

# **City of Gainesville**

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



## **Meeting Agenda**

**May 13, 2009**

**3:30 PM**

**GRU ADMINISTRATION BUILDING MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM**

## **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****090002. Regional Utilities Committee Meeting Minutes for April 8, 2009 (B)**

**RECOMMENDATION**            *The Regional Utilities Committee approve the minutes for the April 8, 2009 meeting as circulated.*

RUC Meeting Minutes for April 8 2009.pdf

**RUC CURRENT ACTION ITEMS****080696. Broadband in Older Neighborhoods (NB)**

*Explanation: 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.*

**RECOMMENDATION**            *The Regional Utilities Committee: 1) Receive an update on broadband availability in older neighborhoods, opportunities from federal stimulus packages from staff; and 2) remove this item from the referral list.*

**Legislative History**

12/18/08	City Commission	Referred (7 - 0)	Regional Utilities Committee
4/8/09	Regional Utilities Committee	Deferred	

**080421. Evaluation of Rates for Reclaimed Water Usage - Discussion of Proposed Changes to GRU's Reclaimed Water Policy (B)**

*Explanation: 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.*

*GRU started its reclaimed water (RCW) program in 1993 and its current RCW extension policy has been in place since 2001. The current policy has resulted in extensive expansion of the RCW system. GRU's RCW system includes*

approximately 1,100 residential irrigation customers, aesthetic water recharge features, industrial cooling at the South Energy Center and other uses. The Paynes Prairie Sheetflow restoration project will result in beneficial reuse of 100% of the flow from the Main Street WRF.

RCW provides two primary benefits: wastewater disposal, and offset of potable water demands. GRU must continue to expand RCW from its Kanapaha WRF to provide additional wastewater disposal capacity to accommodate additional customers. Further, the expansion of RCW, along with increased water conservation will be an important component of GRU's long term water supply plan. At this time GRU is in the process of renewing its Consumptive Use Permit (CUP) with the St. Johns River Water Management District (SJRWMD). SJRWMD is requiring GRU to increase the service area over which RCW systems will be expanded, and is requiring establishment of a mandatory RCW service territory within which new development will be required to install RCW distribution systems.

Staff is proposing to modify GRU's RCW master plan and extension policy in order to continue expansion of RCW service over a broader service area, using a logical stepwise approach. Staff is also evaluating various combinations of sources for funding the on-going expansion of RCW service. Funding sources include wastewater base rates, water base rates, water and wastewater connection charges, reclaimed water usage charges and developer funding. We have involved the Builders Association of North Central Florida in this discussion, but have not yet received their recommendation on whether reclaimed water distribution systems should be funded by those developments receiving reclaimed water, or funded through connection charges to all new customers. Staff will present the proposed RCW master plan, and present the various alternatives for funding. Staff will also discuss the RCW usage charges which have been in place since October 2008, and present a comparison of GRU's RCW rates with those of other utilities.

*Fiscal Note:* The proposed RCW expansion is projected to cost approximately \$45 million over the next 20 years. This could be funded through a combination of various sources, which will be discussed.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Regional Utilities Commission (RUC) receive a presentation from staff describing proposed changes to GRU's reclaimed water extension policy and recommend that the City Commission approve the revised reclaimed water extension policy.

**Legislative History**

9/18/08	City Commission	Referred (7 - 0)	Regional Utilities Committee
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RUC Presentation re Reclaimed Water 5 13 09.pdf

**070528.**

**Nuclear Energy Option and Recommendation (NB)**

*Explanation:* On October 8, 2007 the City Commission referred this item to the RUC. GRU is

*no longer participating in discussions with the Levy project and believes that staff time is better utilized in other areas. Therefore, staff is requesting this item be removed from the referral list.*

**RECOMMENDATION**      *The Regional Utilities Committee recommend that the City Commission remove this item from the referral list.*

**Legislative History**

10/8/07	City Commission	Approved as Recommended and Referred (6 - 0 - 1 Absent)	Regional Utilities Committee
12/10/07	City Commission	Discussed	
4/8/08	Regional Utilities Committee	Discussed	
7/9/08	Regional Utilities Committee	Discussed	
8/13/08	Regional Utilities Committee	Discussed	
4/8/09	Regional Utilities Committee	Deferred	

**070516. Conservation and Energy Use Goals - Mid Year Efficiency Program Update (NB)**

*Explanation: On September 24, 2007 the City Commission referred this item to the RUC. Staff provides the City Commission with quarterly updates on our Energy Efficiency Program Results and is therefore requesting removal of this item from the referral list.*

**RECOMMENDATION**      *The Regional Utilities Committee recommend that the City Commission remove this item from the referral list.*

**Legislative History**

9/24/07	City Commission	Referred (7 - 0)	Regional Utilities Committee
4/8/08	Regional Utilities Committee	Discussed	
6/10/08	Regional Utilities Committee	Discussed	
4/8/09	Regional Utilities Committee	Deferred	

Mid Year Energy Efficiency Report to RUC June 10. 2008.pdf

**070352. Status Report on Maximum Energy Efficiency (NB)**

*Explanation: On August 27, 2007 the City Commission referred this item to the RUC. The City Commission receives quarterly updates on our Energy Efficiency Program*

*Results. Therefore, staff is requesting removal of this item from the referral list.*

**RECOMMENDATION**

*The Regional Utilities Committee recommend that the City Commission remove this item from the referral list.*

**Legislative History**

8/27/07	City Commission	Referred (6 - 0 - 1 Absent)	Regional Utilities Committee
4/8/09	Regional Utilities Committee	Deferred	

070352\_20070827.pdf

**OUTSTANDING REFERRALS**

**081008. Regional Utilities Committee Outstanding Referral Status Report (B)**

RECOMMENDATION            *The Regional Utilities Committee review the Outstanding Referral Status Report dated May 13, 2009.*

RUC Outstanding Referrals status report May 13 09.pdf

**MEMBER COMMENT**

**CITIZEN COMMENT**

**NEXT MEETING DATE**

*The next meeting date has not been determined pending confirmation of committee assignments and any future schedule changes.*

**ADJOURNMENT**