



**City of San Diego Water Policy Implementation Task Force
February 25, 2013
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.**

**Metropolitan Operations Center II (MOC) Auditorium
9192 Topaz Way, San Diego, CA 92123**

Record of Actions

1. Call to Order – CHAIR CARY LOWE CALLED THE MEETING TO ORDER AT 2:03 P.M.

Members Present:

Julia M. Chunn-Heer
Dawn Guendert
Gordon A. Hess
Glen Schmidt
Cary D. Lowe
Bruce Rainey
Keith R. Solar

Members Absent:

Faith Picking
Corrine A. Brindley

2. Non-Agenda Public Comment

NONE

3. Task Force Member and Staff Comment

NONE

SPECIAL ORDERS OF BUSINESS

4. Approval of the Record of Action from the meeting of December 18, 2012

ACTION: Record of Action items approved unanimously 7-0.

5. Approval of the Record of Action from the meeting of January 29, 2013

ACTION: Record of Action items approved 5-0-2. (This item was acted on after Item #2 in the agenda.)

AGENDA

6. Item-1: Information – Update/Presentation from Staff on Water Loss prevention.

ACTION: No action taken. Information only.

Deputy Director Jesus Meda presented on the City's water loss prevention efforts. He discussed how the Public Utilities Department categorizes water loss and best management practices for mitigation. Mr. Meda outlined findings of various in house and consultant studies and discussed the scope of ongoing studies.

There was no request from the public to speak to this item.

The Task Force had several questions concerning the report:

- Concerning the IWA Standard Water Balance Table, are the actual numbers available?
- Could the estimated 30-40% of water loss due to meters be narrowed or more specifically identified?
- How long will it take to replace asbestos cement pipes, and how much will it cost?
- Are there asbestos cement pipes that have a higher priority for replacement?
- What is the City's total percentage of water loss?
- Whereas the original BMP was set at 10% loss, what are the new more targeted BMP loss goals?
- What can we do to meet this goal and how much will it cost? How cost effective is this?
- How much average water loss is occurring during main breaks or hydrant knock-overs?
- How does the City identify apparent losses in the IWA Standard Water Balance table?
- How does the City estimate unbilled-unmetered consumption?

Deputy Director Meda agreed to provide the Task Force with responses.

7. Item-2: Discussion/Action - Adoption of Bylaws for the Task Force.

ACTION:

Motion to set a quorum as a simple majority of the number of Task Force members presently seated. Passed 7-0. Currently, based on a 9 member Task Force (with two vacant seats) a quorum would consist of 5 members.

ACTION:

Motion to adopt Bylaw reading, *"In conformance with Roberts Rules of Order and the Brown Act, allow approval of any motion, except those requiring a two-thirds vote, by a simple majority of the number of Task Force members actually serving as of the date of the motion."*

There was no request from the public to speak to this item.

Deputy City Attorney presented various options available to the Task Force for adoption its own bylaws. The Task Force discussed setting voting majority rule as that of those present on the date of a motion versus that of those seats filled on the date of the motion.

Motion passed 6-1.

8. Item-3: Discussion/Action – Conservation Working Group update and Adoption of Recommendations.

ACTION:

Motion to adopt with revisions.

Public and Staff Comment:

Mr. Craig Kessler of Southern California Golf Association spoke in regard to large turf users. He advised acknowledging that restricting landscape watering to three days a week should not apply to large turf users such as golf courses. Through technology they can prove that water use is decreasing. With rapidly escalating water bills, reducing water cost is crucial. He spoke of a Los Angeles model that involved an alternate means of compliance program which has resulted in remarkable savings. He asked the Task Force to approve recommendations that would allow sound business practices that would also reduce water consumption, rather than setting a specific limit on watering.

Marsi Steirer of the Water Department suggested changing the wording in labeling programs from “large retailers” to “home improvement stores and nurseries.” She also suggested changing the proposed requirement for frequency of conservation updates to Council Committees. She advised it would be difficult to have monthly reports, as they would not yield much more information and suggested that reports should be provided quarterly.

The Task Force revised labeling programs and frequency of reporting as suggested. The recommendation to decouple water sales from efficiency was deferred back to the Working Group for further review. With those changes, the motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

9. Item-4: Discussion/Action – Water Recycling Group Update and Adoption of Recommendations

ACTION:

Motion to adopt the recommendations as written.

There was no request from the public to speak to this item.

Chair Cary Lowe commented to the Working Group about a discussion he had with staff at the Public Utilities Department to see if there was a way to do large scale recycling of water with storm water, and would like to see this issue discussed further between the Public Utilities Department and Storm Water Department.

Motion passed unanimously, 7-0.

10. Item-5: Discussion/Action- Innovation & Technology Working Group Update and Adoption of Recommendations.

ACTION:

Motion to adopt recommendations concerning leak detection, facilitating technology development, and energy and water.

There was no request from the public to speak to this item.

Public Utilities Staff Mr. Eidson is awaiting comment from the Department on some of the recommendations. They plan on following up with the Task Force. It was noted the Director has made his concerns regarding on-site wastewater treatment known. They are also concerned with the costs associated with the advanced metering recommendation, including accelerating program to 7-10 years for implementation. The Public Utility Department is looking at doing this through its regular meter replacement program. The Department is working currently on energy reduction and a renewable source portfolio.

The Task Force discussed the differences between current on-site wastewater treatment projects within the City, some being focused on sewer mining, while others are exclusively onsite. Task Force member Schmidt commented that he is not too concerned that advanced metering implementation may be expensive. He acknowledged that it may make the recommendation a lower priority, but, as the Chair has pointed out, the Task Force's recommendations should be aspirational and not overly limited by politics or finances.

Task Force member Chunn-Heer commented that AMI can be very expensive and suggested that Water Smart Software be evaluated by the City and perhaps investigated further by the Task Force.

Task Force member Rainey asked staff how many meters are beyond the 24 year life cycle versus how many have been replaced. Staff advised they would follow up. He also asked about the cost-sharing proposal for AMI and practicality. Staff advised it would need to be evaluated. Mr. Rainey asked the Working Group about the leak detection recommendation to reduce pressure. Task Force member Schmidt advised the intent of the recommendation is to ensure the City is acting on low-hanging fruit for water loss mitigation before executing complex studies such as IBM/Brady.

Task Force member Schmidt requested the working group take up making a recommendation on reducing water loss. Ultimately it was determined such a recommendation would be best made after receiving the follow up information from City staff on its water loss presentation and made by the Conservation Working Group.

Motion passed unanimously, 6-0, except that recommendations pertaining to advanced metering and on-site wastewater treatment were referred back to the Working Group.

11. Item-6: Discussion/Action- Goals and Performance Measures

Chair Lowe commented on a meeting he had with staff and potential goals for the Task Force. He plans on presenting a revised list of proposals at the next meeting and welcomed anyone to add anything to them.

Mr. Gates from the Independent Budget Analyst office recommended the Working Groups begin identifying timelines and performance measures for the recommendations made to date by the Task Force.

12. Adjournment –

CHAIR CARY LOWE ADJOURNED THE MEETING AT APPROXIMATELY 4:40 P.M.

The next Task Force meeting will be held on March 26th at 2:00 pm.