

UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Indian River County (IRC) Utility Advisory Committee (UAC) met at 2:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 10th, 2008, in First Floor Conference Room B1-501", County Administration Building B, 1800 27th Street, Vero Beach, Florida.

The written minutes will only consist of the motions and decisions requiring action and an audio copy of the meeting will be provided upon request.

Present were:

Chairman William Johnson, District 3 Appointee
Carlton Miller, Members-at-Large and
Andrew Allocco, District 2 Appointee
John Tschinkel, Member at Large
Dr. Stephen Faherty, District 5 Appointee
Joseph Flescher, IRC Commissioner Liaison

Absent were members:

Robert Pickett, District 4 Appointee
Mark Grossman, District 1 Appointee

Also present were IRC staff:

Erick Olson, IRC Utilities Director;
Michael Hotchkiss, Manager, Capital Projects;
Himanshu Mehta, Environmental Engineer;
Sasan Rohani, Chief of Long Range Planning;
Cindy Corrente, IRC Utilities
Julia Mitts, IRC Utilities
Maria Resto, Recording Secretary.

Other present were:

Todd Westover, T.C.R.
Ed Nelson, Countryside MHP.
Richard Lopez, ENI
Debbie Perez, WM

Call to Order

Chairman Johnson called the meeting to order at 2:08 p.m., at which time

it was determined a quorum was present. He welcomed Mr. Faherty and Mr. Pickett to the Committee.

00:01:41 **Election of the Chairman and Vice Chairman**

Mr. Miller nominated John Tschinkel to be the Chairman of the Utility Advisory Committee. Mr. Tschinkel declined this nomination expressing having a busy schedule for the next six months.

Mr. Miller nominated Andrew Allocco to be the Chairman of the Utility Advisory Committee. Mr. Allocco accepted the nomination.

Mr. Miller nominated Mr. Tschinkel to be the Vice Chairman of the Utility Advisory Committee. Mr. Tschinkel accepted the nomination.

00:04:06 **Approval of Minutes (April 5, 2007, August 2, 2007, and October 10, 2007)**

ON MOTION BY Mr. Tschinkel SECONDED BY Mr. Miller, the members voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the April 5, 2007 meeting minutes, pending further review.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Miller, SECONDED BY Mr. Johnson, the members voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the August 2, 2007 meeting minutes.

ON MOTION BY Mr. Johnson, SECONDED BY Mr. Tschinkel, the members voted unanimously (5-0) to approve the October 10, 2007 meeting minutes.

Mr. Faherty inquired about the need of approval of minutes for meetings with no quorum. Mr. Johnson explained that minutes are not required for meetings with no quorum, however, meeting notes were provided.

00:05:54 **Construction Update on Water and Wastewater Projects**

Mr. Olson provided an overview of current issues with the utility systems and future water supply. He remarked the County was going through a very unique time period in terms of the utility system. Mr. Olson stated staff started the process of looking at alternative water supplies about a year and half ago and

explained that desalination and surface water were some of the options reviewed.

He noted at the beginning of the process the option of desalination was explored but after analyzing the costs and permitting process it was decided to look into surficial water as an alternative. Mr. Olson further explained surface water, which would entail using the Western Reserve, was researched as an option, and indicated the paradigm of surface water supply suffered a very drastic change.

Mr. Olson explained that the water level for Lake Okeechobee was usually between 15 to 17 feet for this time of the year and pointed out that it was at 10.18 feet. He added the competition for surface water supply in the area was unpredictable and concluded it was not recommended to invest millions dollar for an unpredictable and unreliable source. Mr. Olson remarked staff and consultants were rethinking the process and looking at all the plausible options including desalination.

Mr. Olson briefly explained the financial and budgeting process for the Utilities Department. He stated the department is part of the Enterprise Fund System. He further explained all the projects, specifically those that are expansions, are covered with impact fees.

A discussion followed concerning impact fees.

00:56:26

Mr. Hotchkiss provided an update on Water Projects and Waste Water projects including the West Regional WWTF expansion, the Rockridge vacuum sewer project, the North County RO Plant expansion, and the CR- 510 Causeway Bridge force main replacement.

Comprehensive Plan Update

No discussion

01:10:00

Other Business

Himanshu Mehta provided a presentation, a copy of which is on file at the Commission Office. Mr. Mehta summarized the history of Solid Waste management and recycling for Indian River County. He explained how the Recycling program is funded and stated the County pays for residential recycling through property tax assessment. Mr. Mehta noted the services are provided by

Treasure Coast Refuse and Waste Management by franchised agreement and that commercial recycling is available on a fee basis.

Mr. Mehta explained the current curbside program, the recyclables at convenience centers and the landfill and future plans for recycling in the County.

A long discussion ensued about the future of recycling the county

Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 4:15 pm.