

PUBLIC UTILITY DISTRICT NO. 1
OF ASOTIN COUNTY, WASHINGTON
COMPREHENSIVE WATER SYSTEM PLAN UPDATE PUBLIC HEARING
MEETING MINUTES
February 29, 2012

President Don Nuxoll presiding, the Comprehensive Water System Plan Update Hearing of the Public Utility District No. 1 of Asotin County was called to order at 5:30 p.m. at the PUD Office at 1500 Scenic Way.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT Commissioners: Don Nuxoll, Judy Ridge and Gary Hicks.

PUD Staff: General Manager, Tim Simpson, Treasurer, Bob Sischo and Counsel, Scott Broyles.

Members of the public were present.

NEW BUSINESS:

Comprehensive Water System Plan Update – Open Hearing

Commissioner Nuxoll called the meeting to order and opened the Public Hearing for the Comprehensive Water System Plan Update at 5:30 p.m.

Consultant Presentation

David Stangel, engineer for Murray, Smith and Associates (MSA) provided an overview presentation on the Water System Plan (WSP) update. Mr. Stangel stated that the Washington State Department of Health (DOH) requires that water purveyors update their Comprehensive WSP every 6-years. He stated that the update process this year has been much different than in the past in that it was more of a joint development and collaborative process between the PUD and MSA. Mr. Stangel provided a summary of each chapter and touched briefly on the number of Appendixes required as part of the WSP.

Mr. Stangel reported that MSA's analysis shows that the water quality of the groundwater is very high and that the PUD complies with all water quality regulations. He stated that the PUD water supply is reliable and stable and will meet demand for the next 20 years. Mr. Stangel stated that the water pumping and supply system is in good condition and that there were no major reoccurring maintenance problems identified. He stated that the \$25 million in total pipeline replacements have been identified. He stated that steel mains and smaller diameter mains will be targeted for improvement. \$6 million in system improvements have been identified from 2012 to 2017.

Mr. Stangel reported that a financial analysis was completed as part of the WSP update by an outside consultant. He reported that the PUD is in a strong financial position to fund identified system improvements. He stated that the primary reasons for the strong financial position are the proactive approaches to operations and maintenance, utility management, conservative capital expenditures over the past 10 years and the recent retirement of debt service. Mr. Stangel reported that the analysis determined that rate increase to pay for improvements would not need to be considered until after 2014. In summary, Mr. Stangel reported the following: The PUD system is in good overall condition; Investments to replace steel and undersized mains will further improve the integrity of the system; The PUD has a high quality and abundant water supply to support projected future growth; Storage is sufficient to meet peak and fire suppression demands over the next 20 years; The PUD's financial position is strong and will support planned capital improvements.

Staff Input

The manager stated that the new approach that was adopted by DOH is called the appropriate level of planning. DOH's thought on the approach was that during the pre-planning meeting they would determine what has changed in the water system and what has changed in the requirements and the water purveyor would only have to focus primarily on those areas in need of updating. He stated that the idea was to save water purveyors money by not having to do a comprehensive update on areas where there was no change.

The manager stated that the WSP was submitted to DOH and the Department of Ecology. He stated that Ecology had 60 days to review the WSP and DOH has 90 days. The manager stated that he received a letter today from Ecology stating that they had reviewed the plan and had minor changes that need to be made to the text and the addition of proposed wells and point-of-diversion wells that should be included in a map.

The manager stated that that DOH should wrap up their review and provide comments and/or questions by April. Once those comments and/or questions are received, the plan will be modified, questions answered and a final draft will be sent for approval. The manager stated that in the meantime the WSP will need to be reviewed the city of Clarkston and Asotin County and a letter of approval will need to be received by them for inclusion in the WSP. Once all of these tasks are complete adoption of the WSP will be presented to the Board. He stated that we are still on track to meet our June 2012 deadline for final approval and adoption.

Commissioner Input

All three Commissioners stated their approval of the presentation and the summary stating the condition of the system and the financial analysis. They stated their appreciation of the collaborative work on the WSP update by MSA and staff.

Public Input

Several questions were asked by the members of the public present. Questions asked were regarding the fire flow analysis, distribution system improvements and financial analysis.

Close Hearing

Commissioner Nuxoll declared the Comprehensive Water System Plan Update Public Hearing closed at 6:20 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Nuxoll adjourned the Comprehensive Water System Plan Update Public Hearing at 6:20 p.m.