

AGENDA ITEM: A-1

DATE: August 29, 2013

ACTION: APPROVED

SYNOPSIS MINUTES - MORRO BAY PUBLIC WORKS ADVISORY BOARD
REGULAR MEETING – JUNE 20, 2013
VETERAN’S HALL – 6:00 P.M.

Chairperson Makowetski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

PRESENT:	Matt Makowetski	Chairperson
	Janith Goldman	Board Member
	Marlys McPherson	Board Member
	Deborah Owen	Board Member
	Stephen Shively	Board Member
ABSENT:	Ron Burkhart	Vice-Chairperson
	Richard Rutherford	Board Member
STAFF:	Rob Livick	Public Services Director
	Rick Sauerwein	Capital Projects Manager
	Damaris Hanson	Engineering Technician
	Logan Budd	Engineering Intern

ESTABLISH QUORUM AND CALL TO ORDER
MOMENT OF SILENCE / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE
ANNOUNCEMENTS/PRESENTATIONS

CONSENT CALENDAR

A-1 Approval of Minutes from April 18, 2013
Recommendation: Approve minutes.

MOTION: Boardmember Shively moved to approve the April 18, 2013 minutes.

The motion was seconded by Boardmember McPherson and carried unanimously. (5-0).

A-2 Director’s Report/Information Items
Recommendation: Receive and file.

Boardmember Goldman noted the California Coastal Commission permit to operate the saltwater wells and outfall expired in 1999. She asked staff what has happened between 1999 and now. Livick stated the City has been operating as though it has had a permit.

Boardmember Shively asked staff if the existing wells are injection wells. Livick clarified the wells are supply wells for the desalination plant when it is run in its saltwater mode. Additionally, he noted the desalination plant itself is permitted locally and was issued a Coastal Development Permit in the 1990s. It does have a permanent permit.

Boardmember Shively clarified with staff that 94-95 percent of the City's water is supplied by the state, and the other 5 percent comes from either the Chorro or Morro Valleys.

Boardmember Shively asked for clarification regarding the cost of the various sources of water. Livick stated the cheapest water sources are the Chorro and Morro Valleys, followed by brackish water/RO, then state water, and finally, the desalination plant is the most expensive.

Boardmember Shively asked staff if the City has determined the new water rates in terms of a percentage rate increase. Livick stated the City has not yet determined the percentage rate increase but staff will be examining the rate structure along with increase to see if the City wants to maintain its current structure.

Boardmember McPherson asked staff if it is typical for the City to not receive as much water from the state as requested. Livick stated the state sets the allocations based on snowpack, so they will make estimates of the water available based on the snowpack. The City also has stored water in the San Luis Reservoir, so the City can withdraw from the storage if it uses its full allocation from the drought buffer. The City has about two years of storage.

Boardmember McPherson noted state water is a somewhat unreliable source of water and asked staff if the City has considered alternative water sources. Livick stated with the City's drought buffer, and with the storage available from San Luis Reservoir, the City is provided with 100 percent of its water need. He noted, however, if legislation changes, state water could become less reliable, so the City is maintaining the Chorro Creek and Morro Valley water supplies as well as the desalination plant and new water reclamation facility water supplies.

Boardmember McPherson asked staff to clarify the level of pathogens in the City's stormwater. Livick stated the City tests the level of pathogens in the bay itself, and some of the pathogens are not derived from Morro Bay, therefore the level of pathogens may be higher than the total daily maximum loading would allow.

Chairperson Makowetski noted there is a summer youth ride program that began June 1, 2013 and will run through August 31, 2013. All K-12 graders are able to ride fixed-route transit systems for free (except for trolleys and dial-a-rides). Makowetski and Livick noted the times and days of service vary depending on the location of the stops.

Chairperson Makowetski noted it has been a dangerous year for San Luis Reservoir as it is much below any predictable percentage of water. He also stated it is a dangerous year for all those served by this reservoir. Livick stated the water saved there is for contracted and non-contracted users but the contracted users receive their allotment first.

Chairperson Makowetski asked staff for an update regarding the desalination plant upgrade project. Livick stated maintenance and repair is allowed under the Coastal Act without a permit, so the City is preparing the plant so that it will be ready for use during the state water shutdown in the fall.

Boardmember McPherson clarified with staff that during the state water shutdown, no state water is available to the City. The length of time of the water shutdown varies from year to year but it generally lasts between one and three weeks.

Chairperson Makowetski opened Public Comment period.

Councilmember Smukler announced the Estero Community Garden will be holding an annual dinner in the garden on June 30, 2013 from 1-4 pm to celebrate the garden's 10th anniversary.

Councilmember Smukler announced Morro Bay and Cayucos Sanitary District staff met earlier this week to tour the wastewater treatment plant and look at the items that are in need of repair. He encouraged anyone interested in touring the plant to call Bruce Keogh at 772-6261.

Councilmember Smukler expressed appreciation to Shively and Makowetski for their recent work on reviewing two RFPs for the City.

Councilmember Smukler announced free lunches will be offered in addition to the free bus rides. The lunches will be available at the outdoor cafeteria at Del Mar Elementary School, Monday through Friday, from 11:30-12:30 pm. Participants must be younger than 18 years old.

Chairperson Makowetski closed Public Comment period.

