# UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING
**July 30, 2012**

***Utilities Service Board meetings are recorded electronically or stenographically and are available during regular business hours in the office of the Director of Utilities.***

Board Vice President Roberts called the regular meeting of the Utilities Service Board to order at 5:00 p.m. The meeting was held in the Utilities Service Board room at the City of Bloomington Utilities Department Administrative Building in Bloomington, Indiana.

Board members present: Julie Roberts, Pedro Roman, Jeff Ehman, Sam Frank, Jason Banach, John Whikehart, and ex-officio member Tim Mayer. Staff members present: Patrick Murphy, John Langley, Mike Bengtson, Michael Horstman, Tom Axsom, Jon Callahan, Mike Hicks, Jane Fleig, and Phil Peden. Others present: Jen Growcock and Keith Bryant representing United Consulting, and Sue Mayer.

**MINUTES**

***Board member Roman moved and Board member Frank seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the July 16th meeting. Motion carried, 5 ayes, 2 members absent, (Banach).***

**CLAIMS**

***Board member Ehman moved and Board member Roman seconded the motion to approve the claims as follows:***

***Vendor invoices submitted to the controller's Office on July 25th included $348,077.28 from the Water Utility; $283,944.99 from the Wastewater Utility; and $133,903.12 from the Wastewater/Storm water Utility. Total Claims approved, $765,925.39.***

***Motion carried, 6 ayes, 1 member absent, (Swafford).***

**APPROVAL OF THE CONTRACT WITH UNITED CONSULTING FOR THE DILLMAN RD. EQUALIZATION BASIN REHABILITATION PROJECT:**

Utilities Assistant Director of Engineering Bengtson reminded the USB that he had recently shown them some pictures of rips in the Dillman Rd. equalization basin membrane. For some time staff has been wanting to move ahead with replacement of the membrane, but the money wasn't available for it until the bond that accompanied the rate increase was in place. Now, with the bond in place, they are ready to move ahead with this repair. The reinforcement threads in the current membrane are showing and it is getting to where it will not be possible to repair it anymore. It requires a thermal repair that has been successful so far, but at this time there is concern that further repairs might damage the sub layers of geo fabric that hopefully can be salvaged. United will also be exploring the cost of a concrete liner which would be more substantial. If the cost comparison seems reasonable it might be possible to have local help install it.

Mr. Bengtson said United Consulting has an extensive list of wastewater related projects they have completed, including many with membranes. He is confidant that United is well equipped to move ahead with this project. The total for the design through the bid stage is $94,775.

Board member Banach asked if the contract had been reviewed by the Legal Department. Mr. Bengtson said it had been. Mr. Banach asked if the contract had been bid out. Mr. Bengtson said it

had not been bid out; they were more interested in experience than the dollar amount. Mr. Banach asked how many different companies had been talked to. Mr. Bengtson said Strand had done the previous project.

Board member Ehman asked what the estimated value of the repairs is. Mr. Bryant replied when he was not at a microphone so he couldn't be heard. Mr. Bengtson said they are trusting that the sub-grade is O.K. There have been some leaks through the dam, but he believes the sub-grade is alright. Mr. Ehman asked if Mr. Bengtson believed the design and bid phase are a reasonable proportion of the total for the project.

Utilities Director Murphy said the City wide policy is that three quotes are required for any contracts that are $150,000 or over. For anything under that experience is considered to be an important factor. Given United's background, and their experience with other wastewater projects, Utilities' staff believed they would be a good firm.

Board member Roman asked if this is a professional service contract for $90,000. Mr. Bengtson said it is a professional service contract, for $94,775. Mr. Roman asked if the contract was discussed with any other company. Mr. Bengtson said Strand Consultants had done the repairs to the current membrane, but he hadn't had any conversations with anyone other than them. He had talked with Mr. Bryant at some of the AWWA meetings and discovered they had experience with this type of project.

Mr. Bryant said he had come down and inspected the site, and felt he had a good knowledge of what was there and what was needed.

Board member Roberts asked how often repairs or replacement of the plastic would be needed. Assistant Director of Engineering Bengtson said at the time it was put in the membrane was the best thing on the market. There are much better products on the market now. The current membrane has suffered from UV damage. Mr. Bryant said the product had a 20 year life expectancy, but he hadn't known any of them to last for 20 years. They are now using a high density polyethylene and polypropylene product that has a 30 year design life and seems to hold up much better.

Ms. Roberts asked if they would also be given a price for a concrete liner. Mr. Bryant said they would price the best synthetic liner and a concrete liner, and would bid both so the USB will be able to see which will be the best alternative. The concrete might be more, but might last 50 years instead of 30 years. Ms. Roberts asked if that work might be done by a local firm. Mr. Bengtson said that type of work is not as specialized as the membrane. Mr. Bryant said there are a lot of hungry contractors out there right now. They have been seeing really good numbers on concrete work. Ms. Roberts asked if United is an Indiana based company. Mr. Bryant said their main office is in Indianapolis, and they have been in business since 1965.

***Board member Ehman moved and board member Roman seconded the motion to approve the contract with United Consulting for the Dillman Rd. Equalization Basin Rehabilitation Project. Motion carried, 6 ayes, 1 member absent (Swafford).***

**OLD BUSINESS:**

No old business was presented.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

No new business was presented.

## SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:

There were no subcommittee meetings.

## STAFF REPORTS:

Utilities Director Murphy said the launching of the new billing system had been somewhat bumpy, but things are moving along, glitches are being ironed out, and progress is being made. The Customer Service staff has been putting in overtime. A new feature, the credit/debit card payment, has just been launched. One thing the USB might hear about is that before the change one bill might be sent for seven different accounts all owned by the same person. Now they are getting seven bills for seven accounts. This is not what was intended, and is now being worked out.

Mr. Murphy said he also wanted to update the USB on some of what the staff has been working on for the past week. They have been trying to project for demand, due to the drought, as the students come back to town. The demand numbers for water are beyond anything seen before. An internal working group has been formed to assess what the next 60 days of demand might be like, and how to respond to those demands. The voluntary conservation efforts have shown some benefits, but there is clear concern about some of the numbers that may be seen. There are any number of things that could cause the water pressure to drop above and beyond the demand generated by customers.

The internal working group is exploring options with respect to conservation, whether it is voluntary or mandatory, some analysis with regard to communication with customers, and are talking to various large customers in the system about their water needs during this time.

Mr. Murphy said he could not over emphasize how important the next 30 to 60 days will be in terms of the critical needs of the community, and Utilities being able to meet those demands.

Utilities Director Murphy moved on to tell the USB the Walnut St. project is moving along, the dry weather has allowed for quick progress.

Crews are moving down Harrell Rd. Moffitt Ln. will be closed for a time. Mr. Murphy apologized to customers for their inconvenience. Progress is being made on the MWTP expansion, and the new water tower. Utilities involvement in College Ave. is being finished up.

Board member Roberts asked about contingency plans for the water treatment plant. She asked if dealing with the algae is a matter of cleaning the filters. Mr. Murphy said it's a matter of how long the run times are. They have been long because of the water quality. But as the demand goes up the run times become shorter. A year from now that problem will be addressed because two new filters are being added.

Ms. Roberts asked if the plans worked out by the staff will be communicated to the USB. Mr. Murphy said they will. There is a City ordinance that is not well known, that allows the Utility Director in partnership with the Mayor to post and advertize water use restrictions. Mr. Murphy said he hopes it won't be necessary to move down that road. He said as Director of Utilities he will not allow a position where the ability to deliver water is jeopardized. The conservation mentality needs to grow.

The working group is made up of outstanding people. Rachel Atz has been the team leader, working with Mike Hicks, Mike Bengtson, Jon Callahan, John Langley, Tamera Roberts, and Tom Axsom.

Board member Ehman said the students will be coming back; the first day of classes is the 20th. He asked for the USB to be briefed on the plans at the next USB meeting, because the contingency plan should be in place by the following meeting. Mr. Murphy said if action needs to be taken before the board meeting he would inform the USB members by either phone or email.

Board member Roman asked if restrictions can be enforced in the City of Ellettsville or out in the County. Only a quarter and a third of the water consumed is by the customers in Bloomington, most is used by wholesale customers and industrial plants. It would be difficult to ask Bloomington customers to conserve when just a little ways away people are washing their cars or IU is watering their golf course. He said his point is there are priority uses, such as residential uses, the hospital, Ivy Tech, IU, the City and County offices. He suggested talking to City legal about passing the restrictions on to the people who are using most of the water, which are not the residents of Bloomington. A City ordinance would not have any authority outside of the City.

Utilities Director Murphy said there have already been two meetings with wholesale customers to talk about the need for voluntary conservation to reduce demand. A mechanism has been set up where if an emergency occurs due to the loss of power, which means only 6 gallons of water can be pulled up the hill, whereas it has been more like 24 gallons, the wholesale customers will be informed.

Mr. Murphy said the State has asked for a voluntary 10% to 20% reduction in use. For most of the State that is being driven by supply. Monroe County has a robust source of water. A greater ability to treat water is what is needed, and that will happen with the completion of the plant expansion.

Mr. Murphy said this could be a very fluid type of event, depending on what is seen with demand. Serious voluntary conservation is needed, but it is not clear that will be enough. He said he appreciates the USB's questions and support on this.

Board member Roberts asked if there is a back up in case power is lost. Mr. Murphy said there is a back up, but it can only pull about 12 mgd at the most. Ms. Roberts said that would just drop the water pressure so the tanks won't be ready for fire protection. Mr. Murphy said one of the reasons people have been asked to limit their irrigation to early mornings is because the run up in the evening is needed to fill the tanks. On July 9th power was lost at MWTP and only 6 mgd were being pulled up the hill. Fortunately it was possible to get Duke Energy to take care of the problem quickly. If that had happened the previous, very hot, Friday or Saturday it would have been very bad. A main break or fire could also cause major problems. As Mr. Roman said, fire protection and residential use are the two things that are specifically exempted. Not irrigation.

Mr. Murphy said he just wants the USB to be informed, and there may be a need to act in a decisive manner.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

There were no petitions or communications.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:34 p.m.

**Julie Thomas, Vice President**