

# UTILITIES SERVICE BOARD MEETING

April 4, 2016

***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 President Frank 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 Administrative Building in Bloomington, Indiana.

Board members present: Sam Frank, Jim Sherman, Jason Banach, Jim Sims, Jeff Ehman, Julie Roberts, Amanda Burnham, Tim Mayer, ex-officio. Staff members present: Kim Alexander, Tom Axsom, Mike Bengtson, Efrat Feferman, Chris Wheeler, Missy Waldon, Rebekah Fiedler, Phil Peden, Rachel Atz, John Langley, Jon Callahan.

Other: Kim Novick

## AGENDA

***Board Member Ehman moved and Board Member Sims seconded the motion to amend the agenda. Motion carried, 7 ayes.***

The agenda was amended to include a presentation by Kim Novick of Indiana University on a possible partnership for an IU water resources grand challenge.

## MINUTES

***Board Member Ehman moved and Board Member Sims seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the March 21st meeting. Motion carried, 7 ayes.***

## CLAIMS

***Board Member Ehman moved and Board Member Roberts seconded the motion to approve the claims as follows:***

***Vendor invoices submitted to the Controller's Office on March 30 included \$76,640.60 from the Water Utility; \$59,950.49 from the Wastewater Utility; and \$3,377.45 from the Stormwater Utility. Total Claims approved, \$139,968.54.***

***Motion carried, 7 ayes.***

***Board Member Ehman moved and Board Member Sherman seconded the motion to approve the utility claims as follows:***

***Utility invoices submitted to the Controller's Office on March 23 included \$6,008.72 from the Water Utility; \$16,030.64 from the Wastewater Utility; and \$0.00 from the Stormwater Utility. Total Claims approved, \$22,039.36.***

***Motion carried, 7 ayes.***

***Wire transfers and fees for the month of March:***

***Board Member Ehman moved and Board Member Sherman seconded the motion to approve the wire transfers and fees for the month of March in the amount of \$316,207.71.***

***Motion carried, 7 ayes.***

**OLD BUSINESS:**

N/A

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Partnership for IU Water Resources Grand Challenge

Kim Novick from IU presented this item. She introduced herself as a forest ecologist with the School of Public and Environmental Affairs. Ms. Novick presented the general outline of a grant being given out by the IU President's Office in the range of \$30 - \$50 million. There are five potential grant projects and the president anticipates funding one or two. She and her colleagues' proposal is focused on water resources, and, in particular the sustainability of water resources in Indiana. They are hoping to develop analytical tools that can be applied anywhere. If they are successful, the grant will enable the research group to "transform society's relationship with water."

If the plan is funded, the group plans to set up an extensive White River monitoring network where they will select many sites and measure as many features of the hydrologic cycles and water distribution collection system as possible.

They will hire up to 20-30 new faculty with expertise in water resources – physical science, policy, or psychology. Post doctorate graduate students will also be hired to help them achieve their goals.

At this point, Ms. Novick was asking the Board for their support and possible engagement with the project. She was aware that the specifics of the project are vague at this point, but pointed out that is important to develop collaborative relationships whether governmental or private that share the same goals or that might be in a position to benefit from the research.

Board Member Roberts asked Ms. Novick to confirm the dollar range and where the money comes from. Ms. Novick repeated that the dollar range of the proposal is \$30-\$50 million. The money comes from the IU system, but she did not know exact details. They are not external funds.

Board Member Sherman asked if the group was approaching groups from Indianapolis since the White River will be a focus of the project. Ms. Novick replied that they are reaching out to the city of Indianapolis specifically utilities management (Citizens). Mr. Sherman also asked Ms. Novick if she anticipated obtaining data from what is done in Bloomington and what kind of data. She indicated that the level of detail in the proposal is not what one would expect to see.

Board Member Sherman commented that he believes one of the helpful outcomes of this project would be an in-depth study of Lake Monroe.

The board indicated by consensus that they are interested in collaborating at this point. Ms. Novick stated that the proposal is due April 25<sup>th</sup>. Board Member Banach stated that he would like some time to confer with legal regarding possible conflict of interest before signing a letter of intent to partner.

Board Member Ehman suggested that the Board could have a draft letter from legal by the next meeting which is April 18. Ms. Novick indicated that that date would be acceptable even though the initial communications noted April 14 as the deadline for a signed letter of collaboration or participation in the research. Chris Wheeler was satisfied with tabling any potential motion by the board until April 18 so that legal could review. He wanted to take the time to look into a potential conflict of interest since so many board members are affiliated with Indiana University. President Frank asked Director Langley to work with Mr. Wheeler on drafting a letter for the next meeting. Ms. Novick requested that she be given a draft of the letter before the next meeting.

**SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS:**

N/A

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Interim Director John Langley reported on a couple of items. The first one involved the DBP monitoring. He reported that he had received additional data that he plans to comment on later in the week. He stated that immediate flushing has been done at a point northeast of the city to improve the water quality as soon as possible, and CBU is working with the institution that has been affected. Thursday (of this week) the staff will be doing more regionalized flushing.

The second item he reported on involved moving the chlorination point. He received verbal notification that IDEM has approved CBU's proposal to move the point of initial chlorination at the Monroe Plant; IDEM did tweak the requirements slightly. The work has begun and is going well.

President Frank commented that this was good news. Board Member Frank asked about the timetable for the project being completed as well as seeing changes in the DBP levels. Mr. Langley echoed Black & Veatch's statement that we need to give it time to work and for us to understand what changes in the system mean from a scientific perspective. Mr. Langley indicated that it will be somewhere between weeks and months. Board Member Sims asked if the concern was with treatment or infrastructure. Mr. Langley indicated that at this point, it is primarily about treatment. Board Member Roberts requested that she would like to see both water quality opinions side-by-side for comparison purposes. Mr. Langley reviewed the documents that he has forwarded to the board.

President Frank reported on his trip to the Dillman Treatment Plant. Board Member Mayer noted an article he had read in the New York Times about the water treatment plant there. Board Member Roberts mentioned the Special Meeting that was held March 30. During that meeting Assistant Director of Finance brought the group up to speed on the financial statements, as well as having had a discussion about subcommittees.

**PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

N/A

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

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Samuel K. Frank, President