



**CITY OF RIVER FALLS WISCONSIN
UTILITY ADVISORY BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
JULY 19, 2021**

The meeting was called to order by Utility Advisory Board Chair Patrick Richter at 7 p.m.

Utility Advisory Board Present: Matt Berning, Scott Morrissette, Patrick Richter, Mark Spafford, Tim Thum, Kellen Wells-Mangold and Mark Wespetal

Staff Present: Utility Director Kevin Westhuis; Electric Superintendent Wayne Siverling; Accounting Manager Tracy Biederman; WPPI Energy Service Representative Mike Hodges; Assistant to the City Administrator Brandt Johnson; Utility Administrative Assistant Lanae Nelson; and IT Tech Assistant Jaden Barnes

Approval of Minutes:

Meeting Minutes: 06-21-2021

MSC Berning/Morrissette approve minutes. Unanimous.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chair Richter opened the floor for comments.

Patricia LaRue, 489 Marcella Court spoke on the history of the license and relicensing process of the hydroelectric dam project.

Benjamin Fochs, 2529 Powell Avenue spoke on the future use of the old Power Plant building.

CONSENT AGENDA:

Acknowledgment of the following minutes:

West Central Wisconsin Biosolids Facility Commission: 05-20-2021

MSC Wells-Mangold/Thum approve minutes. Unanimous.

REPORTS:

Finance Quarterly Report

Utility Director Kevin Westhuis introduced Accounting Manager Tracy Biederman who presented the Finance Quarterly Report that was included in the packet. Biederman reviewed the mid-year revenues in the electric, water, sewer, and stormwater funds. She gave a presentation on the utilities overall financial summary, the utility enterprise funds revenue and expense overview, accounts receivable, cash & investments, accounts outstanding more than 31 days and the effects of the weather with the utilities. There was further discussion on the efforts of the Customer Service team working with delinquent utility customers accounts and payment arrangements.

Utility Dashboards

The 2021 June utility dashboards were included in the packet. Westhuis reviewed the Electric AMI has completed 50% installations. 18 months is the projection for completing the Electric AMI installations. WPPI Energy has an outage map program that RFMU is looking to incorporate on the City's website when it is available.

Monthly Report

The 2021 June monthly utility reports were in the packet. Westhuis and Spafford reviewed the electronic

bill payment coding process and the manual work that the customer service department assisted customers in correcting an electronic coding error. Thum, Morrissette and Westhuis spoke on the current drought and hydrant flushing being postponed until late fall. Westhuis said Conservation and Efficiency Coordinator and City Forester Mike Noreen has spoken to customers on watering young boulevard trees in the right-of-way. Westhuis reviewed the green energy block program going from \$3 to \$2, the Customer Service team signing up customers and currently RFMU has a 13% customer participation.

Hydroelectric Relicensing Update Report

Kleinschmidt Associates Senior Licensing Coordinator Lesley Brotkowski presented the Hydroelectric Relicensing Update Report that was included in the packet. Brotkowski and Westhuis reviewed updates on Powell Falls and Junction Falls, gave a brief overview on the Powell Falls 2020 flood and changes with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) process. They reviewed the March 2021 Resolution No. 6558 of keeping the Powell Falls impoundment drawn down in the current state, fixing the sluice gate and removal of the turbine. They discussed the FERC amendment application process, hydraulic capacity improvements and stability improvements.

They reviewed the schedule of Power Falls lakebed seeding, drafted amendment application that was distributed on May 5, 2021, and the final FERC amendment application on July 9, 2021. They discussed the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (WDNR) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) permit applications that will be submitted for an access road construction and sediment management after the FERC amendment is approved.

Westhuis showed a comparison of Lake Louise in two pictures from July 4, 2020, and July 3, 2021. The 2020 picture was prior to the drawdown. The 2021 picture was after the drawdown and showed vegetation in the area and the river taking shape. There was further discussion from the board on the sediment, weather, and vegetation in the area. Spafford spoke on his concern for bounce and asked if it would need to wait for the amendment to be signed before starting. Westhuis reviewed FERC would be able to give the go ahead before it is signed. Wespetal and Westhuis talked about dam removal.

Brotkowski reviewed Junction Falls final file license application is due in August 2021. The license application draft was disturbed April 2, 2021. Currently the draft license application comments are in the reviewing and addressing stage. The final license application is to be filed on or before August 31, 2021.

Brotkowski, Westhuis and the board discussed possible concerns for potential debris blockage of the trash gate, whose responsibility it is to move it and the process of the drawdown.

Wells-Mangold and Westhuis discussed dam removal cost and the COVID-19 pandemic. Westhuis reviewed that Assistant to the City Administrator Brandt Johnson and himself did estimate a cost increase on the project. The whole project is between 2.9 million to 3.3 million. Wells-Mangold expressed concerns of limited fundraising and contributions from stakeholders.

Westhuis mentioned that Brotkowski is now working for Kleinschmidt Associates, the City's contract is still with TRC Solutions and that she is a subcontractor to TRC Solutions.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

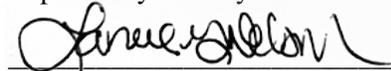
Morrissette spoke on the four districts upcoming Mayor Toland's Cookout Conversations. The first one is July 22 from 6-7:30 p.m. at the Highview Meadows Park.

ADJOURNMENT:

MSC Wells-Mangold/Thum to adjourn. Unanimous.

UAB Chair Richter announced meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

Reported by: Utility Administrative Assistant Lanae Nelson



Lanae Nelson, Utility Administrative Assistant