

RUC OUTSTANDING REFERRALS STATUS REPORT

1. **#090588 – Dedicated Funding Source to Assist Non-Project Agencies:**

At the request of Commissioner Poe, the City Commission referred to the Regional Utilities Committee the issue of GRU finding a dedicated funding source to assist with updating utility infrastructure for non-profit agencies that provide a public service.

2. **#080927 – Natural Gas Fueling Station:**

This item was brought forward to the City Commission by Commissioner Lauren Poe at the March 19, 2009 City Commission Meeting. The City Commission referred to the (RUC) to do a work up of what it would take for GRU to create a Natural Gas Fueling Station (possibly two).

3. **#080696 – Broad Band Internet in Older Neighborhoods:**

On December 18, 2008 the City Commission referred the issue of extending broadband internet to older neighborhoods in the City. This referral came during discussion about the project list for the potential federal stimulus package. This item was discussed at the May 13, 2009 RUC meeting. Ted Kellermann made a presentation on broadband stimulus funding and GRUCom projects. The RUC asked staff to return to a future meeting with answers to the member's questions. This item will be discussed at the January 14, 2010 meeting.

4. **#080574 – College Park Neighborhood Redevelopment-Inadequate Sewer Capacity:**

This item was brought forward by Commissioner Thomas Hawkins at the November 6, 2008 City Commission Meeting. The City Commission refer the issue of inadequate sewer capacity in certain areas of town to the Regional Utilities Committee with the following questions: 1) Are there areas of town where the City allows a certain density in our future land use and zoning maps that are not seeing market demand for it? 2) Does the City have inadequate utility infrastructure in those areas? 3) Would we like to look for ways to provide that infrastructure ahead of development demand with potentially a process for the City to be reimbursed? This item was discussed at the February 11, 2009 meeting. The RUC agreed to recommend that the City Commission have a brief discussion regarding this item and then refer it to the CRA for analysis. Item pending.

5. **#080480 – Monitor the Progress of the Clean-up of Cabot Carbon/Koppers Superfund Site:**

On October 2, 2008 the City Commission adopted the alignment of strategic goals and initiatives with the Standing Committees and the CRA. The Commission also authorized staff that is responsible for the implementation of the goal to go directly to the appropriate Standing Committee for policy direction and to provide the committee with two updates throughout the fiscal year. This is the second of two strategic initiatives for FY 2009/2010 assigned to the Regional Utilities Committee. The RUC received a report at the January 14, 2009 meeting.

6. **#080482 – Develop a Coordinated Response at the Local Level to Address Energy Policy and Climate Change (C/C Strategic Initiative):**

On October 2, 2008 the City Commission adopted the alignment of strategic goals and initiatives with the Standing Committees and the CRA. The Commission also authorized staff that is responsible for the implementation of the goal to go directly to the appropriate Standing Committee for policy direction and to provide the committee with two updates throughout the fiscal year. This is one of two strategic initiatives for FY 2009/2010 assigned to the Regional Utilities Committee. The RUC received a report at the January 14, 2009 meeting.

7. **#080421 - Evaluation of rates for reclaimed water referral to the RUC – Discussion of proposed changes to GRU Reclaimed Water Policy:**

On September 18, 2008 the City Commission referred the issue of reclaimed water usage billing rates to the Regional Utilities Committee for further evaluation of the rates. This item is related to the adoption of Ordinance 080203.

On August 27, 2009 the RUC voted to recommend that the Commission approve the proposed changes to GRU's reclaimed water extension policy. Additional information will be presented in the near future.

8. **#080184 – Water Conservation Policy:**

At the July 10, 2008 GRU budget meeting the City Commission referred the issue of GRU's water conservation policy to the Regional Utilities Committee. Commissioner Lowe suggested that it had been a long time since the Commission had reviewed the water conservation policy and moved that the item be referred to the RUC. Mayor Hanrahan recommended that Dr. Jim Heaney, Chair of Environmental Engineering at the University of Florida be invited to attend. This item was discussed at the December 10, 2008 RUC meeting. Staff will invite Dr. Heaney from the

University of Florida to a future meeting and bring back information on reclaimed water rates and possible changes to the extension policy. This item was discussed at the April 8, 2009 RUC meeting. Staff will return to a future meeting with more information regarding educational materials and a list of recommendations for consideration.

