

**CITY OF RIVIERA BEACH  
PALM BEACH COUNTY, FLORIDA.  
UTILITY SPECIAL DISTRICT BOARD WORKSHOP MINUTES  
MUNICIPAL COMPLEX COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2013, AT 5:00 P.M.**

(The following may contain inaudible or misunderstood words due to the recording quality.)

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** All right. Can we get the door closed? Good evening. Good afternoon, everyone, and welcome to the Utility Special District Water, Waste Water Master Plan workshop agenda. And at this moment, now, um -- first of all, if any person would like to speak on an agenda item, not whatever, please fill out a salmon-colored card and -- okay. Nobody wants to do that. And if you have your cell phones, please put them on silence or vibrate, please. Would you please call, um, roll call now, please?

**DEPUTY DISTRICT CLERK ANTHONY:** Chairperson Billie Brooks?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Here.

**DEPUTY DISTRICT CLERK ANTHONY:** Chair Pro Tem Dawn Pardo? Board Member Cedrick Thomas? Board Member Judy Davis?

**BOARD MEMBER DAVIS:** Here.

**DEPUTY DISTRICT CLERK ANTHONY:** Board Member Shelby Lowe. City Manager Ruth Jones?

**CITY MANAGER JONES:** Present.

**DEPUTY DISTRICT CLERK ANTHONY:** Deputy District Clerk Claudine Anthony is present. District Attorney Pamala Ryan?

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY RYAN:** Present.

**DEPUTY DISTRICT CLERK ANTHONY:** District Executive Director Louis Aurigemma?

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Here.

**DEPUTY DISTRICT CLERK ANTHONY:** Assistant District Finance Director, Karen Hoskins.

**ASSISTANT DISTRICT FINANCE DIRECTOR HOSKINS:** Here.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Well, we don't need an agenda. Uh, I mean, don't need a quorum. This is a workshop. I do need approval to, um -- a motion to approve the agenda. We don't need any of that, do we? All right. We'll just move right on. All

this was down here. All right. So right now we'll just have presentation by the Executive Director of Utilities.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Your show.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Thank you, Miss Brooks. Uh, Lou Aurigemma, Executive Director of the Utility District. Uh, tonight is our workshop, uh, for the Utility District Water, Waste Water Master Plan. Uh, thank you, Chair Brooks, uh, Board Member Davis, City Manager Miss Jones, and Miss Ryan, our City Attorney.

Uh, I think this -- we can agree with this statement: water, the most valuable resource on our planet. This was the cover of an American Public Works Association Reporter from, uh, February, 2013, so very, very recent. Uh, also, National League of Cities, this is an organization that you all belong to. Last Friday they issued a press release. They spoke to Congress, the U.S. Congress, and told them that the nation's water infrastructure is aging and that the cities face a backlog of projects and funding challenges that were made only worse with the recent economic downturn.

Uh, the full testimony is actually, uh, listed. Uh, there's a, uh -- a website that you can go to and actually, uh, download this document if -- if you want to get into it. But I just wanted to let you know that there are other organizations other than the engineering professionals that are -- are looking at this particular item.

Utility District entered into a contract in November of 2011 with engineering consultant Hazen and Sawyer for development of a water, waste water master plan. Uh, our consultant is here today to answer any technical questions that you have, so as I go through the presentation, just stop me and I'll answer whatever questions you have.

A comprehensive study was conducted on the water treatment, water distribution, and waste water collection systems. Water distribution and waste water collection, force main, what -- waste water force main hydraulic models were also part of this study. This water, waste water master plan, will guide the utility district into the future and is a - - and is a living document. There will be change. So as we -- as we go into the future we'll make those adjustments as needed.

The utility is approximately 55 years old. There are parts of the infrastructure that are at or near the end of their useful life, and as part of this master plan it was a 20-year horizon for the improvements of the utility infrastructure. Just a quick outline, uh, we'll go through all of these as -- as we move forward.

