



DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WATER AND SEWER AUTHORITY

Board of Directors

DC Retail Water and Sewer Rates Committee

Tuesday, September 25, 2012

9:30 a.m.

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members in Attendance

Howard C Gibbs, Chairperson
Brenda Robinson
Alan Roth

DC WATER STAFF

Rand Hayman, General Counsel (via Telephone)
Olu Adebo, Chief Financial Officer (via Telephone)
Yvette Downs, Director of Finance & Budget
Katherine Cahill, Principal Counsel
Linda R. Manley, Board Secretary

Call to Order

Chairman Gibbs called the Committee meeting to order at 10:20 a.m.

Monthly Update

Howard University & Soldiers Home

Discussed in executive session

Committee Workplan

The Committee reviewed the FY 2012 and proposed FY 2013 work plans with staff. It was noted that the final report of the FY 2012 Cost of Service Study will be presented in November 2012. There was some discussion about proposed activities for FY 2013 and the work plan will be adjusted to include Clean Rivers IAC discounts under Customer Assistance Program modification discussions.

Ms. Downs noted that a revised proposal has been received from DDOE on the LID incentive program. However, no date for advertisement of the proposal for public comment has been provided. Mr. Roth requested that a copy of the General Counsel's legal opinion on DC Water's responsibility regarding an IAC discount be distributed to the Committee to refresh members' memories.

Ms. Richardson expressed concern that the level of public outreach to our customers is not providing enough notice before scheduled meetings. She recommended that robo calls (automated phone calls) be sent to customers prior to the public hearing as a reminder. Ms. Downs stated that the suggestion would be forwarded to External Affairs and noted that currently automatic telephone messages are placed to residents in all wards before the Town Hall meetings, in addition to the newspaper advertisements, emails and notice in the DC Register. However, these calls have not been made prior to the Public Meeting and will be considered for the Spring 2013.

Other Business

Customer Communication Follow-up

Mr. Gibbs informed the Committee that an email communication was received in July 2012 requesting that the Board consider changing the customer invoices to bill in the quantity of gallons used by a customer rather than in hundred cubic feet (Ccf). Ms. Downs provided a copy of a customer bill that notes both gallon and Ccf use on the face of the bill with the measurement explanation provided on the back of the bill. She noted that the website includes the volumetric rates in cost per Ccf as well as cost per 1,000 gallons. Ms. Preston, the Director of Customer Service, added that all DC Water meters measure consumption in cubic feet and that it would be very expensive to purchase new hardware, meters, etc to change to billing in gallons. Also, the billing would still be rounded to 1,000 gallons as that is the standard. Mr. Gibbs recommended that someone call the customer to explain the current bill and determine how we can provide further assistance in educating the customer. Ms. Preston stated that she would attempt to contact the customer through Customer Service.

Action Items

None

Agenda for October 25, 2012 Joint Committee Meeting

Chairman Gibbs approved the agenda for the next meeting.

Adjournment

Hearing no further business, Chairperson Firestine adjourned the meeting at 1:09 p.m.

Follow up Items

1. Provide an example of the updating required and quality controls available to reconcile non-residential data found in the DC GIS 2005 flyover information and a more recent update to the flyover data. This example should be provided at a future Retail Rates Committee meeting. (Ongoing from former Committee member Mr. Bardin) **Status:** *Will be placed on workplan list for future follow up*
2. Review of the Potomac Interceptor contracts to see if there are opportunities to modify contracts to be similar to the IMA contracts. (Continuing from former Committee member Mr. Bardin) **Status:** *Will be placed on workplan for future follow up*
3. DC Water staff to provide a comprehensive plan with all the data analysis, to create three (3) customer classes and propose rates with tow options; a blended rate and differentiated rate for presentation to the Committee at their meeting in September or November. (Dr Cotruvo) **Status:** *November 2012*
4. Provide a copy of the previous legal opinion on the LID incentive program to the Committee (Mr. Roth) **Status:** *October 2012*