9. **#080183 – Coal Acquisition Policy:**

At the July 10, 2008 GRU budget meeting the City Commission referred the issue of GRU's coal acquisition policy to the Regional Utilities Committee for their consideration. Commissioner Poe brought up the issue of having a problem with the coal we are using now. Commissioner Lowe asked if our coal is coming from mountaintop removal. Commissioner Poe moved to refer the policies of coal acquisition to the RUC. This item was discussed at the October 20, 2008 meeting. The RUC asked for more information on the impacts of mountaintop removal and other types of mining so that it can compare them and perhaps have a presentation from Coal Mountain Watch.

10. **#071148 – Corn and Other Biofuels for Vehicle Fuel:**

On April 14, 2008 the City Commission referred the issue of using corn and other biofuels for vehicle fuel to the Regional Utilities Committee. Commissioner Donovan spoke about an article handed out by Mr. Willard from Time Magazine regarding the clean energy scam. We are creating a problem of moving from producing corn for food to corn for fuel. Commissioner Donovan would like some analysis done and the purpose would be in part for the choice that the City may make in the terms of future vehicles and the fuels they might use and to also address our concern to other bodies like UF. He is not sure of the outcome other than the creation of advisory statements. Commissioner Lowe asked that it be a little broader to include things like sugar cane. Refer to RUC and GRU staff to study the use of biomass for vehicle fuel. At the June 10, 2008 meeting Commissioner Poe asked what the full cost accounting for doing this is. The item will be discussed at a future meeting.

11. **#070718 – Residential Solar Panels:**

At the November 26, 2007 meeting Commissioner Donovan requested that the issue of possibly amortizing the purchase of residential solar panels or issuing bonds be referred to the RUC.

12. **#070255 – Home Energy Rating Systems (HERS):**

At the 7/23/07 Commission meeting C/Donovan made a motion to refer the Home Energy Rating System (HERS) to the RUC to see if it would be possible to put a HERS rating on every new rental agreement or contract for sales for a house. The Mayor suggested using something similar to the property appraiser's website to type in an address and see what the average utility usage is. This item was discussed at the August 14, 2007 meeting and staff was directed to look at: 1) the energy per square foot type rating; 2) educating customers about HERS; 3) offering rebates to encourage people to get a HERS rating; and 4) how does the HERS rating differ from the energy audit GRU currently provides. The RUC briefly discussed this item at the May 13, 2008 meeting. Commissioner Donovan asked for a response to his specific question which was: is there some mechanism for informing people who are looking to rent or buy a place what the energy efficiency of the house is. This item will be discussed at a future meeting.

13. **#060294 – General Fund Transfer from GRU:**

During a budget hearing on July 25, 2006 C/Bryant moved and C/Lowe seconded to refer the issue of the mandatory 3% increase in the annual transfer to General Government to the RUC. C/Bryant expressed the concern that a mandated 3% increase every year to General Government could be outdated given the current movement in the GRU business model including the emphasis on DSM. This item has been reviewed in conjunction with General Government staff. Both staffs have agreed to include the rate impact of major annexations in the urban services reports. Currently when electric surcharges are reduced due to annexation, GRU passes the impact to all customers through rate increases. Further action on this item is recommended to be delayed until after the property tax elections in January. The item was briefly discussed at the June 10, 2008 meeting. On October 20, 2008 the RUC heard a presentation from staff and adopted staff's recommendation to have the RUC review the data submitted and after review consider whether it is appropriate or not to direct GG and GRU staff to negotiate changes to the transfer. Commissioner Lowe asked to add his request for information about growth in the GFT with respect to GRU revenue with respect to the electric system. At the November 12, 2009 meeting, the RUC directed General Government and GRU staff to work together to provide additional information to the City Commission and present alternatives to the current GFT formulas to the RUC during the fall of 2010 or earlier if possible.