

**Community Program Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes**  
**April 2, 2003**  
**Creekside**

Community Program Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday, April 2, 2003, 1:30 p.m.  
Sewer Maintenance Training Room

Committee Members Present: Robert Alexander (YMCA), Gary Anderson (Citizen-at-Large), Rev. Al Baumann (Metro Toledo Churches United), Bill Brennan (Construction Contractors Council), Matt Horvat (TMACOG), Jean Overton (Citizen-at-Large), Tom Roth for Mike Cassidy (Ottawa River Kleen Up Association Inc.), Sister Barbara Stallman for Cindy Drill (Clear Water Inc.), Charles Taylor (Citizen-at-Large), Steven Thomas (Local 500) and Willie Williams (Citizen-at-Large)

Other Attendees: Michael Ashford (Toledo City Councilman, District 4), Richard Brown (City of Toledo Auditor's Office), Marci Cannon (City of Toledo Affirmative Action/Contract Compliance), Mike Domenica (Black & Veatch Corp.), Jimmy L. Gaines (City of Toledo Commissioner, Treatment Services), Jim Hamilton (Mannik & Smith Group Inc.), Daniel E. Hiskey (City of Toledo Auditor), Dave Kielmeyer (Funk Luetke Skunda Marketing Inc.), Tom Lyon (Black & Veatch Corp.), Jan Skunda (Funk Luetke Skunda Marketing Inc.), Robert C. Stevenson (City of Toledo Director, Public Utilities), Elizabeth Wick (Ohio EPA) and Robert R. Williams (Director, Toledo Waterways Initiative)

Introductions: Robert R. Williams introduced city employees who were present; Mr. Williams also introduced Mike Domenica, Jim Hamilton, Dave Kielmeyer, Tom Lyon, Jan Skunda and Elizabeth Wick.

Committee members introduced themselves.

Robert R. Williams informed the group that project schedules would be posted in the training room prior to the completion of the meeting. Dave Kielmeyer posted the schedules.

"Welcome to Meeting II," a PowerPoint presentation which is an overview of several important issues including a listing of major construction projects and proposed rate increases associated with the project, was presented by Robert R. Williams.

Questions and Answers: Matt Horvat asked whether the equalization basin would be located above ground or under ground. Robert R. Williams responded that the equalization basin will be situated partly above and partly below ground.

Robert Alexander questioned whether non-profit properties (hospitals, schools, etc.) would be classified as commercial or industrial. Robert R. Williams responded that these properties would be considered commercial.

Bill Brennan questioned the possibility of variables in rate increases. Robert R. Williams stated that all projects are based on the consent decree; estimates are based upon the best available data, given that designs are still in the preliminary phase. Mr. Williams stated that the possibility of using the Harrison Marina site has been eliminated and State loans and grants are factored into estimates; federal money did not factor in at this time. If more federal money comes in, rates can be adjusted. Robert Stevenson mentioned that better rates are attained on bonds if based on four (4) years. Bill Brennan asked what would occur if the project in reality would require 25% more than estimated. Robert Stevenson responded that curtailing certain aspects of regular maintenance or delaying non consent decree projects could be looked at. Mike Domenica said that estimates would be much better in the next two years.

Robert Alexander introduced the topic concerning what citizens can really afford. Mr. Alexander proposed a system in which citizens would pay monthly instead of quarterly. He also suggested an automatic checkbook deduction, which would include no service charge and no collection issues. Jan Skunda responded that, when citizens were asked, they responded that they would prefer to continue paying quarterly instead of monthly. Robert R. Williams agreed that quarterly payments are preferred as opposed to monthly payments at this time, but future migration to monthly billing may become more attractive once new rates are implemented.

Matt Horvat questioned if the consent decree would be paid off in 25 years and how will that effect an increase in operational fees. Robert R. Williams responded that he is looking at 5–8 years at this point. At that time other factors will be looked at. Robert Stevenson added that the project is front end loaded. Mike Domenica added that, in recent years, the value of water is reflective of the cost of water – there is a cost to clean water – water is valued much more in recent years. Robert Stevenson said that, in comparison, water is cheaper in Ohio, sewer rates are medium and when this project is completed we should still be medium nationally.

Tom Roth asked a question regarding 20-25 year bonds – will rates decrease after the project is paid for in 25 years? Robert Stevenson responded that operating costs constantly increase and that, with revenue built up, hopefully we will see 0% increases at that time.

Robert Alexander asked about marketing Toledo bottled water. Robert Stevenson said that the increase is based on sewer money, not water money; Wholly Toledo water is given away, there is no charge. Jimmy Gaines mentioned that the Department of Public Utilities distributes plastic Toledo water bottles.

Gary Anderson asked what price the suburbs pay for drinking water. Robert R. Williams replied that suburbs pay up to 75% more than Toledo residents for drinking water. Robert Stevenson mentioned that Ottawa Hills, Rossford and Wood County send their sewer water to Toledo and the same sewer rates apply to the suburbs.

Tom Roth asked if the Senior Citizens Golf Course could use nearby land to make up for the three holes they will lose. Robert Stevenson replied that he believed the nearby land is owned by the Port Authority. We would assist in pursuing these options with the Senior Citizens Golf

Course.

Committee members agreed to hold the next meeting on Monday, May 5 at 1:30 p.m. at the Bayview Wastewater Treatment Plant; flow diagrams will be presented. Reminder letters will be sent out reminding committee members of this meeting.

Robert R. Williams informed the group that, when Council hearings on this project are scheduled, the committee members will be informed as soon as possible and are welcome to attend.

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