

**CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG UTILITIES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
December 20, 2012**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities Advisory Committee met Thursday, December 20, 2012, 3:30 pm at 4222 Westmont Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina.

Members Present: Ron Charbonneau, Jim Duke, Frank McMahan, Jim Merrifield, Ralph Messera, Pride Patton, Eric Sieckmann

Staff Present:	Barry Gullet	Director
	Kim Eagle	Deputy Director
	Barry Shearin	Chief Engineer
	Regina Cousar	Continuous Improvement Officer
	Steve Miller	Customer Service Manager
	David Czerr	CIP Program Manager
	Karen Whichard	Community Relations Manager

Safety Minute

Driving safely during the holidays

Minutes

A motion was made by Jim Merrifield, and seconded by Frank McMahan, to approve the November 2012 minutes.

Time Change for Future Meetings

- Jim Merrifield also serves on the Stormwater Advisory Committee, which meets at 4:30 pm on the third Thursday of each month.
- Beginning with the January 2013 CMUD Advisory Committee meeting, the Committee will change their meeting time from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month to 2:30 – 4:00 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

Action: The City Clerk's office will have to be notified of this change and change the meeting postings.

Capital Improvements Program

- Barry Shearin gave a PowerPoint presentation that focused on the process of how CMUD develops its capital plan.
- It serves a planning and budgeting purpose; and also shows what will be built, along with the schedule.
- For the first year of the plan, City Council approves the appropriation of funds.
- Council did not approve the CIP for the General Fund for FY13; CMUD's plan was not impacted by that action and was approved since CMUD is an enterprise fund.
- The General Fund CIP does not directly affect CMUD's CIP, which is developed and managed by CMUD's Engineering Division.
- There are three water pressure zones. Each zone is treated as a small system.

- The proposed FY14-18 CIP proposes \$652 million in water and sewer projects over the next five years. This is subject to change as the proposed program is further reviewed and refined.

CIP Development Process Schedule

- November begins the internal review.
- In December, staff meets with the towns in Mecklenburg County; staff has met with Matthews, Cornelius and Davidson so far.
- The towns identify needs they have and anything on their radar such as housing developments or road projects that could influence CMUD's planning or operations.
- The towns' approval is required for any water/sewer extension that goes through their town limits, unless it goes all the way through and out of their town.
- In December, the CMUD departmental review also begins.
- In January, staff solicits public input from the Advisory Committee and through public meetings.
- In February, financial planning and rate impacts of the proposed CIP are evaluated.
- In March and April, Council reviews the Citywide CIP along with the operating budget.
- In June, the City budget is adopted by Council.

Data Input Sources

- Water system master plans, wastewater master plans, and basin studies are the data input sources.
- Staff adjusts the master plans and schedules according to actual and projected growth.
- The Sewer Capacity Assurance Program ensures that CMUD's system can handle the flows from new customers.

Water System Model

- Comprehensive model that allows staff to analyze pressures and flow to identify potential problem areas throughout the County.

Wastewater System Planning

- Wastewater Master Plan is based on population projections and actual flow monitoring in the collection system.
- CMUD has extended project schedules due to slow growth.
- CMUD treats approximately 80 mgd of wastewater at the five plants combined.
- The flow trend decreased due to conservation efforts and drier weather; this is measured by the flow meter at the plant and mirrors the water consumption trend.
- This trend is common across the country, partly due to more efficient fixtures and faucets (low flow).
- In 2006-2007, CMUD struggled to keep up with explosive growth.
- There is a lot of variability in flow rates from year to year due to weather patterns.
- If flow rates exceed 80% of capacity on an annual basis, the state can impose a moratorium on new connections.
- There are no new significant regulatory compliance issues facing CMUD today on the wastewater side.

Wastewater System Model

- There are 50 meters on major sewer lines throughout the system.
- The model looks for spikes during rain to identify where stormwater may be entering the system.
- In the last 12-13 years, CMUD has started a cleaning process for large sewer lines that has helped maintain capacity to carry increased flows.

Capacity Assurance

- CMUD evaluates new service requests to determine if conveyance and treatment capacity are available.

Budgeting – CIP vs. Cash Flow

- When City Council approves the CIP, CMUD projects the timing of the revenue stream required.
- The timing of bond issuances has an impact on rates related to when new debt service payments are due.
- CMUD has increased funding for the rehab program.

CIP Categories

1. Annexation
 2. Maintain existing infrastructure
 3. Regulatory requirements
 4. Support for other public projects and Utilities operations
 5. Support growth and development
- The view of growth and development going forward is that it is assumed to stay relatively flat. Builders and tap numbers are increasing; the builders are activating dormant subdivisions and building there.
 - CMUD coordinates water/sewer projects with CIP programs of Charlotte and other jurisdictions.
 - A question was raised about having those that benefit from development paying some of the cost. CMUD currently charges a capacity fee for new connections to “buy in” to capacity that has been provided at plants and in pipes.

Future Agenda Items

- Wastewater collections system

Adjourned at 4:40 pm

Mindy Levine