

# City of Gainesville

City Hall  
200 East University Avenue  
Gainesville, Florida 32601



RUC ITEM #110051  
JUNE 8, 2011

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 4, 2011

2:00 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

### 100925. Regional Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes for March 30, 2011 (B)

**RECOMMENDATION** *The Regional Utilities Committee approve the meeting minutes for March 30, 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 Conservation Strategies (item #100339) which was a follow-up to the information presented to the RUC at the March 30, 2011 meeting. The presentation included a review of the economic tests used to measure the effectiveness of the energy conservation programs and an overview of the programs planned for Fiscal Year 2012.*

*Commissioner Hawkins asked where on the horizon are consumer LED bulbs. Bill Shepherd responded that the next step to go from CFLs to LEDs could possibly be in two to three years, but would have to overcome the same inertia as the switch from incandescent to CFL bulbs.*

*Mayor Lowe asked if there was a TRC test for water consumption and to what extent may we be incentivizing irrigation with the irrigation maintenance program. Bill Shepherd replied that in order for customers to take advantage of the program they have to make sure they have a current backflow preventer or permit on the preventer which is an annual requirement. Some customers see that as a barrier and it appears people are irrigating less.*

*Commissioner Poe brought up the issue of what requirements may come from the St. Johns River Water Management District and the Suwannee River Water Management District and perhaps it would be best to wait for that and tailor our programs around those goals/requirements.*

*There was discussion about the availability of gas in various parts of town.*

Lewis Walton, GRU Marketing Manager, made a presentation on the strategy for marketing the conservation rebate programs and the awareness level among the customers.

Mr. Hunzinger asked the RUC for feedback on the proposed programs.

Mayor Lowe asked if we were to eliminate e-star for affordable housing could that be put into the LEEP program. Bill Shepherd responded that it would be a possibility. Mayor Lowe also mentioned looking at the two renewable programs (solar water heater and solar PV) for possible redirection of funds. Bill Shepherd stated that what he was hearing was to keep the programs but target those pots of money first when trying to fill the gap on some better performing programs. Mayor Lowe replied yes and that he would recommend taking away from the water heater program before the PV rebate.

Mayor Lowe moved and the Committee agreed that GRU staff present information to the City Commission during the budget process and retain this referral item in Committee for additional consideration.

**RECOMMENDATION** Staff will make a presentation of GRU's conservation strategies and proposed FY12 budget.

**Discussed**

## OUTSTANDING REFERRALS

### 100926. Regional Utilities Committee Outstanding Referral Status Report (B)

Commissioner Hawkins moved to recommend removal of Item #080574 - College Park Neighborhood Redevelopment-Inadequate Sewer Capacity from the referral list.

Commissioner Poe moved to recommend removal of Item #100008 - Rebates/Incentives for Window Replacement and Item #090926 Strategic Initiative - Improve the Energy Efficiency of Modest Income Homes Through Weatherization from the referral list.

The RUC agreed to recommend to the City Commission that all three of the items listed be removed from the referral list.

**RECOMMENDATION** The Regional Utilities Committee discuss the Outstanding Referral Status Report and take action as deemed appropriate.

This matter was Approved, as shown above - See Motion(s). The motion carried.

## MEMBER COMMENT

## CITIZEN COMMENT

*The following members of the Gainesville Energy Advisory Committee (GEAC) attended and spoke at the 5/4/11 RUC meeting:*

*Tony Mullersmann  
Laura Dedenbach  
Joe Wills  
Choppy Hodes*

*A training meeting will be held in the near future for GEAC members by GRU staff. The City Commission will be advised of the date.*

## **NEXT MEETING DATE**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting adjourned at 3:55 p.m.*