OLD BUSINESS

B-1 Review Urban Forest Management Plan (Continued from April 18, 2013)
Recommendation: Review plan, take public comment and provide comments to staff.

Boardmember McPherson clarified for the record about \$6,000 in City funds would be saved by transferring responsibility of maintenance of city-owned trees in the public right of way to citizens.

Boardmember McPherson expressed concern about liability issues associated with transferring responsibility to the public. Livick noted this is an issue that will be carried on to an upcoming Planning Commission meeting.

Boardmember McPherson asked for clarification from staff regarding how the tree ordinance would be affected if maintenance responsibilities are transferred to the public. Livick clarified the City has an existing tree ordinance which regulates removal and planting of trees. The primary goal of the ordinance is protection of trees, and it only affects trees in the public right of way. McPherson asked Livick if the existing ordinance would be updated to reflect the transfer of responsibility. Livick stated the tree ordinance would be updated and he provided an example of how this process functions in another community. McPherson asked if there are certain trees which are allowed to be planted in the public right of way. Livick referenced the City Street Tree List and how it may be revised with the adoption of the Urban Forest Management Plan (UFMP).

Boardmember Shively asked staff if the City will ultimately have the authority to decide what is planted in the right of way if the UFMP is adopted. Livick clarified that enforcement in the City is complaint-based and if something becomes a safety concern, the City will work with the property owner to resolve the issue.

Boardmember Goldman also expressed concern about liability issues associated with transferring responsibility to the public. She also stated she thought the savings to the City would be greater than \$6,000.

Livick explained the next steps for the UFMP and how it will proceed to Planning Commission and ultimately City Council. He explained how the plan will act as operating procedures for the City, rather than regulating procedures.

Boardmember Goldman stated she does not see many trees planted in the right of way in Morro Bay and asked staff to clarify their intent with the issue at hand. Livick stated certain trees are appropriate in specific places for maintenance purposes. He re-stated the plan is less about regulation and more about the City's operating procedures.

Boardmember Goldman stated education and communication encourages people to comply as they would know "what the rules are." She suggested informing the public about any changes that are made with the adoption of this plan.

MOTION: Boardmember McPherson moved to forward the Urban Forest Management Plan to the City Council and recommend approval with the following recommended changes:

1. Eliminate the proposal to change the responsibility of tree maintenance for City-owned trees from the City to residents; and
2. Add language to include as an objective under Goal 5 "Tree Conservation" that makes explicit the need to protect existing and future trees.

The motion was seconded by Shively and carried unanimously. (5-0).

NEW BUSINESS

C-1 Review of Information Presented to Council Regarding "History and Status of Water Rights Issues in the Chorro Valley" from the May 28, 2013 City Council Meeting
Recommendation: Review report, take public comment and provide comments to staff.

Sauerwein presented the staff report.

Boardmember Shively clarified with staff that the permanent stream gauges are not in place but the City is still testing on a regular basis. Livick stated the City periodically monitors and calibrates against the County's existing gauges.

Boardmember Shively asked staff if most users of the Chorro Valley water supply are residential customers or large users. Sauerwein confirmed most users are residential customers, save for the Roandoak of God organization.

Boardmember Shively asked if the City is required to provide fire flows to the properties in the Chorro Valley. Livick stated there are fire hydrants there, as well as fire tanks on the individual properties.

Chairperson Makowetski asked staff to confirm who is responsible for the associated costs of disconnecting service outside the City limits. Sauerwein stated the City is incurring the costs which are estimated to be about \$350,000 total for all users.

Boardmember McPherson asked staff to clarify if part of this issue is that access to the City's water wells is on private property. Sauerwein stated there are existing access agreements for the wells that are in force, and he stated he does not believe access has been an issue thus far. McPherson asked if a solution is required before the next state water shut down for the people who would be disconnected from City water. Staff stated a solution is not required prior to shut down. McPherson confirmed with staff that the properties disconnected from City water would not get contaminated water. Sauerwein stated it only becomes an issue when the Ashurst wells are run by themselves without the water from the Romero well to blend.

Boardmember Shively asked if it is safe to assume there is a correlation between nitrate levels and water withdrawal of the Chorro Wells. Sauerwein stated there is no correlation.

Boardmember Goldman confirmed with staff that customers who are disconnected from City water and given their own wells will have potable water.

Chairperson Makowetski confirmed with staff that two stream gauges would be available to customers given their own wells. Livick stated one gauge would be installed above the San Bernardo Creek confluence, and one would be installed below.

Chairperson Makowetski asked staff if there are any potential issues with giving some customers their own wells in the Chorro Valley. Livick stated the reason the City is removing these customers from the City's system is because it is the lowest cost alternative for the community in order to maintain its water supply and comply with permit conditions. Council has stated this option is in the best interest of the City of Morro Bay.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Staff anticipates the following items coming to the Board in the upcoming months:

- Joint Meeting with R&P Commission to discuss improvements to Centennial Parkway (August)
- Neighborhood Traffic Management (August)
- NEW Water Reclamation Facility (October)

Livick presented the future agenda items.

Chairperson Makowetski would like to discuss traffic calming measures and surface mitigation strategies for the Greenwood Corridor, from Avalon to Sequoia, at an upcoming PWAB meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 pm to the next scheduled meeting to be held at the Veteran's Memorial Hall on Thursday, August 15, 2013, at 5:00 pm.