Purpose, Goals, and Status. The purpose was to evaluate our water and waste water infrastructure with regard to capacity, water quality, regulatory compliance, and renewal and replacement needs. The goal is: Where is the District's money best invested to keep the operation sustainable? And the status, we'll talk about that a little later with the capital improvement program and a preliminary financial position analysis that has been finalized.

Tools and Methodology. We looked at, uh, water quality testing, regulatory compliance, security assessment, hydraulic modeling, conditions and useful life of our infrastructure, and bench scale testing. Uh, the bench scale testing actually showed that we have a few little issues with our water treatment process that we have to correct. We have to look at some -- some, uh, new chemicals, which is, uh, uh, to our system that is actually being phased out. So we need to use some -- some new polymers.

Uh, there's also, as part of that, we have to do some testing of the water and we have to also replace some of our filter medias. It's not affecting the quality of our water. It's just something that will improve the quality of our water as we move forward. Um, the key finding --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Sir, now, as we're going along, when we are speaking of, uh, replacement, somewhere in the presentation later on we'll talk about the cost analysis --

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Yes, ma'am.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- for all of that? Okay.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Yes, ma'am. Okay. Um, some of the equipment that we found that's at the end of its useful life is the chlorine system, or the disinfection system, the ammonia system, the lime slakers, and the flow meters. So that's part of our water treatment process. Uh, we also did an assessment on -- on our waste water collection system. We looked at all our lift stations and we ranked them from very good to very poor.

Um, we have some of our major lift stations that need replacements, Number 10, 47, and 50, and I'll talk about them a little later, in addition to the, uh, a redundant or a duplicative force main that runs from -- from the island to the mainland.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** And again, as part of the modeling that we did, we look at the, uh, future growth and the impact on the capacity. We're trying to identify, uh, methods to improve the Gramercy Park water quality. We want to assess the fire fighting capacity of the water system. We need to assess the impact of critical infrastructure and, uh, we have our lift station upgrades.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Just pause a minute just to let the record show that, uh, Congress -- Congressman -- Councilman Lowe and Councilman Thomas are present now. And we are, um, going through our presentation. I just want the councilpersons to know, and we don't have pages, but this is where we are now --

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** Okay.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- if you want to flip to it.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** We're up to slide number 15.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Oh, yeah. I can see them --

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Yeah, down in the corner.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- on the left, yes, okay.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Uh, next we -- we looked at regulatory compliance assessment. We looked at the current regulations and also some anticipated future regulations. Uh, some of the recommendations for our water distribution system are unidirectional flushing, uh, automated water quality monitoring, and improvements to our, uh, automated, uh, tank turnover. That's for our, uh, uh, four water storage tanks, just to make sure that the water does not get old and it turns over, uh, more automated.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Now, what about this unidirectional flushing?

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Well, what happens is, uh, specifically in the, uh, the Gramercy Park area, the -- the water kinda sits there. So sometimes we just have to flush it out because there's just not enough use at the end of the system, and we've been getting a number of complaints from that area, so it's a matter of getting in there and -- and getting to some fire hydrants towards the end of the system, flushing out, making sure that the -- the water -- the quality of the water -- it -- it's a good quality water, but we -- we just don't want it --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** But you need --

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** -- to be old.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- to have it flushed.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Yeah, you have to.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Because it gets -- yeah.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** If -- if you don't use it, you have to do something with it.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Right. Okay.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Next, uh, projects were prioritized based on a risk of failure, uh, which is the likelihood of failure versus the consequence of failure. And we -- we -- we have four boxes there, and we -- we put each of the projects in one of those boxes. So if it wound up in the red box, that means it was a very urgent project, needs to be done as soon as possible. If it was in the, uh, lower left-hand corner, low-risk assets, then -- now, we -- we got time.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** It -- it -- it's part of the analysis. We looked at everything and -- and we go from there. So then we grouped them into the -- the four groups, the urgent, high, medium, and low priorities. And then we have another group called programmatic that we have to do no matter what. Just on -- on an annual basis, such as, uh, changing out meters, changing out, uh, fire hydrants. Again, over a 20-year time frame, um, you just got to keep doing it. Uh, it's something that's upkeep of -- of the, uh, utility.

