

WATER DISTRICT NO. 19
BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING
Tuesday, June 16, 2009

SPECIAL MEETING
10:00 AM

A special meeting of the Board of Commissioners of Water District 19 was held at the district office. Those present were President **Frank Jackson** and Commissioners **Steve Haworth**, General Manager **Jeff Lakin**, Office Administrator **Melody Snyder**. **Steve Hirschey** and **Larry Stockton** of King County DNRP were also present.

Meeting called to order at 10:00 AM.

Commissioner Jackson stated the purpose of the meeting, which is to come to a mutual understanding and plan regarding King County approval of the District 19's Comprehensive Plan. **Steve Hirschey** agreed.

Steve Hirschey stated that his comments on the District's Comp Plan in his August 19, 2008 letter to Jeff Lakin had been addressed and satisfied. He then highlighted the District problem of limited ability to meet new demand as the major point of discussion. The persistent moratorium may be appropriate, but it does not fit within the general idea of the water utility meeting demand to serve the area.

Commissioner Haworth commented on the current District peaking factor in the draft Comprehensive Plan. The peaking factor and or peak day will be reduced if peak day for 2009 mimics the last four years, allowing the District to evaluate the possibility of temporarily lifting the moratorium on new connections.

Commissioner Jackson commented on the Department of Health (DOH) characterizing the District decision to choose the actual five year historic peak day for planning purposes rather than an average as "conservative". Given the District's peak day history, the District prefers to plan and design for meeting actual peak day rather than risk running out of water, which would cause major problems. The failure of well#2 in 2004 was due to over pumping.

Commissioner Haworth asked about the process of providing new connections within the planning period of the Comp Plan when it's stated none are planned. **Steve Hirschey** stated that the District would have to update the Comp Plan through DOH.

Steve Hirschey presented the pertinent policy of the King County Comprehensive Plan, F-217, that calls for a joint planning process with the District and the County to remedy service deficiencies identified in the water plan. The joint planning process would identify a detailed subject or task list and a schedule that will be proposed by Hirschey.

Commissioner Haworth reviewed the current District efforts to work toward bridging the gap between planned peak day and current source capacity, which includes the conservation program, the new Beall Well, and the change application with the Department of Ecology (DOE) to combine the Morgan Hill well with the wellfield water right. These efforts may not free up ERUs if the net gain is insufficient to bridge the entire capacity gap.

Other tasks that could serve to bridge the gap further are contained in the Capital Improvements section of the Comp Plan – which are on hold until plan is approved. **Steve Hirschey** asked if all these efforts come to fruition could the District end the moratorium? **Commissioner Haworth** responded saying the District hopes to lift the moratorium enough to get all those people off of the waiting list. In addition to

the above, Doug Wood of DOE indicated his support for granting the District the authority to permit rainwater catchment systems, which could eventually reduce peak day demands further.

Larry Stockton suggested the District consider creating a policy limit supply to the amount needed for indoor residential use, for example up to 100 gallons per day, – water budgeting. **Commissioner Jackson** cautioned that the District will approach such situations from the standpoint of ability or legality of enforcement. He also noted that rural area water demands are much different from suburban areas, due to gardening and care of animals for example.

Larry Stockton also suggested the District and other island purveyors consider participating in funding an enhancement to the ground water study that may show favorable water balance results and may give the District and others valuable information on where to prospect for more water. Additionally, the District could establish a policy to provide base demand only for new connections and empower the customer to provide peak irrigation demand with water demand mitigation measures funded by the customer. Mitigation measures suggested included aggressive conservation, grey-water re-use, rainwater harvest at a larger scale (10,000 gallon +/-) and aggressive low impact development techniques. The goal would be to let growth pay for growth.

Steve Hirschey asked if the **Board** had ever considered prospecting for water outside the District boundaries. **Commissioner Jackson** responded in the affirmative, but efforts have been unsuccessful for a variety of reasons. **Larry Stockton** encouraged the **Board** to consider proactively approaching developers to consider developing their own wells and the District manages them through SMA's.

With approval of this plan by King County, Stockton and Hirschey opined that the State DOH will declare the District permit Condition Red. **Steve Hirschey** stated that the State DOH's "Condition Red" lumps all potential system deficiencies under the same condition flag --- not distinguishing between water quality violations, inability to serve existing demand, and inability to provide new connections expected in the plan period. **Commissioner Jackson** expressed dismay at this approach, which discounts that the District has long been successfully serving existing customers with good quality water. The lack of capacity to serve projected new demand due to limited water resources, which was prudently recognized and precautions put in place beginning 12 years ago in order to avoid over-commitment, seems far less serious to public health than the other reasons for a "Red" designation.

Steve Hirschey stated that upon the completion of the agreed upon set of tasks, if no new connections can be accommodated then it will be incumbent on King County to evaluate revising the zoning as called for in the King County comprehensive plan, policy F-217. A timeline will also need to be agreed upon. Zero to two years was tentatively talked about. Steve will send a draft of the proposed ordinance with the conditions attached in an email for review. It is preferred that the District and the County agree upon the conditional ordinance, and then move to the Council. It is hoped we can get this to Council before they go into budget mode.

Compilation of agreed-upon tasks – must explore within the next 0 – 2 years:

1. Source enhancement – through the new Beall well, transfer of Morgan Hill water right, and exploration of rainwater harvesting possibilities
2. Explore participation of Vashon Island utilities in technical groundwater study(ies) island-wide
3. Affirm conservation program elements and explore potential enhancements.
4. Explore offering customer's efficiency of use opportunities.
5. Land use analysis by King County.

Adjourned @11:40 am