

City of Gainesville

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



Meeting Agenda

December 10, 2008

3:30 PM

CITY HALL ROOM 16

Regional Utilities Committee

*Commissioner Craig Lowe, Chair
Commissioner Lauren Poe, Member
Commissioner Jack Donovan, 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**ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA****APPROVAL OF MINUTES****080659. Regional Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes for October 20, 2008 (B)**

RECOMMENDATION *The Regional Utilities Committee approve the minutes for October 20, 2008 as circulated.*

RUC Meeting Minutes Oct 20 08.pdf

CURRENT RUC ACTION ITEMS**070181. Forest Stewardship Incentive Program (NB)**

Explanation: At the October 20, 2008 meeting the Regional Utilities Committee directed staff to forward to them copies of the laws that are referenced in the Proposed Stewardship Incentive Plan for Biomass Fuel Procurement document for their review. The RUC also requested that staff arrange for someone with some knowledge in this area to attend the next meeting to assist in reviewing these laws. A copy of the referenced laws was provided to the members of the RUC.

RECOMMENDATION *The RUC receive information from staff on how endangered species rules and regulations apply to forestry operations.*

Legislative History

6/18/07	City Commission	Referred (6 - 1)	Regional Utilities Committee
10/9/07	Regional Utilities Committee	Discussed	
1/30/08	Regional Utilities Committee	Discussed	
2/12/08	Regional Utilities Committee	Approved as Recommended, as Amended	
5/13/08	Regional Utilities Committee	Discussed	
7/9/08	Regional Utilities Committee	Discussed	
8/13/08	Regional Utilities Committee	Approved as Modified	
10/20/08	Regional Utilities Committee	Discussed	

RUC Forestry Presentation October 9 2007.pdf
Backup for Forest Stewardship Item #070181 Oct 9.pdf
Memo to RUC re Backup for Item #070181 Feb 12 2008.pdf
Forest Product Procurement Standards Item #070181 Attachment Feb 12 2008.pdf
Backup for 070181 Draft Forest Certification Standards May 13 08.pdf
Backup for Aug 13 2008 RUC Meeting Item #070181.pdf
Backup for item #070181 Markup Incentive Plan Oct 20 08.pdf
Backup for item #070181 Final Stewardship Incentive Plan Oct 20.pdf

080184.**Water Conservation Policy Referral (B)**

Explanation: At the July 10, 2008 GRU budget meeting the City Commission referred the issue of GRU's water conservation policy to the RUC. Water conservation and the use of reclaimed water will be major components in meeting our community's future water supply needs. Staff will provide a brief update on water supply planning efforts and GRU's existing water conservation programs. Staff will seek input from RUC on items to be discussed in a follow-up meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Utilities Committee (RUC) hear a brief overview of water supply and water conservation programs and issues, and discuss the committee's policy interests for analysis and discussion at a future RUC meeting.

Legislative History

7/10/08	City Commission	Referred (6 - 0 - 1 Absent)	Regional Utilities Committee
10/20/08	Regional Utilities Committee	Deferred	

Backup to RUC Item #080184 Water Conservation 12 10 08.pdf

080132.**Cooking Grease Collection and Recycling (B)**

Explanation: At the June 23, 2008 meeting the City Commission referred the issue of the cooking grease collection and recycling citizen initiative to the Regional Utilities Committee. During a presentation on the Gainesville Clean Water Partnership Program by Sally Adkins, Commissioner Poe mentioned a student that's working on collecting cooking grease at his school and then converting it to bio-diesel fuel for the purpose of operating school equipment. Attached for review and approval is a report from staff resulting from conversations with Commissioner Poe, Kurt Seaburg with the Alachua County Environmental Protection Department, Larry Christian, and Erich Christian.

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Utilities Committee: 1) approve the attached report from staff regarding this referral; and 2) recommend to the City Commission that this item be removed from the referral list.

Legislative History

6/23/08	City Commission	Referred (7 - 0)	Regional Utilities Committee
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Backup for Referral Item #080132 Cooking Grease 12 10 08.pdf

070487.**Florida's Electrical Reserve Margins (NB)**

Explanation: On September 24, 2007 the topic of electric generating and transmission capacity was referred to the RUC after a presentation by a member of The Energy Authority on the status of transmission capacity related to an event in the summer of 2006. At that time, Deerhaven 2 had an unplanned outage and firm transmission capacity to deliver the replacement power was not available. Instead, only non-firm transmission capacity was available for that purpose. The Commission was concerned that the public had not been implored to reduce their electric demands in response to this situation. Staff will review current operations protocols which under extreme prolonged cases does include notice to the public, and which are compliant with NERC standards, and will summarize statewide capacity assessments.

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Utilities Committee hear a brief report from staff and recommend the City Commission remove this item from the referral list.

Legislative History

9/24/07	City Commission	Referred (6 - 0 - 1 Absent)	Regional Utilities Committee
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080520.**Utility Tier for the Elderly in Gainesville (NB)**

Explanation: On October 16, 2008 the City Commission referred this item to the Regional Utilities Committee at the request of Commissioner Henry to determine if GRU could offer special utility rates to the elderly in Gainesville. It was his understanding that the City of Tallahassee offered such a rate.

Staff has researched this topic with the Florida Public Service Commission (PSC) and the City of Tallahassee. It was determined that the Florida PSC would not allow such a rate, as it would provide for interclass subsidies, which are not permitted. In speaking with staff at the City of Tallahassee, GRU staff found that such a rate is not offered by Tallahassee. Tallahassee does offer bill assistance to their low income and elderly customers but that occurs outside of the utility rate structure.

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Utilities Committee: 1) receive a presentation from staff; and 2) recommend to the City Commission to remove this item from the referral list.

Legislative History

10/16/08	City Commission	Referred (7 - 0)	Regional Utilities Committee
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MEMBER COMMENT**CITIZEN COMMENT**

OUTSTANDING REFERRALS

080662. Regional Utilities Committee Outstanding Referral Status Report (B)

RECOMMENDATION

The Regional Utilities Committee review the Outstanding Referral Status Report dated December 10, 2008.

RUC Outstanding Referrals Status Report December 10 2008.pdf

NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting date is January 14, 2009 at 3:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT