

CITY OF NEWBERG
WATER REDUNDANCY COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2019
4:30 PM MEETING
PUBLIC SAFETY BUILDING TRAINING ROOM (401 EAST THIRD STREET)

I. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:30 PM.

Members Present: Rick Rogers Pat Johnson
Members Absent: Elizabeth Curtis Gemeroy

Staff Present: Jay Harris, Public Works Director
Kaaren Hofmann, City Engineer

Others Present: Brian Ginter of Murray Smith, Ronan Igloria of

II. PURPOSE OF THE COUNCIL SUB-COMMITTEE

Brian Ginter with Murray Smith discussed the purpose of the subcommittee including: establishing a subset of City Council that was engaged directly with the project team in establishing a Redundant Water Supply Goal, assisting in developing the approach to public engagement, and reviewing and advising the project team as a Redundant Water Supply Strategy was developed. The question for the subcommittee to think about was if the subcommittee thought they could adequately represent the community's perspective on this topic or if there was need for additional public engagement.

Councilor Johnson asked staff if now was the time to have the public engagement or should they go through this process and frame the issue first. They could also involve the CRRC or citizens who worked on the Water Master Plan. Mayor Rogers said it would not just be rates, but SDCs might be impacted as well. He did not think everyone needed to slog through the details, especially when there would be questions that they did not have the answers to yet.

There was discussion regarding what water redundancy meant. City Engineer Kaaren Hofmann said even staff was not clear what it meant, which was why it was brought to the Council for policy decision. The broader conversation with the community would be what the values were. Public Works Director Jay Harris said the CRRC would convene in September and if this process could define some costs and general models, the consultant team could work on a rate projection that could be taken to the CRRC.

Mr. Ginter said they had to decide how much redundancy and the options for how that amount could be provided, how it would be implemented, and the cost. It was not until there were cost implications that the public became interested. They had to agree this was the right solution and know the cost. There were also regional and local opportunities and possible projects in the Water Master Plan that could be part of the funding options as well and it could be a plan that would be deferred for a number of years. This was a long term need for diversification of the water supply.

III. PROJECT OVERVIEW

Mr. Ginter stated the City's existing water supply faced a range of risks and they needed to address the system risks for a seismic event and non-seismic events. The Water Master Plan included redundant supply

recommendations such as meeting winter average daily demand, develop groundwater north of the Willamette River, and study other opportunity alternatives. There were data gaps in understanding other local and regional opportunities and confirmation of the City's long term goals. The next steps were the redundant Water Supply Project. Phase 1 of the project was a project definition, Phase 2 was the analysis of water supply options, and Phase 3 was preliminary engineering. They would need to decide how and when the stakeholder engagement would take place. The public engagement would help inform the values and service goals for the project.

IV. WORKSHOP #1 OBJECTIVES

The two items they were trying to do today were establish the basis for defining the quantity of water required for redundant supply and establish the preliminary direction for community engagement and involvement in the project.

V. FUTURE WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

This was not discussed.

VI. PRESENTATION AND DISCUSSION

a. Background

Mr. Ginter gave a background on the City's water system and the locations of the water facilities.

b. Water Use Characteristics

Mr. Ginter discussed the historical average daily demand for water. It included the winter average demand, maximum day demand, peak season demand, and average day demand. Redundant water supply was important because Newberg had only one single source of supply and no interties. However the greater the reduction in risk, the higher the cost. Any disruption of supply constituted an emergency condition for the water system.

There was discussion regarding the water supply going through the West Rock site.

c. Overview of Water System Vulnerabilities, Risks, and Consequences

They needed to understand what was important to the community and what water supply redundancy meant to them. Were residents willing to pay to achieve a level of redundancy? Were commerce and industry willing to pay to achieve a level of redundancy? Were there other major local issues or significant investments the community was facing in the near future that would compete with water supply redundancy? Under what circumstances was a water shortage or full water supply disruption acceptable?

d. Criteria for Quantifying Redundant Water Supply Capacity Need

Mr. Ginter discussed the capacity goal of the water supply. If they had no water redundancy which was what Newberg had today, any supply disruption was an emergency. The plan was to set up a winter average demand as a baseline for extra water supply, but even then if they had an emergency people would have to curtail their water use.

Public Works Director Harris said if they ran out of water, they would lose pressure in all parts of the system which would make the problem even more serious.

Mr. Ginter said if they had enough water supply for the average daily demand, they would have enough water to keep operating under normal conditions for 50% of the year. If they had peak season water supply, water use reduction would be necessary during summer. If they had a supply to meet maximum daily demand, water use reduction would not be necessary. There were a number of cities in Washington County as well as the City of Portland who were at that supply level because they had multiple sources of water. They needed to look at redundant supply for today and in the future, and that was where capacity came into play as the demand would increase with growth. They implementation would most likely need to be phased, and it could be a community discussion on how soon they wanted to complete it. He asked where from zero to maximum daily demand did they think the community would want to be? The more supply, the more it would cost.

Public Works Director Harris said the Water Master Plan included getting to a winter average demand supply. He questioned if there was capacity to get to the average daily demand supply. Mr. Ginter agreed that just the groundwater on this side of the river would probably not meet the higher supply level needed. They needed multiple sources of water.

Councilor Johnson said as the City grew, it could be an option to increase the redundancy supply to meet the demand. They could then review the redundancy every five years to make sure they were at the correct supply. Mayor Rogers asked if there was a standard they should try to reach.

Mr. Ginter stated up until the 1980s, every increase in water production and supply in Newberg was based on a shortage in the summer and there was a water restriction on watering. That was when filters 3 and 4 were built to meet the capacity. There had been upgrades since then in storage and capacity and there had not been a water shortage since that time. There was no standard for redundancy.

Mayor Rogers asked if there would be adequate storage for the increase in supply. Mr. Ginter said they would never be able to store enough water for the supply needed.

Councilor Johnson said streets had never been funded at the level they should be funded, the same with the Wastewater Treatment Plant, because the community was adverse to raising SDCs and rates. He was willing to increase the supply even though some people might be upset because there were core services the City needed to provide, and water was one of them.

Public Works Director Harris said in recent years they had been better about raising rates to stabilize the system. This project could be added and over a certain time frame could affect rates.

There was discussion regarding what the City of Wilsonville was doing for redundancy and making the redundancy supply at peak season demand as the goal for Newberg.

Councilor Johnson discussed privatizing water. If the Water Treatment Plant was taken out during an earthquake, why should they look at expanding it? Mr. Ginter said part of the analysis could be what it would take to make the Water Treatment Plant more resilient in an earthquake. That could be part of this work in looking at options. Public Works Director Harris thought they could look at the question, what over a 20 year period was the probability that they were going to have an event where there would be a problem with water supply. He thought they should try to achieve the peak season demand supply with a timeframe to get there.

Mayor Rogers thought the first target should be to get the two million gallons per day for the winter average demand and the idea would be in 20 years to get to the peak season demand. Very few people knew Newberg only had one source of water. Councilor Johnson thought they were getting near the tipping

point, and the rates were being tapped out. Public Works Director Harris said that project was in the Water Master Plan and would be put in the rate model.

City Engineer Hofmann said the last rate model had this project in the five year plan and was projecting inflationary increases.

Councilor Johnson clarified the scope of work needed to be identified as well as where to put public engagement in the process. He would like to get input from the CRRC. Mayor Rogers said it all went back to the cost. Mr. Ginter said they needed to set an aspirational goal for how much redundancy they wanted in order to be able to look at the alternatives and opportunities.

There was discussion regarding what the scope of work should be and whether they should go above the baseline in the Water Master Plan of the Winter Average Demand and what the community would be willing to do. The Winter Average Demand was the emergency water supply, and redundant water supply would be a different level.

Mayor Rogers said the possible partnership options were Willamette River Water and McMinnville Water and Light. He would like to know what those two options would cost. Councilor Johnson would be comfortable with a \$5 fee on the water bill for water redundancy. It would be a dedicated fund that would raise \$500,000 per year that could be used for this project. The core function of the City was public health and safety, and he thought this fell under that.

City Engineer Hofmann said they could not add any SDCs at this point. They needed to know how much of a redundant supply in order to get the costs from the partners. Public Works Director Harris said McMinnville Water and Light was working on building a new intake in the next five years and a new water plant in ten years. They had excess capacity and if Newberg partnered with them, they could reach a redundancy level of average daily demand in the next five years by putting a pipe in between the two systems.

Mayor Rogers would like to know what redundancy level other communities were meeting. Mr. Ginter said most were at 20% of their normal demand, somewhere between winter average demand and average daily demand. He did not think any of them had full redundancy. Mayor Rogers would be comfortable with a redundancy of average daily demand.

Mr. Ginter clarified that the committee did not think they needed to go out to get the community values at this point. The peak season demand would be the upper limit and the average daily demand would be the lower limit of the desirable range. Public Works Director Harris wanted to make sure that whatever was done was sizeable so that the supply could be increased in the future. There was discussion regarding the future of the water supply for growth and redundancy.

VII. ACTION ITEMS

For the next workshop the Mr. Ginter would bring back the options for the desirable range. Councilor Johnson asked for a strategic plan for how to communicate this to the community.

VIII. WORKSHOP SCHEDULE REVIEW

The next workshop was scheduled for August 21.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.