



# City of Longview

1525 Broadway  
Longview, WA 98632  
www.ci.longview.wa.us

## Minutes - Final

### City Council

*Mayor Don Jensen*  
*Council Member Ken Botero*  
*Council Member Chet Makinster*  
*Mayor Pro Tem Mary Jane Melink*  
*Council Member Steve Moon*  
*Council Member Scott Vydra*  
*Council Member Michael Wallin*

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Thursday, August 20, 2015

6:00 PM

2nd Floor, City Hall

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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, in accordance with RCW Chapter 42.30, that the City Council of the City of Longview, Washington, will conduct a workshop session in the Longview City Hall Council Chambers, 1525 Broadway, Longview, on Thursday, August 20, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. The topics of discussion follow. Final disposition shall be taken on no other matter.**

**The City Hall is accessible for persons with disabilities. Special equipment to assist the hearing impaired is also available. Please contact the City Executive Offices at 360.442.5004 48 hours in advance if you require special accommodations to attend the meeting.**

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

*The workshop was convened at 6:00 p.m.*

**2. ROLL CALL**

**Present:** 7 - Mayor Don Jensen, Council Member Botero, Council Member Makinster, Mayor Pro Tem Melink, Council Member Moon, Council Member Wallin and Council Member Vydra

**GUESTS**

*Commissioner Roden; Commissioner Decius; and Commissioner Takko of the Beacon Hill Water and Sewer District.*

**STAFF PRESENT**

*City Manager David Campbell; City Attorney Jim McNamara; and City Clerk Kaylee Cody.*

*Also present: Kurt Sacha, Assistant City Manager/Finance Director; Jeff Cameron, Public Works Director; Chris Smith, Human Resources Director; John Brickey, CED Director; and Amy Blain, Engineer.*

**3. CHANGES TO THE AGENDA****4. CITY MANAGER'S REPORT**[15-3976](#)**WATER SUPPLY REVIEW - CUSTOMER ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
RECOMMENDATION****COUNCIL INITIATIVE ADDRESSED:**

Provide sustainable water quality & environmental infrastructure

**CITY ATTORNEY REVIEW: N/A****SUMMARY STATEMENT:**

In August 2014, the City Council authorized a contract with CH2M to review options for improving the quality of the city's drinking water and to conduct an outreach program to obtain community input on the issues and potential solutions. The City Council and Beacon Hill Water and Sewer District (BHWSO) commissioners appointed a Customer Advisory Committee (CAC) to review the options and provide recommendations.

The CAC has completed their work and issued a recommendation that the City and BHWSO develop a new water source on the Cowlitz River utilizing Ranney collector wells. CH2M will present the CAC's recommendation and discuss the implementation process for developing the CAC recommended water source. Additionally, City staff will present information regarding potential treatment upgrades at the Mint Farm Regional Water Treatment Plant to improve water quality during the implementation period for developing a new source.

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:**

Discussion

**Attachments:** [CAC Recommendation - 08.20.15 REV.pdf](#)

[Interim Improvements 08.20.15.pdf](#)

[Longview CAC Report final July 2015.pdf](#)

*Mayor Jensen thanked the Customer Advisory Committee and citizens that have put "a huge amount of time on this endeavor to try and help us with the situation with our water and tell us what they think that we should do for the future of the water in Longview." Mayor Jensen reminded staff and citizens that this meeting was a workshop, not a regular Council meeting, though it was being held in the Council Chamber to accommodate a larger audience and so that the workshop could be televised for viewers at home.*

*City Manager Campbell announced that there would be two presentations. First, a presentation by CH2M of the Customer Advisory Committee's recommendation to Council. The second presentation will be by the staff of recommended interim improvements to the current Mint Farm water supply system.*

*Brad Phelps with CH2M was introduced by Jeff Cameron, Public Works Director, and*

began presentation entitled "Longview Drinking Water Supply Improvement Study & Customer Advisory Committee Recommendation" (see attached presentation). The CAC's recommendation is for a Ranney Collector to draw the water supply from the Cowlitz River. Kelso has been using a Ranney Collector successfully for several years. The first step would be to conduct a feasibility study.

