

Willowbank County Service Area (WCSA)

Advisory Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held April 18, 2018

7:00 p.m.

Marguerite Montgomery Elementary School Multipurpose Room

1441 Danbury Street, Davis, CA 95618

Committee Chair Woods called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT: Kent Calfee, Bill Corliss, Marcia Kreith, Liz McCapes, Joanne Roy, and Olin Woods.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brian Morrissey.

INTRODUCTIONS: Chair Woods announced that two new members had been appointed to the WCSA Advisory Committee since the January 31, 2018 meeting: Liz McCapes (Meadowbrook), and Brian Morrissey (At Large). Woods explained that regarding Brian's appointment, Supervisor Provenza did not receive any applications from Montgomery Ave., so he made the decision to appoint an at-large member. Brian lives in Willowbank. Committee members and guests, then, gave self-introductions.

OTHERS PRESENT: Maureen Poole, Secretary; Richard Reed, Deputy to Supervisor Provenza; John McNerney, City of Davis; Mitch Sears, Interim General Manager, Valley Clean Energy; and Willowbank residents: Laura Schmidt, Phyllis Brock, Linda Clevenger, Pam and John Eisele, Marybeth Buchner, Mike McMahan, Michael Curry, Jim Parks, Roberta Shakya, Katie Flaherty, Gary and Betsy Peterson, Dick McCapes, Kathryn and Dave Calfee, Susie and Terry Miller, Ron Ringen, John Lutch and Gary Matteson.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES of January 31, 2018 meeting: The January 31, 2018 minutes were unanimously approved after amending the second paragraph of Member Comments to show that City staff recommendation was to continue the adopted water rate increase of 14% on Jan 1, 2018 and 9% on Jan 1, 2019, and that the minutes include the handout on soil type, storm drainage, driveways and flood control for the Willowbank County Service Area, which was distributed by Rich Reed at the meeting.

MSC: Calfee/Corliss.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Woods invited anyone interested in addressing the Committee to do so at this time. There were no public comments.

COUNTY REPORT: There was no County report.

VALLEY CLEAN ENERGY ALLIANCE: Mitch Sears, Interim General Manager for Valley Clean Energy, presented an update on the Valley Clean Energy Alliance (VCEA) program that is due to roll out June 2018. He said that notices are being sent out to the community in May and June and thirty days after the launch in June regarding the program. Sears pointed out the benefits of using VCEA include competitive electricity rates, clean energy, local control, sustainability, and customer choice. The VCEA's Board consists of local elected leaders who represent the community jurisdictions that signed the joint powers agreement (City of Davis, City of Woodland, and unincorporated Yolo County), rather than PG&E shareholders. The six Board members are: Angel Barajas (Woodland), Duane Chamberlain (Yolo County), Don Saylor (Yolo County), Lucas Frerichs (Davis), Robb Davis (Davis), and Tom Stallard (Woodland). Public Board of Directors meetings are the 2nd Thursday of each month, 5:30-7:30 p.m.. In addition there is a 9-person Advisory Committee consisting of 3 persons per community that alternates its meetings between Davis and Woodland.

Sears talked about the relationship between VCEA and SMUD. He said VCEA has contracted with SMUD to provide operational services, wholesale energy procurement and business operation support. This is not an annexation with SMUD. Sears stated that VCEA will source the electricity for their customers, but all will remain PG&E customers. PG&E will continue to deliver the electricity, maintain power lines, respond to outages and requests for new service and will send a single consolidated electricity bill. Special rates for low-income or special categories of subscribers will pass through on the PG&E bill for those with VCEA. Similarly VCEA will not effect demand contracts for fee reductions that some may have already.

VCEA 's target rate for clean electricity in 2018 is 2.5% below PG&E's based on the conservative assumption that about 10 percent (i.e. 5,500 subscribers) will elect to remain with PG&E for their electricity. Sears stated that at present about 32% of PG&E's energy derives from renewables, while VCE's standard "light green energy option" target for 2018 is 42% renewables. For a slightly higher rate, VCEA enrollees can choose to subscribe to "ultra green" to source from 100% renewable energy.

Sears further explained that ***VCEA is an opt-out program under California law, meaning residents and businesses in Woodland, Davis and unincorporated Yolo County will be automatically enrolled in VCEA in June 2018.*** Residents who elect to participate in the VCEA program do not have to do anything. However, if customers would prefer to remain with PG&E, they can go to the VCEA website or call the VCEA

call center to opt out of the VCEA program. (See the second to last paragraph of this section for website and call center information.) If you choose to opt out please have your PG&E account number available. If you opt out *within the first 60 days of launch of VCEA (or before)* and then decide you want to transfer back to VCEA, you can transfer back to VCEA at any time; however, *if you opt out of VCEA after the initial 60-day period you must wait a year before you can return to VCEA* (in order not to game the system).