Now, the improvement type for water, again, we looked at water quality, regulatory, security, capacity, and replacement and renewal. For the waste water we looked at the upgrades to the ECR plant, the regulatory conditions, the capacity, and again, the renewal and replacement.

Now, here's where we get into the numbers, Miss Brooks. Um, if we were to take all these projects, we would be looking at over \$200 million to make these improvements in 20 years. Now, granted, I know that we don't have that kind of money. Uh, it's just not possible. So if -- if we went back to a couple of slides ago where we talked about the urgent --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** The urgent, uh-huh.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** The -- the priorities.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** We're looking at, at the urgent, and the high priorities to do. And -- and that roughly is between 40 and \$60 million, which becomes much more doable. It doesn't mean that the other items are not done. They are done, but it's -- it's a -- it's a longer time frame. So as you see by this bar chart, the urgent projects are just under \$40 million, with the high priority a little more than 20. So you -- you're looking, as I said, about 40 to -- to \$60 million.

Now, if you were to -- to, uh, put it in a pie chart, \$158 million of this is in water, where the urgent is a little bit less than, uh, \$25 million, and the high priority is almost \$16 million. So again, it's just to give you an idea on -- on how the projects are split up.

And then on the waste water side, again, uh, we have, uh, about \$56 million worth of improvements and -- and again, that's if -- if we were doing everything. And the urgent is more like 16 million, and the high priority is about \$8 million.

Now, the key early out projects. These are the top five projects that we have, that -- that we need in the water treatment, water distribution system. Water plant disinfection change, the ammonia system. We need to replace the slakers and the lime slurry system. We need to put another water main across the intracoastal, and then the Martin Luther King Boulevard, phase C, uh, from Australian to Old Dixie, uh -- oh, that came out wrong. Uh, these are, uh, approximately \$14 million worth of improvements.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Let me ask you something as you're going along here. Um, as we're talking about what needs to be changed, when I look at this, now, what on this list would impact on the health and/or safety of -- of your crew and the public --

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** With -- with respect --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- because that would have to give us some type of, um, thinking in terms of the priority for spending. I mean, of -- on the list here, like the water plant disinfection change, or the new --

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Right, the -- the --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- aqueous ammonia system. Is there anything here that's on this list that if it is not taken care of immediately could impact on the health of the community?

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Well, what -- what we're looking at, uh, quite frankly, is -- is the very top one, the water plant disinfection --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** -- change.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** That's what I was wondering.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** At -- yeah, absolutely.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** That -- that's the first one. As I stated earlier, that's near the -- near or at the end of its useful life.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** It needs to be changed, and -- and we've made that decision as a Board to change the disinfection system. We are working on that --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** -- as we speak.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Uh, we're developing a -- a core facility so that we can house the new disinfection system, and we hope to put out that, uh, RFP --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** -- in the very near future.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Now, we have the money for that.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** We have money for that right now in the current capital budget, yes, ma'am.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Program. Okay. Just want to make everybody aware we have the money for that. Okay.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Okay? Uh, the top waste water -- five waste water collection needs, uh, we have Lift Station 50 and Lift Station 10 replacements, uh, that --

