

WATER AND LIGHT COMMISSION MINUTES

REGULAR MEETING

FEBRUARY 16, 2010

The regular meeting of the Water and Light Commission was called to order in the Worthington Public Utilities Conference Room at 3:00 P.M., CST, by President Robert J. Demuth with the following members present: Randy Thompson, James Elsing, Ron Wood and Gary Hoffmann.

Staff members present were Scott Hain, General Manager; Patrick Demuth, Electric Superintendent; Deb Scheidt, Secretary to the Commission

Others present: None

AGENDA ADDITIONS/CLOSURE

A motion was made by Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Thompson and unanimously carried to close the agenda as presented.

WATER AND LIGHT COMMISSION MINUTES

A motion was made by Commissioner Elsing, seconded by Commissioner Hoffmann and unanimously carried to approve the Water and Light Commission minutes of the regular meeting held February 1, 2010.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND STAFF REPORTS

A motion was made by Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Hoffmann and unanimously carried to accept the Financial Statements and the Staff Reports for January 2010.

MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY (MPCA) COMPLIANCE EVALUATION INSPECTION

Scott Hain, General Manager, reviewed the results of the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) Compliance Evaluation Inspection conducted on February 3, 2010, at the Wastewater Treatment Facility. Copies of the letter from the MPCA to Mayor Oberloh dated February 8, 2010, and the Compliance Evaluation Inspection Report were provided to Commission members. The report states that no violations of the terms and conditions set forth in the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)/State Disposal System (SDS) permit were noted.

A motion was made by Commissioner Wood, seconded by Commissioner Thompson and unanimously carried to receive the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency Compliance Evaluation Inspection report.

TRANSMISSION PROJECT DISCUSSION

Scott Hain, General Manager, reported that cost estimates relating to various overhead/underground options for the planned transmission project have been received from DeWild Grant Reckert & Associates (DGR). The cost estimate for the overhead transmission option is \$1.9 million. The cost estimate to include 1,900 feet of underground transmission is \$2,950,000 while the cost to place the entire transmission system underground is estimated at \$6.5 million.

Mr. Hain reported that utility staff continues to have discussions with the City Engineer regarding the concerns that have developed relating to the local airport zoning ordinance and safety zone restrictions. DGR has submitted the proposed structure locations and heights to the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and the FAA has stated that the proposal is not in violation of the FAA air space regulations.

Further discussion will be held between utility and city staff on the local airport zoning ordinance and safety zone restrictions. Additional information will be made available to the Commission at future meetings.

STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC SAFETY RADIO AND COMMUNICATION SYSTEM PLAN

Scott Hain, General Manager, reported that Nobles County is currently considering a statewide interoperable public safety radio and communication system plan called Allied Radio Matrix for Emergency Response (ARMER). The communication system was initially designed to provide interoperability among all state emergency response organizations. Discussion was held on whether WPU should consider participating in the plan. Utility and city staff will meet in the near future to discuss the costs and benefits associated with participating in the plan. Mr. Hain will also contact other utilities to inquire whether they will be converting to the ARMER system. Additional information will be provided to the Commission at a future meeting.

LAKE OCHEDA RESTORATION PLAN

Scott Hain, General Manager, reported that recent discussions have been held regarding the development of a plan for the restoration/rehabilitation of Lake Ocheda. Mr. Hain stated that he received a call from Dan Livdahl, Okabena-Ocheda Watershed District, to discuss Worthington Public Utilities' position on the concept due to the close proximity of the project to the Lake Bella wellfield. Mr. Hain stated that 75% of the property owners would need to agree to the concept, a plan would need to be developed and approved by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR) and public meetings would need to be held. The earliest the drawdown would begin would be in the fall of 2011 with the recharge taking place in the spring of 2012.

MINNESOTA MUNICIPAL UTILITIES ASSOCIATION WINTER LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

The Minnesota Municipal Utilities Association Winter Legislative Conference will be held March 24-26 in Bloomington, Minnesota. A tentative agenda was provided. Commission members were instructed to contact utility staff if interested in attending.

LARAMIE RIVER STATION GRAYROCKS DAM AND RESERVOIR TOUR

Missouri River Energy Services has announced its tour of the Laramie River Station and Grayrocks Dam and Reservoir. Two tours will be offered this year. The spring tour is on April 21-22. The fall tour is scheduled for September 15-16, 2010. Commission members were instructed to contact utility staff if interested in attending.

UTILITY BILLS PAYABLE

A motion was made by Commissioner Elsing, seconded by Commissioner Thompson and unanimously carried to approve the Utility Bills Payable totaling \$72,965.29 for February 5 and February 11, 2010.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Commissioner Thompson, seconded by Commissioner Wood and unanimously carried to adjourn the meeting at 3:36 P.M., CST. President Demuth declared the meeting adjourned.

Deb A. Scheidt
Secretary to the Commission