

UTILITIES COMMITTEE MINUTES

NOVEMBER 2, 2020

12:00 P.M. – 12:40 P.M.

REMOTE ONLY

COUNCIL PRESENT: COUNCILMEMBERS STEADMAN (CHAIR), KUNKEL, AND MILLER

STAFF PRESENT: SCOTT SPENCE, TROY WOO, PETER BROOKS, JULIE RECTOR,
PERI EDMONDS

ACTION: APPROVE UTILITIES COMMITTEE AGENDA

MOTION: MOTION MADE, SECONDED AND CARRIED BY COUNCILMEMBERS KUNKEL AND
MILLER

INVITATION FOR LACEY TO JOIN THE NISQUALLY RIVER COUNCIL

STAFF: JULIE RECTOR, WATER QUALITY ANALYST

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

Staff provided a briefing on watershed planning and an invitation to join the Nisqually River Council (NRC).

The NRC was formed in 1987 with 24 member agencies representing state, federal, tribal, and local governments, and is guided by the Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan. In 1998, the legislature passed the Watershed Planning Act, which encourages local communities to develop plans for protecting local water resources and habitat. The City was very active in watershed planning through WRIA 11. During that time, a Watershed Management Plan (WMP) was adopted along with a few companion plans.

The WMP included a recommendation for the cities of Lacey, Olympia, and Yelm to work together to cooperatively develop a Water Rights Mitigation package, which resulted in successful water rights decision for Lacey and Olympia, but unfortunately not for Yelm. When state funding ran out in 2008 the group became inactive. Since then, there has not been a coordinated effort to implement the plan or keep it updated.

In 2018, the legislature passed the Streamflow Restoration Act, which asked each watershed to address streamflow impacts from permanently exempt wells, also known as the “Hirst Decision.”

In July 2020, the NRC voted to approve adding the watershed planning unit as a standing committee and approved extending invitations to planning unit members to join who were not already members of the NRC. The City’s invitation to participate will be brought before Council at a later date, along with a request to appoint a representative and alternate, and possibly a request for financial support.

PUGET SOUND ENERGY’S GREEN DIRECT PROGRAM

STAFF: TROY WOO, FINANCE DIRECTOR
KELSEY HULSE, GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS REPRESENTATIVE, PUGET
SOUND ENERGY

ACTION: INFORMATION ONLY

The Puget Sound Energy Green Direct Program allows governments and industrial customers to purchase renewable energy from various specific projects under long-term energy services agreement contracts.

In 2017, the City joined the Puget Sound Energy Green Direct Program and designated the Skookumchuck Wind Farm project. The estimated project completion date was early 2019; however, the new operation date is November 2020.

Council will be briefed at the November 12 Worksession regarding a proposed amended agreement with a new 20-year start date of November 2020 and a new rate schedule. A recommendation to authorize the amended agreement is scheduled for the November 19 Council meeting.