

# City of Gainesville

*City Hall  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601*



RUC ITEM 100925  
MAY 4, 2011

## **Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, March 30, 2011**

**3:30 PM**

**CITY HALL ROOM 16**

## **Regional Utilities Committee**

*Commissioner Lauren Poe, Chair  
Mayor Craig Lowe, Member  
Commissioner Thomas Hawkins, Member*

*Persons with disabilities who require assistance to participate in this meeting are requested to notify the Office of Equal Opportunity at 334-5051 or call the TDD phone line at 334-2069 at least two business days in advance.*

## CALL TO ORDER

Present: Craig Lowe, Lauren Poe and Thomas Hawkins

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

### 100844. Regional Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes for February 16, 2011 (B)

**RECOMMENDATION** *The Regional Utilities Committee approve the minutes for February 16, 2011 as circulated.*

**This matter was Approved as Recommended. The motion carried.**

## CURRENT ACTION ITEMS

### 100339. Conservation Strategies Referral (B)

*Bill Shepherd, Energy and Business Services Manager, gave a presentation on GRU's conservation strategies including progress to date, an itemized summary of all the programs, how rebates are evaluated for cost effectiveness and dollars spent.*

*Mr. Hunzinger, General Manager for GRU, asked about getting energy efficiency information to students. Mr. Shepherd responded that we will start advertising on our website as far as a link and it's going to be part of a package of tools that are available to renters and landlords.*

*Commissioner Poe asked if staff had approached UF about presenting this information through Preview or considered talking with some of the apartment companies like apartment hunters so that they could present it as part of their package. Mr. Shepherd responded that GRU had not but it was a good idea. Ms. Viehe suggested that someone from Marketing attend the next RUC meeting to discuss outreach efforts.*

*Commissioner Hawkins asked if there was a way to provide this information for single family rentals by perhaps coordinating with the landlord license program in Code Enforcement. He also expressed the desire to see if we could find a tool that we can make this mandatory information sharing. Is it possible for us to require there to be a disclaimer in the lease of how people fair on this?*

*Mr. Shepherd spoke about a new pilot program with the Library. A device called the Kilowatt that plugs into the wall and then into an appliance that is programmed with our rates so customers can see how much a particular appliance is using. The customer would be asked to complete a survey when using the devise. One devise*

would be located at the Downtown Library and one at the Millhopper Library.

There was discussion about ramping down on the 15 SEER and putting all of those efforts in the super SEER. Prior to the recent state program this past year, GRU was not getting a lot of take on it and the contractors weren't pushing it because their margins are bigger with the super SEER. Mr. Shepherd said they will continue to monitor the uptake on that program and make changes accordingly.

Mayor Lowe requested that at the next RUC meeting on this topic if staff could develop a spreadsheet that has each of the programs listed together with the TRC test value and also the expenditure level that GRU is putting forth to each of the programs.

Commissioner Poe asked if it was possible to put a figure on how much we would have to spend to achieve the same goals as say 100 megawatt base load facility. In other words over time if we were to say we're going to reduce everybody's consumption to a point where we would not need 100 megawatts of base load energy how much would we have to spend in conservation programs to achieve that.

Mayor Lowe expressed the desire to see the amount of CO2 that we've avoided putting into the atmosphere. For the next meeting a spreadsheet with the TRC on the various programs and current expenditures would be helpful and maybe some sort of statement of what the staff assessment for outlook for the program in the future in terms of how close it is to saturation of the market plus in terms what regulatory things might come into play that might make it something we might not want to continue and things of that nature. Have a more detailed evaluation program by program and give input for money going into the budget.

Commissioner Nielsen suggested putting together a presentation that could be made accessible by the public regarding all of the energy conservation programs. Commissioner Poe suggested that perhaps a half hour program could be developed to be shown on TV12 or put on DVDs to be sent out. Mayor Lowe asked that when this item is brought back to the full City Commission that a presentation be made.

Mr. Rob Brinkman, citizen, was recognized and asked when item #080183 regarding Coal Acquisition would be on the agenda.

Mr. Raymond O. Manasco, Jr., Utilities Attorney advised the Committee that a new Utilities Attorney had been hired and would be starting the end of April.

Staff will return with more discussion on this referral at a future RUC meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION** Staff will make a presentation of GRU's conservation strategies, progress to date, cost effectiveness and dollars spent.

**Discussed**

## **MEMBER COMMENT**

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

**OUTSTANDING REFERRALS**

**100845.           Regional Utilities Committee Outstanding Referral Status Report (B)**

**RECOMMENDATION**   *The Regional Utilities Committee review the Outstanding Referral Status Report dated March 30, 2011.*

**No Action Taken**

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

**ADJOURNMENT**