**BOARD MEMBER DAVIS:** Could you please provide the locations of those stations?

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Oh, yes, ma'am. Uh, Lift Station 50 is at MLK and Avenue U.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** And that's about \$2.5 million. That is currently under design. Uh, you approved the contract at the last Council meeting. Lift Station 10 is the main lift station on the island, which is on Park Avenue -- Park Avenue, right? Lake Avenue and, uh, just north of Blue Heron.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** And Lift Station 47 is on Haverhill Road, uh just south of, uh, uh, Dyer Road. So, uh, Lift Station 50 and 47 pump directly to the ECR. Lift Station 10 pumps everything off the island into the -- the main system.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh. Okay.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** And then, uh, the next item, a parallel 16-inch force main which crosses the intracoastal. Right now we have an older force main that's, uh, approaching 50 years old. Probably time to, uh, put in a parallel line, because if that line that's currently there ever goes down, we're out of business on -- on the island.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**BOARD MEMBER DAVIS:** Yeah.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** And then, uh, the other priority is the rehabilitation of about a third of our lift station in Phase 1.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Financial considerations. We developed a financial forecast and the balance needs versus financial capacity. This is, um, a chart which shows, uh, currently the rates with the improved increases, and that's what we talked about. Uh, currently if a customer is using an average of 6,000 gallons, their water bill, water and sewer bill, is \$40, \$47.70.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Please note that this is just the utility portion of the bill that you get. When you receive your utility bill you also have a sanitation or garbage charge, and also a storm water utility. That's all in one bill. So this is only the water and sewer part -- portion of that -- that particular bill.

Uh, based on the rate increases that we -- we talked about, uh, through 2019, uh, these are the numbers that you would see in each year going up, so it would be going from \$47.70 to \$55.63 in 2019 if -- if -- if everything was -- was equal. Now, based on our financial study, what we looked at and we saw was that we were a little bit behind and deficient on the ECR-based sewer increases. So what the consultant did is said, Okay. Let's -- let's figure out by adding a little bit more to the sewer in each of the next, uh, six -- in each of the next six years, to kind of help us balance.

Now, again, this is very preliminary numbers and it would only be finalized through a rate study. I mean, we're not -- we're not here to say that you're -- we're gonna increase your rates. All we're saying is that there's a potential for that. So basically, today, 47.70 for the water and sewer, and in 2019 there would be an increase of \$5 from the projected proposed, uh, 2019 rate to, uh -- it would go from \$55 to \$60, plus or minus.

Now, this is a chart, and I apologize for the legibility. It's kinda small. But currently, uh, the City of Riviera Beach Utility District, again, based on 6,000 gallons, has a -- has a rate of \$47.70. Other Southeast Florida utilities are ranked here and as you can see, we're probably -- we are just below the town of -- or Village of Tequesta, and so we're among the lowest rates in the county. Uh, italicized and bold is Palm Beach -- our -- our ECR partners, Palm Beach County, West Palm Beach, Lake Worth. Uh, the Town of Palm Beach is not included because their -- their rates are, uh, meshed with, uh, the West Palm Beach. Their average utility bills are almost \$67. The remaining utilities are about \$62.

So as you can see, we're -- we're well below the average, and I think that's where the Board wants us to be, in the -- in the lower tier, and -- and that's fine. Uh, next -- next year, again, our consultant said that just to make up a little bit for the ECR, uh, sewer charges, our rate would go up to 51.68, which would also include the -- the water increase, uh, that's already in the program. We would still be in the lower tier of water rates for the area. So I just wanted to give you a little flavor for where we are with respect to rates. Now --

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes.

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** Go back to that slide there?

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** This one?

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** Yes.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Okay.

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** You said that we're in the lower tier for the rates of -- I'm -- I'm really just trying to look at the ones that are really in this county.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Palm Beach County.

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** Um, I see a lot of different rates up there, but the -- the ones in this county is where I'm gonna try to look. You went through it kinda fast and I just wanna --

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Okay.

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** I'm -- I'm trying to see where we -- do you have a sheet, uh -- a scale of where we are just for this county?

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Well, there's -- there's a couple that are out -- if you look at the first, uh, six or seven, those are all in -- in Palm Beach County. Then there's, uh, Fort Lauderdale, Coral Springs, Broward County, Tamarac. Those are -- those are all in Broward County. Uh, we have Lantana, which is Palm Beach. We have Martin County. Cooper City's in Broward. West Palm Beach. Hollywood's in Broward. Lake Worth is in Palm Beach, and then, of course, Dania Beach is also in Broward County. So there the -- we were looking at Southeast Florida, but, uh, we can pare that down to, uh, Palm Beach County, and we're still in the lower tier.

