

**CHARLOTTE-MECKLENBURG UTILITIES**  
**ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
September 19, 2013

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Utilities Advisory Committee met Thursday, September 19, 2013, 2:30 pm at 4222 Westmont Drive, Charlotte, North Carolina.

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

Staff Present:	Barry Gullet	Director
	Barry Shearin	Chief Engineer
	Chad Howell	Business Manager
	Regina Cousar	Continuous Improvement Officer
	Karen Whichard	External Communications Manager
	Vic Simpson	Internal Communications Manager
	Steve Miller	Customer Service Manager

### **Safety Minute**

Prevention of back injury

### **Minutes**

A motion was made by Ralph Messera, and seconded by Eric Sieckmann, to approve the August 2013 minutes. Motion was approved.

### **Advisory City Council Presentation**

- The CMUD Advisory Committee will present their Annual Report, being represented by Jim Duke, during the City Council Dinner Briefing on Monday, September 23 at 5:00 pm located at CMGC, Room 267.
- The Advisory Committee's role includes reviewing and making recommendations on CMUD's rate structure, Capital Improvement Plan (CIP), Water/Sewer Extension Policy, and reporting to City Council on achievements on an annual basis.
- The Advisory Committee's new meeting format allows the members to learn more about CMUD's operational areas and monitor business functions; the purpose of the committee is to provide a sounding board for the Director, not run the Utility.
- FY2013 activities included aspects of financial management, system improvements, continuous improvement, and customer service.
  - CMUD Laboratory Earned National Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program Certification
  - ISO Certification for Sugar Creek Wastewater Treatment Plant; altogether, CMUD has three wastewater treatment plants and the biosolids program ISO certified.
  - Partnership for Safe Water Phase III Certification for the Franklin Water Treatment Plant

- Additional awards and recognition include the AMWA Platinum Award for Utility Excellence and NACWA Gold Award for Excellence in Management.
- Looking ahead to 2014, the Advisory Committee will continue to assume a stronger advisor role in topics such as operating budgets and rate setting philosophy, CIP, biosolids management, Water Meter Upgrade Program, basin-wide Water Supply Master Plan, non-revenue water, and wastewater effluent re-use.

### **Union County**

- CMUD has worked on this since the last Advisory Committee meeting and believe it is worth pursuing.
- CMUD and Union County developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU); Union County Board of Commissioners approved the MOU; it will go before Charlotte City Council on Monday, September 23<sup>rd</sup> for approval.
- Until an interlocal agreement is reached, CMUD would assist Union County by providing oversight and management assistance for the operation of their wastewater facilities.
- Both Charlotte and Union County receive and return water to the Catawba River. This partnership could help facilitate the long term management of natural resources.
- Charlotte and Union County also both have interbasin transfers and a strong working relationship could potentially help both organizations manage water supply. Union County currently has an agreement with Lake Tillery.
- CMUD staff visited Union County's wastewater plants to do an initial review of the physical operations.
- Union County is credited with recognizing needs and wanting to do the best thing for their customers.
- Union is looking to CMUD for an operations plan. Costs haven't been discussed at this point, but it is important that the associated costs not be paid for by CMUD rate payers. CMUD's intent is to set up a separate cost center and properly allocate the right amount of overhead to Union County for this project.
- Union County employees associated with the project, approximately 15 total, will likely become City of Charlotte employees once the final interlocal agreement is approved.
- CMUD and Union County already have an agreement in place for CMUD to treat three mgd (million gallons/day) of wastewater from Union County and for CMUD to provide drinking water to some neighborhoods in Union County.

### **Financial Update**

- This is a work in progress. CMUD will have a better assessment of financials next month with three months worth of data to examine.

Adjourned at 4:15 pm

Karen L. Baldwin