Sears fielded the following questions from the audience:

When will we see the changes on our bill? Sears replied that June is the kick-off month for the new program so any changes will be reflected in the billing for the following month.

What is the effect this will have on PG&E? Sears stated it shouldn't cause them a problem. PG&E does not make a profit on the generation of the power. They make their profit on transmission and distribution. He also noted that PG&E by law cannot use ratepayer's funds to fight formation of such community choice energy programs.

What about solar? VCEA is looking into solar incentives in the future. Sears briefly talked about solar billing and said that the excess energy and energy you use are closely matched to your "tru up date", ie. your enrollment date. Your credits will roll over. In addition, those who generate solar electricity will receive \$0.01/kwh more than the credits from PG&E.

In closing, Sears encouraged people to visit the website at www.valleycleanenergy.org. If anyone has any questions, please contact the call center at 855.699.8232.

Woods suggested that Sears send his Powerpoint presentation to him so that it can be e-mailed to WCSA residents. Sears indicated that he would do so.

PUTAH CREEK CLEAN UP / NORTH FORK PUTAH CREEK CHANNEL

MAINTENANCE PLAN: Woods introduced Mike McMahon, East Davis Fire Protection District Chair and John McNerney, City of Davis Wildlife Resource Specialist and author of the Putah Creek Channel Maintenance Plan. McMahon provided a brief overview of how the East Davis Fire Protection District, the City and County recently came together to address property lines based on GIS maps and determine whose responsibility it is for the cleanup along the creek. He stated that their goal was to take a balanced approach to managing public safety, habitat, and the beauty of the creek. McMahon said that cleanup job was finished in February, prior to the hatching of birds.

In 2017, McMahon had contacted McNerney at the City of Davis to see how they could jointly work together to form a plan for the creek. McNerney explained that a plan for the channel had been created in 2008 after a heavy-handed clear-cut of vegetation. The Management Plan took into account the habitat, shading of pedestrian/bike path, recreational and storm water drainage functions as well as aesthetics and fuel loading. The plan was to reduce the fuel loading and facilitate storm water flow while maintaining natural habitat. McNerney said the plan looks at the channel from the stormwater pipe outflow at the west end near Drummond Ave. east to Mace Blvd. The plan was to inspect for fuel recovery and drainage impediments every year and to maintain the channel as needed, however that had not occurred since 2008. McNerney said the focus this year was on nonnative specimens (feral almond, privet and to some extent, English Elm) and thinning out the area by breaking up the laddering of fuel from the ground to the canopy, especially where close to structures. Some clumps of bushes were removed. McNerney talked about the difficulty of distinguishing and marking the lots and property lines. Confusion or differing opinions were voiced by several residents about jurisdictional location of the centerline of the creek, the chain link fence and other boundaries. McMahon and McNerney fielded questions from the audience regarding the vegetation abatement and concerns that trimmings and debris remained in and along the creek channel. One individual complained that nothing had been removed from behind their lot. Another voiced concern about dead sags that lean across the channel onto other branches and that privets were left growing in the channel. McMahon stated that the East Davis Fire District and the Fire Marshall do an annual weed abatement assessment of all of our neighborhoods and will notice property owners if there is a potential problem. Pam Eisele expressed concern about the fire hazard posed by the weeds on the south side of Montgomery Ave. opposite their property. Last year the Eisele's personally cut some of the weeds.

Woods asked McMahon to explain how the community was noticed about this year's vegetation removal on the North Fork. McMahon said that based on what happened 10 years ago, an East Davis Fire District Board member who lives on Oakside hosted an outreach for the Oakside neighbors. He added that they should have reached out to the Meadowbrook and Willowbank residents and stated that next time they will include all the neighborhoods. Suggestions made about how to inform property owners that work would be performed near their property and how to get input from the community included the posting of notices along the creek path and on the Willowbank CSA bulletin board on Montgomery Ave.. In addition, Woods stated that notices could be sent out via e-mail to WCSA residents and GWIA members. Pam Eisele suggested possibly notifying the Nextdoor social network.

McMahon explained that since we do not have a dedicated fire department we contract with the local Davis Fire Department for services. He explained that the cost benefit to

have a freestanding fire department is not there because there is not enough property or homeowners to support it. Instead, through our annual taxes to the County we pay the City for those EDFPD services. We see this expense on our annual property taxes, for which the County bills us once a year.

SECURITY ISSUES AND NEIGHBORHOOD COMMUNICATION OPTIONS:

Woods introduced Sergeant Charles Hoyt, Yolo County Sheriff's Department who was invited to talk about security and the steps one can take to discourage criminal activity.

