 mil.
 - v. The third project is for the Water Utility, Lena Loop Water Replacement. There are two breaks in the water line on Lena Loop between the two Glacier Hwy entrances. These breaks had been banded but sections of the pipes were in bad shape and need to be inspected for

- replacement.
- vi. Andrew said he is familiar with the Lena Loop problems and that that area is a “ticking time bomb” and that project would be great to push forward.
 - vii. Geoff brought up that the first two projects removing FOG/Grit, BOD and other material and expanding our capacity should be looked at. Lena Loop is a maintenance issue and should be taken care of, agreeing that it is a “ticking time bomb” but getting the plant into compliance seems like the bigger issue.
 - viii. Brian commented that we want to do all the projects but a way to look at this decision is looking for something that stands out from the crowd as we are going up against 80-100 other projects.
 - ix. Denise added clarification that the Assembly pick their top 20 submitted projects, The Assembly takes this list to submit to the State and Federal Govt. for funding. Making the Assembly’s list does not guarantee funding.
 - x. Stuart said that the project that stands out to him is FOG/Grit. It is immediately comprehensible. People might not understand what BOD is. You can show a picture of FOG and easily note that this needs to be kept out of our water.
 - xi. Janet said her top choice would be the FOG/Grit project, second is micro screens, and third is pipe replacement for Lena. The plants need to operate efficiently and far into the future. There is a documented problem with FOG/Grit. Janet agreed that people might not understand what BOD is and why it is significant and would be a harder sell. Janet agreed with Geoff that Lena Loop replacement is important and is a maintenance issue that needs to be taken care of, but doesn’t affect a Federal or State permit.
 - xii. Brian said the Lena Loop project is on the CIP list and would be actioned regardless, but would be funded out of the enterprise fund instead if not chosen as a Legislative Priority.
 - xiii. Geoff said that it should be made clear that the FOG issue is not coming from Commercial users, but is a community wide issue where a large amount of FOG comes from households.
 - xiv. Andrew voiced that he is in support of the first two projects (FOG/Grit Removal and micro screens).
 - xv. Denise said that Brian just gave a presentation to the Public Works & Facilities Committee about Source Control so they are already aware of the issue that FOG removal would be mitigating.
 - xvi. Stuart made a motion to make FOG/Grit Removal and BOD/TSS Removal with Micro Screens top priorities.
 - 1. Geoff made an amendment to the motion. FOG would be number one and BOD/TSS would be number two. He also requested that the board individually reach out to the Assembly to explain why these two projects are a priority. UAB should use their ability to engage the Assembly.
 - 2. Chad mentioned that the Utility doesn’t have the information to put one project over the other.
 - 3. Denise clarified that isn’t required to have specify a Number 1 and Number 2, but can put a cover letter explaining that it is felt that one is more important the other.
 - 4. Stuart accepted the amendment.
 - 5. Janet seconded the motion.
 - 6. The motion was APPROVED unanimously by Board vote with the above amendment.
 - xvii. Andrew volunteered to assist in the creation of the cover letter for the nominations.
 - xviii. Denise explained that the first deadline is December 1 to submit nominations. Brian would finalize the nominations and send to Andrew. Andrew would send them to Katie no later than COB December 1. In late December, the Assembly will rank the nominations so that in



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January public meetings, the Assembly will discuss their nominations and offer an opportunity for public response. Denise will keep the UAB apprised of these dates.

- xix. Stuart requested a one-pager on how the Utility is out of compliance, how this helps the Utility get back into compliance, and showing where equipment would be placed.
- xx. Geoff advocated to add a meeting to align the UAB on talking points for when they address the assembly.
- xxi. Denise shared the Legislative Priorities Schedule highlighting that the Jan 4th Finance Committee Meeting and Jan 23rd COW Meeting are good opportunities for the UAB to make public comment for the two selected nominations.

VI. INFORMATION ITEMS

- a. Utilities Finance 101 (cont.)
 - i. Brian suggested this item be moved to the next meeting.
- b. Source Control
 - i. Brian gave a presentation to PWFC.
 - ii. Assembly Member Bryson posed a question if DEC check up on grease interceptors for restaurants. Brian has line of communication with DEC checking in on that.
 - iii. The Environmental Program Specialist is set to start employment the following Monday.
- c. Lead & Copper Update
 - i. Chad noted the Utility performed a synoptic survey as required to look at lead and copper levels at terminal points such as taps in houses. Copper was ubiquitous but well below concentration or action limits. Lead was detected at three sites but was well below the action level of 10 ppb. No systemic issued with lead. Copper levels are within norms.
 - ii. Andrew asked if the Utility has had problems in the past.
 - 1. Chad answered that we have had problems in the past but there is a considerable focus on emerging contaminants such as PFAS and lead following Flint.
 - iii. Next year the Utility is due to provide EPA a comprehensive map of CBJ potable water systems.
 - iv. The Utility will be working on communication strategies to disseminate more information and build trust that any issues are being reviewed.

VII. NON AGENDA ITEMS

- a. *None*

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:10pm

Next meeting:

December 8th, 2023 | 17:15pm | In Person & Teleconference