

**Willowbank County Service Area (WCSA) Advisory
Committee**

Minutes of the Meeting held June 20, 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: Marcia Kreith, Brian Morrissey, Joanne Roy, and Olin Woods.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Kent Calfee, Bill Corliss, and Liz McCapes.

OTHERS PRESENT: Richard Reed, Deputy to Supervisor Provenza; Maureen Poole, Secretary; Bob Clarke, City of Davis Public Works Director; Heather Brown, City of Davis; Dawn Calciano, City of Davis; and Willowbank residents: Elizabeth Honig; Deb Niemeier; Mike and Kathleen Rockwell, Mike and Maryanne Sheele, John Eisele, John Cooluris, Marybeth Buechner, Mike McMahan, and Terry Miller.

INTRODUCTIONS: Committee members and guests gave self-introductions. Woods welcomed Brian Morrissey, serving as an at-large appointment, to his first meeting as a member of the Committee.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the April 18, 2018, meeting were unanimously approved. MSC: Roy/Morrissey.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Woods invited anyone interested in addressing the Committee on items not on the agenda. There were no public comments.

COUNTY REPORT: Woods informed the Committee that Supervisor Provenza was not present due to a family commitment in Southern California and that Richard Reed, Deputy to Supervisor Provenza, was in attendance and had provided handouts on the Community Corrections Partnership (CCP). Woods added that there would be a County –sponsored meeting to discuss the CCP and obtain input on June 27, 2018, from 6:00pm – 8:00pm at Marguerite Montgomery Elementary School MPR. Reed then followed up on questions posed at the April 18, 2018, WCSA meeting. Q: “Does Yolo County prohibit door-to-door soliciting?” A: “No, door-to-door solicitation is allowed outside the city limits.” Q: “Does Yolo County have an emergency alert system?” A: “The short answer is Yes.”

ANNUAL WATER QUALITY REPORT AND STATUS OF THE SYSTEM: Woods introduced Bob Clarke, City of Davis Public Works Director. Clarke stated his staff would provide an overview of water quality, the overall function of the system, including the surface water component, and water meter upgrades.

Heather Brown, City of Davis Water Quality Coordinator, distributed a handout of the 2017 Water Quality Report. Brown stated that the City of Davis is required to publish a report that provides information on the water system, changes in the water system in the past year, and constituents/contaminants that have been detected within the water system. Brown pointed out that the distribution system is considered to be “conjunctive use”, i.e., the water system uses both surface and ground water. The surface water comes from the Sacramento River and is treated at the regional water treatment facility in Woodland. The remaining water comes primarily from four deep-aquifer wells with five intermediate wells serving as back up and monitoring facilities. Willowbank’s ground water comes mainly from deep-water Well 32, which is located on Chiles Road by the Dave Pelz overcrossing. Well 26, an alternate intermediate well, located on Cowell Blvd. near the Drummond Road Roundabout, is primarily used for testing. Brown referred to three tables in the handout that noted the following: Detection of an Inorganic Constituent with Primary Drinking Water, Secondary Drinking Water, and Detection of a Constituent without a Drinking Water Standard.

Brown reported the drinking water for 2017 at all locations in the Davis system fully met state and federal standards; however, she indicated that a few locations outside of the WCSA area had constituents in a range above the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL). As a clarifying point, Ms. Brown added that for a violation to the regulations to occur, the average sampling events for the year has to be above the MCL and none of the running annual averages was above. A snapshot can be seen in weekly sampling at the various stations throughout the Davis system; the closest station to Willowbank is in El Macero. Detailed discussion ensued.

In response to a question about how the aquifer re-charging program was functioning, Bob Clarke responded that Woodland was indeed re-charging its aquifers with river water, but that in Davis, this was not occurring because it was unnecessary to meet water quality, or water quantity needs and it was felt the expense to implement re-charge/storage in the aquifer was unwarranted at this time.

A question was posed about the hardness of the water and whether or not water softeners are still needed. The Davis team responded that because there is no way currently to measure accurately the mix of river water and well water at any given residence, it was not possible for them to answer the question with any precision. Based on the discussion that followed among the attendees, the consensus was that, as a result of the deep wells and the Davis-Woodland surface water project, the water has become considerably softer. One person mentioned that, several years ago and prior to the surface water project, he had his water tested by Culligan at 40 grains; after the water project, it was tested by Culligan at less than 5 grains. Many consider 5 grains to be soft water.

If residents want additional information or have any questions regarding constituents in the water, quarterly testing, and/or overall water quality this can be found at <http://cityofdavis.org/city-hall/public-works/water> or email Heather Brown @ hbrown@cityofdavis.org.