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** Okay. Um, and you said that there's gonna be a -- an additional increase that goes into effect in 2014?

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** No, I'm not saying that. I'm saying that the consultant has proposed that. Before we implement any increase, we would have to come to the Board and say, you know, We would like an increase. But even before that, we have to do a rate study. We can't just come -- these are preliminary numbers. And what they're telling us is that we're a little bit behind. We're a little bit deficient in -- in our collection of sewer fees. But again, it's a preliminary report. Until you get into the fine --

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** Who -- who's saying that? Who's saying that we're deficient?

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Our -- our consultant did a preliminary financial analysis on -- as part of this Water, Waste Water Master Plan.

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** Okay. But when the Board approved the last set of rate increases --

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Correct.

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** -- that wasn't looked at at that time?

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Well, again, things have changed at the ECR, because that -- that's including the ECR changes. So back then, back in 2008 there was some discussion, but it was very, very preliminary. Times change. We're talking five -- move five years fast forward, things have happened at the ECR.

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** I -- I understand. I'm saying, when -- when this Board made that change, was the sewer fees not looked at?

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** No, they were looked at, sir.

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** And what did we come up with then?

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** You came up with the current rates that you have today.

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** Okay. But what was the change between then and now that it's gonna cause this to go up more?

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Well, again, improvements at the ECR. There is some additional debt that is being incurred at the ECR as part of a hundred million dollars worth of -- of, uh, improvements at the ECR.

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** Well, this -- you know, this -- this is an issue, um, for me, and I believe it's an issue for, you know, a lot of the residents.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** The ECR Board is made up of whoever. Um, but the ECR business we don't ever discuss here, but we're asking our residents to foot whatever the portion of the City's bill is in there. I can't explain to the residents why their bill is proposed to go up an additional four dollars, because we don't know everything that's going on at the ECR. It's -- it's -- it's a disconnect. It's basically like that Board does whatever it wants to. So however you may feel about my passion or whatever about what's going on, this is just simply not really fair for us to say, Okay, you're gonna get another \$4 increase because of whatever improvements are.

And -- and when we're not -- we're only getting told what some citizens, some cities may be saying or whatever, it's not a real process of engagement with this Board, you know, and the ECR. But I'm -- I'm looking here. You went over it kinda fast, you know. Um, with all of the issues that we're having with this water bill, it's nowhere in the world I wanna go over and do anything fast, and at least not explain why we're going to have

this.

Of course, I know what my individual, um, response would be when it's time for this to come to a vote, but at this point we at least need to be able to explain that. We just can't say, You get another \$4 bill due to what is going on at ECR. We have to give more transparency than that. This is not something that I think that we should just be saying, Okay, this is proposed, and especially when we just gave them an increase a couple of years ago that we're still getting the effects of, and that's not going to change. So in addition to that four additional dollars, their bill is still gonna go up again, you know, and that's a problem that creates confusion where people don't know. A lot of fixed incomes are in our city.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** And we really just need to look at this. So as disappointing as it may be, you know, for the utility district at this time, I'm gonna have to say that we need to be a little bit more clear, a little bit more transparent with these particular, you know, fees.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Yes, sir. Uh --yes, ma'am?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Well, I was just gonna add that, I just wanna be clear. Now, this -- well, you -- everybody know how I feel about the water issue. Uh, this is proposed. But does the Commission or the Council have a right to vote against it? And what would be the impact of doing that?

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Right now this was based on -- on a study, a preliminary study done by our consultant. They just are giving the information. I'm not asking for a vote. Uh, we're not even going into any detail. Again, these are very preliminary numbers. Before we even go there we would have to do a rate study, a new rate study to confirm all these numbers.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** This is only -- only preliminary. And at that point we would come back. If -- if it was necessary, we would come back and tell you, This is where we need to increase, and these are the reasons why. So we would be transparent with respect to that.

Just to address the ECR comment, the Utility District Board does receive approximately quarterly memorandums through my office that gives you the minutes of the meetings from the ECR. And if you need some further explanation, we can provide that at Utility District Board Meetings, if you -- if you need that explanation, or you can -- you can ask me a question at any time, whether you call me individually or we can do it in a public setting.

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** I'm -- I'm speaking in terms of not just this Board, but the ability for any resident that is in this city to be able to know what their increases are

going to and going for, for any resident. It just needs to be more transparent. Of course, I, as a councilperson can pick up the phone, and you're going to always humbly answer my questions, but I'm speaking of any resident to be able to access this information via however it needs to be, so that they're -- they are comfortable. There's a lot of issues, a lot of uncertainty, a lot of discomfort with the way that these rates are going.

And I know for a fact that the rates are going to continue to go up, based on what was approved a few years ago. We're -- it's -- it's -- it's shocking everyone right now, so when it continues to go up and you -- you have an additional fee, I don't care what the numbers look like. I don't care how close we are into it. Reality is that it is hurting our residents, and if it -- and if -- if -- you -- you said that you're not asking us for a vote, but your proposed date says 2014. So a vote is forthcoming, you know, on this.

We don't even know how that would affect us. We don't know exactly, you know, what improvements that that's going toward. I just feel -- and this is my personal opinion -- that we need to be transparent so that everybody will know exactly what's going on, not what in a 15-minute meeting that we have before City Council meeting for the Utility District. People need to understand, that line is getting longer. The complaints are getting, you know, larger. It -- it's an issue. We -- we need to know that, on top of whatever issue we're having with our -- the way that our meters are being read at this point, anyway. This is just going to add insult to injury. So I just think that we need to be a little bit more transparent.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Okay, sir.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Any further?

**BOARD MEMBER DAVIS:** Yeah. Madam Chair?

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Yes, Miss Davis?

**BOARD MEMBER DAVIS:** Um, I was -- I was just sitting here trying to, uh, figure out how we could explain this better. Um, based on what I understand, you know, the ECR contract with all of these municipalities, five agencies, I believe, um, you know, I don't know if we want to be on -- in the -- the waste water business. I think we had one a long time ago, many, many years ago, um, and I -- I have a brother who -- who works in it. Uh, and I know it's very problematic at times, and it's very costly to do.

So based on whether or not maybe residents need to be told, or given information of what the option is, whether to build our own waste water, uh, facility, or deal with what we have now, but explain in greater detail why the costs are going up. You know? Um, and we know here that it's because of the infrastructure and -- and all of those things and, um, you know, I think it's -- it's less costly for us to do it that way than to build our own, but you know, residents may not understand that. So I'm -- I'm just open to however we can, you know, get the information out there to the residents, you know, to, um, make sure that they understand, you know, what the -- what the situation is.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Well, one way would be, of course, if we were to have -- you know, using our cable channel, to have some sessions where this --

**BOARD MEMBER DAVIS:** Absolutely.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- matter is discussed, and to run it for however many times we need to do it as a public information. Because as soon as you say "increase," you know right away it --

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** And in --

**BOARD MEMBER DAVIS:** But let it be an educational --

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Right, and -- and --

**BOARD MEMBER DAVIS:** -- type.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** That's right --

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** -- Miss Davis --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- yeah.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** -- you -- you bring up, uh, an excellent point, and it's a, uh -- it sounds like a topic for a future public workshop, as well as, as Miss Brooks said, an educational piece that we can work out with Mr. Giles so that we can at least get little bits and pieces of it, so that -- it is a very complex system.

**BOARD MEMBER DAVIS:** Absolutely.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** And -- and we are about 11 percent of the entire waste water treatment system.

**BOARD MEMBER THOMAS:** Well, what -- I -- I hear what my colleague is saying, but that increase is not going to have anything to do with what we are experiencing here. That increase has to do with the ECR. Although we're a part of the ECR, that's not doing anything for us. You know?

