



MINUTES
UTILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE REGULAR MEETING
Tuesday, July 08, 2025
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

Utility Advisory Committee Regular Meeting - 3:00 p.m.

Chair Porter called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

Welcome and Roll Call

Attendance:	Chair Porter	Present
	Vice-Chair Staven	Present
	Member Hofstetter	Present
	Member Hyson	Present
	Member Wallin	Present (arrived at 3:02)
	Member Larkin	Absent
	Member Richmond	Present

Also present were Council Liaison Whitten, Staff Liaison and Energy Services Director Whitney, Deputy Chief Aust, Chief Huntington, Nigel Baummer and Mary Shanks – Herrera Environmental Consultants, Heather Garland – Pacific Financial Consulting Services, LLC, and Administrative Assistant II Mata

Approval of Agenda

VICE-CHAIR STAVEN MOVED AND MEMBER RICHMOND SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PUBLISHED. THE MOTION CARRIED 5-0.

Minutes

1. Approval of the May 13, 2025 Utility Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

MEMBER RICHMOND MOVED AND VICE-CHAIR STAVEN SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE MAY 13, 2025 MEETING MINUTES. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Public Comments

None.

Items of Business

2. Status of Each City Utility

Public Works

Public Works Director D'Alessandro provided updates for departments within Public Works. He provided updates for recently completed and current projects in Water, Wastewater, and Landfill. Updates for Public Works included water lines, booster bumps, the flaring, and the landfill expansion project. Member questions were answered.

Fire & EMS

Chief Huntington requested to present status updates for Fire & EMS while presenting 2026 Medical Utility Rate Setting business item.

Energy Services

Energy Service Director Whitney provided status updates for Richland Energy Services (RES) projects. Updates for RES included AMI meter installations and substation rebuilds. Energy Services Director Whitney also mentioned the 2026 budget is in development, and he mentioned a few of the items to be included. He discussed load capacity and the effects of higher temperatures. Members were reminded of upcoming vacancies. Member questions were answered.

3. 2026 Medical Utility Rate Setting

Chief Huntington presented the 2026 Medical Utility Rate Setting. He requested support from UAC members to support the approval of the transportation fee increase from \$1,042 (resident) and \$1,563 (non-resident) to \$1,146 (resident) and \$1,719 (non-resident). Member questions were answered.

VICE-CHAIR STAVEN MOTIONED AND MEMBER RICHMOND SECONDED THE MOTION TO SUPPORT THE APPROVAL TO INCREASE THE TRANSPORTATION FEE. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

4. Solid Waste Organics Feasibility Study

Public Works Director D'Alessandro introduced members from Herrera Environmental Consultants (Herrera), and Herrera presented the Solid Waste Organics Feasibility Study. They went over the need for additions/updates to meet future Washington State Solid Waste Management requirements, and they discussed the potential financial impacts. Member questions were answered, and feedback was provided.

5. Wastewater Treatment Plant Grit Works Public Works Board Loan Application

Public Works Director D'Alessandro went over the status and the improvements needed to the Wastewater Treatment Grit Works. He requested UAC support the recommendation to apply for a low-interest loan through the Public Works Board to finance the design of the Wastewater Treatment Grit Works Rehabilitation project. Members' questions were answered.

VICE-CHAIR STAVEN MOTIONED AND MEMBER HOFSTETTER SECONDED THE MOTION TO SUPPORT OF A LOAN APPLICATION SUBMITTAL FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT GRIT WORKS REHABILITATION PROJECT. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

6. Wastewater Treatment Plant Anaerobic Digester Public Works Board Loan Application

Public Works Director D'Alessandro went over the status and the improvements needed to the Wastewater Treatment Plant Anaerobic Digester. He requested UAC support the recommendation to apply for a low-interest loan through the Public Works Board to finance the design of the Wastewater Treatment Plant Anaerobic Digester Improvements project. Member questions were answered.

MEMBER RICHMOND MOTIONED AND MEMBER HOFSTETTER SECONDED THE MOTION TO SUPPORT OF A LOAN APPLICATION SUBMITTAL FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT ANAEROBIC DIGESTOR IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT. THE MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

7. Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Tri-City Transmission Reinforcement Projects – 2Q25 Update

Energy Services Director Whitney provided updates to the BPA Tri-City Transmission Reinforcement Projects through the second quarter of 2025. There were no questions.

8. Trump Administration Cancellation/Withdrawal of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)

Energy Services Director Whitney provided a brief description of the MOU that was created by the previous administration. He also went over the reason the MOU was cancelled by current administration. Member questions were answered.

Future Business Items

- Richland Fire Department Ambulance Rate Methodology – September 2025
- Electric Bond Rating, Refund & New Issue Discussion – November 2025
- Electric Rates Review & Rate Design Options with Presentation by FCS – November 2025
- AMI Time of Use (TOU) and Demand Rate Discussion – January 2025
- SMR Update – January 2026

Other Informational Items


The following presentations were presented:

2026 Richland Fire and EMS Rate Setting Presentation
Horn Rapids Landfill Organics Feasibility Study

Adjournment

Chair Porter adjourned the meeting at 5:01 pm.

Prepared by: Arturo Mata
Arturo Mata, Administrative Assistant II

Approved by: 
Daniel Porter, Chair

DATE APPROVED: September 10, 2025

DATE PUBLISHED: September 11, 2025