Dawn Calciano, City of Davis Conservation Coordinator, distributed a handout on the Upgraded Water Meters project. She announced that the City of Davis is starting to replace all of the water meters. This is occurring because water meters have reached the end of their useful life. Calciano discussed how this upgrade would assist the city in better managing the water resources and provide the consumer detailed information on their water use. Some of the benefits of the Advanced Metering Infrastructure (AMI) project to the consumer are; access to their water usage 24/7, the ability to set up water alerts that will notify you about water that is running continuously, and the ability to save money by knowing your daily water consumption. In late

July or early August, residents will be able to access their hourly water usage through a web portal. The tentative schedule for installation in Willowbank is July 12 – 19, 2018. You will receive a notice one week prior to the installation with instructions on what you need to do, if anything, prior to the installation. After the installation, you will receive a door hanger that will tell you that the install has occurred or if you need to schedule an appointment. Additional information regarding the water meter project can be found at cityofdavis.org@watermeterupgradeproject.

Clarke provided a brief overview on the water rates. He explained that a water rate study was performed in 2013; however, those rates were challenged and rescinded. A new water rate study was completed and adopted in 2014 for a five-year period. Late last summer, the city started to review the variables that had changed since the 2014 study and the impact those changes would have on revenue. There was an expectation that rates would drop because of UCD participation along with obtaining a State loan with very favorable terms. Clarke explained that the net positive and net negatives cancelled each other out; thus affecting the ability to reduce rates. The main factor was greater conservation than anticipated (20% instead of 10%). The Utility Rate Advisory Commission reviewed the revenue model and noted the City had to hold to the model-driven rate increases in 2018 and 2019 because of the debt and loan agreements that require 1.1 times the revenue for operating expenses; thus it was not possible to lower the rates for the last two years of the five-year cycle. In January, 2019, the City will commence conducting a new study for the next five-year rate adoption process. Clarke added that if the City needs to go through a 218 process to establish new rates, notices will be sent out to the community, allowing for broad discussion and input. The plan is to have a final rate adoption in December 2019, and it is possible that any increase in rates will be inflationary driven (in the 2-4% range) and not due to other factors.

FIRE ABATEMENT ISSUES: Woods introduced Mike McMahon, Chair of the Board of Commissioners for the East Davis Fire Protection District (EDFPD). Woods invited McMahon to follow up on a fire danger concern about high grasses and weeds on a large parcel south of Montgomery at the April 18th WCSA meeting. McMahon explained that every year one of the EDFPD Board members and the City of Davis Fire Marshall inspect the unincorporated areas of South Davis and assess each property for hazardous risk. McMahon then distributed a handout from the Davis Fire Department on the Weed Abatement Criteria. He noted that if a property is deemed hazardous then the Fire Department sends a notice, which specifies a date by which the abatement needs to occur. If the property owner does not comply, then s/he could be billed for the abatement. Returning to the original concern, McMahon informed the Committee that there was no need to send a notice to the property owner in question because, within a few days of the WCSA meeting, the property owner on his or her initiative abated the problem. If any WCAS resident has any questions or concerns regarding weed abatement, please contact the City of Davis Fire Department.

WASTE REMOVAL UPDATE: Woods introduced John Cooluris, member of the Willowbank ad hoc Waste Management Advisory Committee. Cooluris reported that the Recology contract expires in June 2019; however, once the Recology acquisition was completed it was learned that the Old Willowbank area might be able to change its existing agreement now instead of waiting until June 2019. In the survey sent out by the ad hoc committee, which had a 48% return rate, the focus from the majority of the people responding was the yard waste street

pick up. With the current arrangement of the once a month street pick up, 66% of those responding preferred more frequent street pick up and 80% wanted a longer fall/winter weekly pick up relative to what we currently receive. Ad hoc committee members met with Marissa Juhler, who is in charge of Yolo County Waste Management programs, and came up with two proposals that were sent to Recology: 1. Switch from the current arrangement to a bi-weekly schedule for yard waste pick-up except for the months November – February, when yard waste pick-ups would be weekly. 2. Bi-weekly pick-up on the street throughout the year. The Recology proposals should be ready by the end of June and the Waste Management Advisory Committee will be reviewing them in early July. This may result in the County sending out a new survey asking if your household is interested in either of these proposals or revise the proposals and go back to Recology. Cooluris said service could begin as early as October, 2018. If things cannot be resolved satisfactorily with Recology in the near term, the ad hoc committee will direct its attention to developing other options for the June 2019 RFP.

MEMBER COMMENTS: Woods announced that the South Davis Citizens’ Advisory Committee (SDCAC) is looking at County land use implications related to cannabis cultivation and sales. To date, there have been two SDCAC public meetings and WCSA residents are invited to attend.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS: No items were suggested.

NEXT MEETING: August 15, 2018 7:00p.m.

ADJOURNMENT: Committee Chair Woods adjourned the meeting at 8:46p.m.