A community member who had recently been burglarized asked Sgt. Hoyt to talk about the best way to call the Sheriff's office while an emergency is ongoing and how to request a vacation watch. He explained that 911 calls can go to a different dispatch center; **however if you want to expedite the call during an emergency you should contact the County Dispatch line directly at 530.666.8282 or 530.666.8920. If you have two phones he advised call both the 911 and the Dispatch Center directly.**

Sgt. Hoyt offered the following suggestions to minimize your home becoming a target for a break-in. He suggested good exterior lighting, motion sensor lighting, porch lights, trimming overgrown shrubs, and make certain everything is working. Security monitoring can also be useful. In addition, do tell trusted neighbors when you will be away and have your mail and newspapers picked up and/or stopped so they do not pile up.

If people come to your door purporting to be solicitors, ask to see their permit and an i.d. such as a CA driver's license. If possible take a picture of their i.d. with your cell phone.

He stated that people who case houses look at unlit houses where there are bushes or dark places to hide. Rosebushes under windows or dogs may help deter bad actors. Break-ins are often for meds, narcotics, jewelry, vehicles, and sensitive financial account numbers.

He also added that the Sheriff's Department offers a free vacation watch service. Our vacation watch is a service performed on a volunteer basis by the Sherriff's Team of Active Retired Seniors (STARS). They come out to check on your home in a marked car, wearing a white uniform, and have dispatch orders. Alternatively, a deputy will drive by your premises in the evenings to check on things. The County is split into one deputy per beat who works with other agencies as needed, e.g Davis, Woodland, and the CHP. When you set up a vacation watch with the Sheriff's Department, please let them know who should be around the house while you are away. The phone number to schedule a vacation watch or to file a report is 530.668.5280.

At the conclusion of Sergeant Hoyt's presentation, Chair Woods asked if there was any interest in forming a Neighborhood Watch program. No one present indicated an interest in starting a formal Neighborhood Watch at this time.

BUDGET REPORT: Woods reviewed the 3rd quarter expenditures in the budget report that was posted by the County Administrator's Office (CAO) Support Team. Not all expenditures have yet been posted, so the 3rd quarter report may not include all current billings. Woods stated that, while it is unlikely that the WCSA will exceed its annual \$4,235 budget this year, the CAO is placing greater emphasis on aligning budgets with mandated responsibilities. Woods indicated that it will be important in the future to limit WCSA Advisory Committee expenditures to water-related subjects while at the same time continuing to provide a forum for all manner of neighborhood concerns/ infrastructure issues. He pointed out that Supervisor Provenza as well as our previous Supervisors Yamada, Rosenberg, and Marchand have found the advisory committee's input useful on a wide array of subjects.

CURRENT AND FUTURE WATER RATES: Kreith reported that on Dec 5, 2017 the City Council affirmed the currently adopted water rate increases of 14% on January 1, 2018 and up to 9% the following year. They also authorized City staff to pay off the debt associated with the East Area Water Tank project. They will revisit the 2019 rates but anticipate the full 9%. She reported that from 2014 – 2017 the City's rate revenues were lower than expected because of conservation and the City's costs to administer the program were lower. However, the City still needs to increase their rates because of their debt service for Capital Improvements Projects, and based on Prop 218 guidelines, the City Attorney's office advised against adjusting the already adopted water rates.

The City is planning a new 5-year study that will identify capital improvements that are needed. The study will probably start in January 2019, involve an outside consultant, and would involve many iterations with the Utility Rate Commission (URC). By July 2019 or possibly after the summer break, recommendations would go to the Council to start the Prop 218 process to approve maximum water rate increases for each of the five years (2020-2024). Current City policy allocates that 1% of construction costs go to fund municipal arts projects.

Advising that Willowbank needs to stay informed about City intentions for future water rates, Kreith noted that the URC generally meets on the third Wednesday of the month at 6:30 p.m.; the City Council meets at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays, except on the 5th Tuesday of the month.

It was suggested that we add involvement in water rate deliberations to a future meeting agenda.

MEMBER COMMENTS: Corliss reported the Ad Hoc Willowbank Waste Management Committee will meet next week to explore the various options available. He said that the Committee appreciates those who have responded and returned their survey. With recent completion of the transfer of Davis Waste Removal's (DWR's)

Franchise Agreement to Recology, Inc, Recology has assumed the contract to provide collection service to unincorporated Willowbank, which runs until June 30, 2019.

Woods suggested that draft minutes of the meetings should be distributed in two weeks time.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: Future Water Rates, Ad Hoc Waste Management Committee Report, and fire concerns in the open fields south of Montgomery Ave..

NEXT MEETING: Wednesday, June 20, 2018 at 7:00p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Committee Chair Woods adjourned the meeting at 9:28p.m.