Mayor Jensen asked where the Ranney Collector would be placed on the river. Mr. Phelps responded that the placement would depend on the formations in the river - many collectors sit right next to the river, such as the Ranney Collector used in St. Helens, Oregon, which sits on the shore of the Columbia River, though in Kennewick, Washington, their Ranney Collector is placed a quarter mile away from the river. Brad emphasized that the placement could vary depending on the river's formations. Mr. Phelps explained that CH2M had consulted with Lane Christensen, the company that provides Ranney Collector Wells, and they identified five different locations on the Cowlitz River that a Ranney Collector could potentially be placed. These locations are in Lexington, near Fisher's Lane, and at Gearhardt Gardens. All locations would require some type of treatment, which would be determined by a feasibility study. All potential scenarios and the estimated costs were displayed in the presentation.

Regarding the costs, Council Member Melink asked "Can you talk a little bit about the plus fifty, minus thirty, and what the likelihood is that it will fall under those costs?" Mr. Phelps responded by explaining that without a feasibility study, the treatment plant is at a conceptual stage. The cost estimate is what is called a class five cost estimate, which has the least amount of accuracy; the cost estimates are based on several assumptions. However, the cost estimate provided is highly detailed. Council Member Melink also asked about the river bank filtration credit. Mr. Phelps explained that obtaining the river bank filtration credit is a two year process of proving that the water is filtered naturally through the river bank, which would reduce the treatment costs because only UV and chlorine treatment would be needed. A filtration plant would not need to be constructed if a river bank credit were obtained. However, it's very unlikely that the river bank filtration credit would be obtained, as only one city in Washington, Kennewick, has been successful in obtaining the credit.

Commissioner Takko asked how the timeline for building the Ranney Collector Wells would be affected if they committed the two year period to trying to obtain the river bank filtration credit and failed. Mr. Phelps responded that the project would be more expensive because a filtration plant would have to be built.

Mayor Jensen asked if the conveyance and treatment cost estimates included using the existing plant or building a new plant. Mr. Phelps responded that the cost estimates vary depending on what type of treatment will be needed in separate types of scenarios, some of the estimates include using the newly built Mint Farm Treatment Plant, and some do not. Mayor Jensen added that he is concerned about the cost estimates including the cost of a new plant when there is already a new treatment plant that could be used.

Mr. Phelps turned the presentation over to Jeff Cameron, Director of Public Works. Mr. Cameron addressed the City's financial ability to fund the project (see attached presentation).

Regarding the customer surveys, Council Member Melink asked if the businesses had been surveyed for their tolerance of a price increase, if we were to take action to improve the water? Director Cameron responded that though a statistically valid survey was not completed, the City did speak with fifty or so businesses, but he could not recall the results.

Mayor Jensen asked whether silica would be seriously looked at during the feasibility study, as silica is the primary problem with the current water supply. Director Cameron responded that if the Council approved a feasibility study for installing Ranney Collector Wells on the Cowlitz, the water quality would be evaluated, and that based on the current silica levels in the water supply, the City would be able to determine whether silica would also present a problem in the Cowlitz. Mayor Jensen asked about the test drillings, whether they would be drilling at a new site. Director Cameron responded that the feasibility study would include test drilling at one or more or all five options presented, depending on where the Army Corps of Engineers allows the City to drill. The test drills will be as close to the river as the Army Corps of Engineers would allow.

Council Member Makinster stated "Gearhardt Gardens is a landfill garbage dump, you can't be serious about putting a well there." Director Cameron explained that the location was identified strictly for the potential of water quantity, and that if there were concerns about contamination, they would eliminate it as an option. Council Member Makinster added that fear of contamination is the reason why he asked the question.

Council Member Melink asked "I am trying to understand the different levels of treatment, is it possible for manganese to occur in ground water under the influence of surface water?" Director Cameron confirmed that Kelso has to run their water through treatment because manganese does occur in the ground water influenced by surface water. The City of Kelso is looking for an additional water supply because their Ranney Well is aging; they drilled a test hole and the iron levels are too high so they have abandoned it as a potential location for a new Ranney Collector.

