



**Water Commission
Minutes
7:00 p.m. – Monday, November 1, 2010
Council Chambers
809 Center Street Santa Cruz**

Minutes of the November 4, 2010 Water Commission Meeting

Call to Order Vice-Chair R. Mazurek called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Roll Call

Present: B. Fouse, L. Kasa R. Mazurek (Vice-Chair), M. McClellan and D. Meyers.

Absent: G. Mead, absent with notice.

Staff: B. Kocher, Water Director and D. Paul, Administrative Assistant

Presentation There were no presentations.

Statements of Disqualification There were no statements of disqualification.

Oral Communications There were no oral communications.

Announcements There were no announcements.

Approval of Minutes

Commissioner B. Fouse moved approval of the October 4, 2010 minutes as submitted.

Commissioner M. McClellan seconded.

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED

AYES: B. Fouse, R. Mazurek (Vice-chair), M. McClellan and D. Meyers.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: G. Mead.

ABSTAIN: L. Kasa.

Consent Agenda

Commissioner D. Meyers moved approval of the Consent Agenda as submitted. Commissioner

L. Kasa seconded.

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED

AYES: B. Fouse, L. Kasa, R. Mazurek (Vice-chair), M. McClellan and D. Meyers.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: G. Mead

Items Removed from the Consent Agenda No items were removed.

General Business

1. Election of Officers

Vice-Chair R. Mazurek opened the floor to nomination for Chair.

Commissioner L. Kasa nominated Commissioner M. McClellan.

Commissioner L. Kasa moved to close the nominations. Commissioner D. Meyers seconded.

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED

AYES: B. Fouse, L. Kasa, R. Mazurek (Vice-chair), M. McClellan and D. Meyers.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: G. Mead

By acclamation Commissioner M. McClellan was elected Chair and took over duties as Chair.

2. Draft Climate Action Plan

Commissioner Mazurek reported that he had requested that this item be included on this agenda. At the October meeting Climate Action Plan Coordinator Clark presented the draft plan and asked that the Water Commission consider taking action to endorse the plan. Several Commissioners voiced concerns about certain aspects of the plan and discussed how the Commission should proceed.

The Water Commission made the following general comment:

- In its role of environmental stewards, it is strongly in favor of reducing use of natural resources to achieve the goal of greater sustainability in the face of climate change.

The Water Commission made the following specific comments:

- The Plan speaks in very general terms and lacks enough specificity to inform the reader of whether or not the plan actually meets the stated objectives.
- The Plan lacks enough specificity and understandable implementation strategies.
- The gross estimates of potential savings, specifically in the area of water conservation do not appear to take into account water conservation that has already been achieved by the community.
- With the City in furlough and difficult economic times, it isn't at all clear the goals can be accomplished.
- There is not an estimate of how much implementing these goals might cost and that is important missing information.
- The numbers being reported seem to cloud the fact the City is much more environmentally conscious than much of the State.
- Some of the action goals, e.g. increasing bus ridership; achieving another 10% in water conservation, seem to ignore the need for a detailed implementation plan if they are to be meaningful.

- More comprehensive resource management plans would be far more helpful than numerical targets without implementation strategies.
- For an advisory body to endorse the plan, they need to know how much it will cost in the context of all other capital work that must be done.
- Because the Water Commission is very familiar with the Water Conservation programs the City is offering, there appears to have not been enough input from Water staff in the crafting of the water portions of this plan.
- For the above-stated reasons, the Water Commission requests that staff write a letter to Council outlining the comments and reporting that it finds it difficult to give its unqualified endorsement of this Climate Action Plan.

Commissioner B. Fouse moved that staff write a letter for the Chair to approve and sign to City Council outlining the comments made this evening. Commissioner L, Kasa seconded.

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED

AYES: B. Fouse, L. Kasa, R. Mazurek, M. McClellan (Chair) and D. Meyers.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: G. Mead

3. Consideration of Implementation of Deferred Rate Increase

Director Kocher provided the staff report and responded to questions from the Commission.

Commissioner D. Meyers moved to recommend to City Council that the 5% rate increase originally scheduled to be effective on January 1, 2009 be implemented on January 1, 2011. Commissioner R. Mazurek seconded.

VOICE VOTE MOTION CARRIED

AYES: B. Fouse, L. Kasa, R. Mazurek, M. McClellan (Chair) and D. Meyers.

NOES: None.

ABSENT: G. Mead

Subcommittee/Advisory Body Oral Report

1. City of Santa Cruz/Soquel Creek Water District Joint Desalination Task Force

Commissioner D. Meyer was appointed as new representative and requested that an alternate also be appointed at a future meeting.

Director's Oral Report

1. Monthly Status of Water Supply

Director Kocher provided information on river flows and reported that consumption is very low.

2. Desalination Program

Director Kocher reported that the Intake Feasibility Study is finished and the results were presented to the scwd² Desalination Task Force at its October meeting. A Public Meeting to discuss marine impacts and the environmental review process is scheduled for November 10,

2010 at the Loudon Nelson Community Center. The reports on the grants for the Pilot Study and the Intake Study are in final draft.

Items Initiated by Members for Future Agendas No items were initiated.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m. until the next meeting of the Water Commission scheduled for December 6, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

Submitted,

Donna Paul
Staff