

**CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG UTILITIES
ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 21, 2013**

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities Advisory Committee met Thursday, March 21, 2013, 2:30 pm at 4222 Westmont Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina.

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

Members Absent: Ron Charbonneau

Staff Present:	Barry Gullet	Director
	Barry Shearin	Chief Engineer
	David Czerr	CIP Manager
	Mickey Hicks	Utilities Business Manager
	Regina Cousar	Continuous Improvement Officer
	Steve Miller	Customer Service Division Manager
	Karen Whichard	Community Relations Manager

Safety Minute

#15 – How Hazardous Chemicals Can Cause Injury

Minutes

A motion was made by Jim Merrifield, and seconded by Frank McMahan, to approve the February 2013 minutes.

Capital Projects Update

- A five year plan is approved on an annual basis
- The plan appropriates money; it does not encumber money
- Hydrologic basins separate sewer service areas on map
- East will be a problem in the future – it flows into the Yadkin/Rocky River basin instead of the Catawba, which will cause another IBT
- A policy was put into place years ago to not put sanitary sewer in Garr Creek for watershed protection
- The previous appropriations include all money for life of project
- The current CIP lists projects that need future funding; any projects that already have money and don't need additional funds will not be listed on the CIP
- Program areas are monitored carefully year to year; CMUD has been shifting focus more toward rehab and maintenance over the past few years
- Projects are replacing and/or upsizing lines that are currently in the system rather than extending the service area
- Currently building projects that don't have any additional revenue tied to them
 - 50 water projects = \$220M
 - 52 sewer projects = \$236M

- Wastewater treatment plant capacity study was done in 2006-2007; over \$3M in capital was spread over three or four large projects. Long Creek Treatment Plant expansion and Sugar Creek expansion were in CIP and received money, so they are no longer showing in CIP
- All projects are tagged with a CIP category: annexation, maintain existing infrastructure, provide service to existing residence, regulatory requirements, support for other public projects and for CMUD operations, support growth and development
- 2014-15 annexation, money shown in 2016 – The City’s Planning Department determines annexation areas
 - Charlotte annexes areas that qualify according to the policy
- Recently North Carolina annexation law changed, which caused the City of Charlotte to not move forward with annexation. The law makes significant changes to providing water and sewer and will become a significant policy issue if regulations are not changed
- 2008 v. 2014
 - Maintain existing infrastructure – \$125M v. \$173M
 - Support growth – \$500M v. \$164M
- Engineering reorganization moved more personnel to rehab section which focuses on rehab or refurbishment of water & sewer lines, water treatment plants and wastewater treatment plants
- CMUD currently has seven engineering consultants to provide on-call services
- There are currently 57 projects at eight treatment plants
- Expansions at plants would generally replace old equipment (upsizing). Now that expansion is not needed as often, the equipment needs to be replaced due to age/condition.
- CMUD has seen an increase in developer-led projects and the Capacity Assurance Program; increases in the number of donated projects contracts and capacity/connection fees indicates that growth is approaching
- The Sugar Creek project is ready for bid at any time
- \$23.5M is spent annually on water/sewer line rehabilitation & refurbishment
- 47,000 linear feet of water lines were cleaned, lined or replaced last fiscal year; 43,000 linear feet were cleaned and inspected with CCTV
- CMUD Master Plan was produced in 2008
- Northeast Water Transmission Main (WTM), 882-978 Zone Transfer WTM (increase pressure to get up to 978 pressure zone), and 978 North-South WTM are all projects that came out of the Master Plan
- The water transmission mains will transfer water up to area(s) without needed expansion to Dukes Water Treatment Plant. Dukes WTP is operating at capacity currently. After the Dukes expansion, the water transmission mains will provide redundancy in the system.
- I-485 is currently under construction and will be seeing new development
- Mallard Creek services area – have been seeing increase in flow at Mallard Creek WWTP even with economic downturn. Mallard discharges to the Yadkin, so it is an IBT.
- Garrison Rd WTM and Dixie River Rd WTM will allow growth for development
- Most opportune time for CMUD to build is when road is being built
 - CMUD partners with design agency and tries to use their consultant to design the water/sewer line
- Briar Creek Relief Sewer was broken down into three phases – Phase 1 is complete, Phase 2 is in construction, and Phase 3 is in design
- McAlpine Creek Relief Sewer contains four phases – Phases 1-2 are complete and Phase 3 in under construction

- Ramah Creek Trunk Sewer serves Huntersville – CMUD took project on a couple of years ago and it is currently in design phase
- In the southwest part of the county – Steele Creek pump station will be replaced and parallel outfall will be constructed - Force main will deliver flow to McAlpine WWRF (design is complete; should go to bid later this year)
- 36” water main being placed under the Catawba River currently (1,000 ft long; 20 feet under river)
- Manmade lakes fall under jurisdiction of FERC (Federal Energy Relicensing Commission); doesn’t appear to be a major obstacle
- Paw Creek pump station – replace force main to increase size, then changes to gravity sewer and increasing size to allow for more capacity which will decrease the need to divert flow from Irwin to McAlpine
- Goose Creek pump station and trunk (gravity) sewer – IBT should be moving forward for Goose Creek; Environmental Management Commission voting in May
- Dixie-Berryhill sewer projects – Beaver Dam & Little Paw Creek: CMUD will wait and see what happens with the City of Charlotte CIP. These projects may slide off radar for a while if CIP is not approved.
- Long Creek plant – permitting is being worked on currently; the flow equalization basin is currently tied up with the Reventure land acquisition.

Budget Presentation Update

- Presentation made to City Council yesterday by Barry Gullet was well received
- Recommendation for FY14 rate increase is in the range of \$1.90 – \$2.20/month
- Currently working on how to communicate better with Council and customers regarding the need for annual rate increases in the future
- Average winter consumption billing – CMUD is recommending no change; Barry Gullet met with and discussed topic with several Councilmembers prior to budget presentation
- CMUD budget will be rolled into the City Manager’s overall budget presentation
- Mayor Foxx asked the City Manager to push out budget schedule due to uncertainties
- The next Budget Workshop is scheduled for April 10th
- The City Manager will recommend a budget; then there will be a drop/add session where Council can make suggestions for changes to the budget. If suggested changes are passed during the straw vote process, items go back to staff to make revisions to the budget.
- New budget goes into effect July 1, 2013

Personnel

- Kim Eagle is project manager for evaluation of the Charlotte Airport
- Mickey Hicks will be retiring July 1, 2013. The position will be advertised in several areas.

Future Agenda Items

- Water Treatment

Adjourned at 3:58 pm
Karen Baldwin