Council Member Melink asked "\$300,000 for a feasibility study?" Director Cameron responded that it would cost \$300,000 and the study would take six months. Council Member Moon asked whether the study would be for all five test sites. Director Cameron responded that yes, the study would be for all five test sites and the funds could be drawn from the Construction Fund.

Commissioner Takko asked if there was a possibility that the current system would stabilize over the next several years, to a point that silica would no longer be an issue. Director Cameron responded that the silica level would likely remain the same, though there are options to treat the odor and taste. Director Cameron discussed the depths of the wells and the impact on silica levels.

Council Member Moon asked if permitting would be affected by low water levels. Director Cameron responded that because there are dams upstream, water levels will likely never be an issue.

Council Member Botero asked how many gallons per day the City of Longview needs. Director Cameron did not have an answer off hand. The Council then discussed the costs and impact on citizens.

Mayor Jensen asked citizens to step forward for comment.

CAC member Preston Worth of Longview asked that the information provided in the presentations be considered by the CAC and Council further, as it was the first time they had been presented with some of the information. Director Cameron informed citizens that the presentations are available online at [longviewwater.com](http://longviewwater.com).

Steve Powell of Longview added his support for the CAC's recommendation, stating that using the Ranney wells and sending the water to the Mint Farm Treatment Plant would preserve the investment and the Mint Farm could serve as a back up water

supply. Mr. Powell urged the Council to consider the other costs to the community, such as damage to their property.

Sam Wordell of Longview provided the Council with anecdotal evidence of damage caused by the silica in the water supply and suggested that the consultants who recommended the Mint Farm initially be held liable for errors and omissions.

Barb Westrick of Longview agreed with Mr. Wordell that the consultants should be held liable and voiced a concern over the rising utility rates.

Director Cameron introduced Amy Blain to present on interim improvements that can be made at the Mint Farm treatment plant. The presentation included information about the current water complaints and how the City proposes to make improvements. Director Cameron added his support for the staff's recommended interim improvements and recommended Confluence Engineering to perform the work.

Council discussed the samples that the staff took, and their studies of stagnated water in the pipes. Ms. Blain explained that the studies showed compelling evidence for significant improvements, which would solve the problems for the majority of water customers. The first step would be to perform testing at a cost of approximately \$80,000.

Council Member Makinster voiced his support for moving forward with the interim improvements testing.

Commissioner Roden asked if any tests had been completed in the Beacon Hill boundaries already, and if the City were to move forward with more testing, would the testing include Beacon Hill. Ms. Blain explained that all of the testing so far had been completed in Longview. Commissioner Roden expressed concern about the distance from Beacon Hill's customers from Longview, and whether Beacon Hill would benefit from the interim improvements. Discussion followed regarding potential for testing to include Beacon Hill. Beacon Hill owns 15% of the water system.

Council discussed having the Beacon Hill Commissioners join the regular Council meeting on August 27 to vote on interim improvements due to their interest in the water system as co-owners. If the testing were to be approved, Beacon Hill will share cost. It was decided that the Commissioners would hold a special meeting during the Council's regular meeting on August 27, 2015.

Commissioners and Council discussed pipe scaling and whether the interim improvements would have a positive impact on white scaling. There is a potential for water with lower silica levels flowing through pipes to reverse scaling.

Council Member Moon asked how a change in the water source would affect the new water pipes that had been installed. Melinda with Confluence explained that this would be an important part of the feasibility study.

Joanne of Longview addressed Council to oppose the feasibility study for the interim improvements, concerned about chemicals and pesticides in the water.

The CAC's recommendation and the proposed interim improvements will be presented for a decision at the August 27 Council meeting.

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

*The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.*

**NEXT REGULAR COUNCIL MEETINGS:**

**THURSDAY, AUGUST 27, 2015**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2015**

**NEXT COUNCIL WORKSHOPS:**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2015**

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 24, 2015**