I'm looking at the -- the -- every year it increases a couple of dollars. That I can understand. That we -- we see. I don't like it. I don't approve of it. I wish we didn't have to have it. But it's there and it's happening. My issue is with the ECR, that extra four bucks that in 2014 may be an extra six bucks. We don't know. All I'm saying is, let's have more transparency with that. And we're not going to get it just having a 15-minute meeting, or just showing something on the -- the television.

We need to have an opportunity for people to come in and talk with you and talk with -- you know, everybody's not gonna get it just by, you know, looking at it online or just look -- they don't understand it. It's very hard to understand why your bill is a certain,

uh, point at, you know -- and it wasn't that way for the past couple of months, or why this -- you know, those are all issues, and now we're just talking about an increase, a proposed increase. That's going to frighten some more people to say, Oh, my God, you know, here it -- here it goes again.

That's all I'm saying. You know, we -- I'm -- I'm -- I get that. I get that. And I'm really not concerned about whoever may not like what I'm saying. All I'm saying is I'm here to make sure that the people can get what they need out of this. And right now nobody understands this. It's not a day that goes by that one or all of us are not getting some type of complaint about this water bill. You know?

So some -- something other than let's put it on the bill, or let's put it on the phone system. You're gonna have to engage the citizens at some point so that we can get, you know, some clarity to this, you know. And it just keeps getting bigger and bigger, and we want to just disregard it and continue to do other things and act like it doesn't exist.

We've got to clear up our issue first. I know we one part of the -- of the ECR, but we gotta clear up our issues that we're having here, you know. And that's what the workshop should be. You know? And if we did, if we advertised that type of workshop, we wouldn't have enough space in here, you know, for individuals to come and sit.

We're -- we're discussing this. Most of the public is not here at this point. You know, in a couple of months, when this starts to hit, and people really feel it, we're just gonna have another wave of disappointed, you know, residents. And -- and that's what I'm trying to alleviate. And that's all I'm trying to alleviate.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** And what you're suggesting certainly -- well, it suggests that there's more than one way that we would need to inform and engage the public; having a workshop here. Those of us in our districts, we could certainly have, uh, community meetings, and because some people just not gonna come to City Hall. But they will come to their church. Uh, they will come to the different, um, places in the community, so we -- we'd look at doing that, and I'm sure you would be available to go out and -- and meet with them.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Uh, uh, please let me --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Miss Jones always ensures that her staff is available to go out and meet with -- with community people. And -- and I -- you know, by just talking about it, it's given us ideas as to how we can go out and educate the people and get their input.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Yes, ma'am.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Uh, please let me state that the, uh -- the waste water treatment at the ECR affects each and every customer of the City

of Riviera Beach Utility District.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Right.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** When you take a shower, or you flush the toilet, that water that goes down the drain eventually winds up at the ECR. So it does affect each and every person.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** And it's good to explain this.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Yes, and -- and --

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** In a -- in a meeting with the --

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Right, and we can do that.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- public there.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** That -- that is not a problem.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. Well, there's no one way. We're talking about many different ways so that we can --

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Right. Correct.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** -- educate. All right. Thank you much.

**DISTRICT EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AURIGEMMA:** Okay? And then, uh, just my -- my last slide is just to compare the cost of water to the cost of some commodities that we have. Uh, a gallon of gas today is somewhere in the \$4 range and rising. A gallon of milk is about \$4. It ranges, depending on whether or not you get whole milk or low fat or whatever. A gallon of orange juice is about six bucks, and that's if you get it on sale at Publix. A, uh -- a gallon of drinking water, if you went to Publix, or Winn-Dixie, just grabbed a gallon, about a dollar, plus or minus. The cost of one gallon of Riviera Beach Utility water is about a half a penny per gallon. So the cost of that water to make it -- and that's just the water. That's not the sewer portion of it. That's the water. If you wanted a gallon of water, that's what it would cost you. It would cost you a little less than a penny. If we added the rate increases through 2019, it would -- we would creep up to just a little bit more than half a penny per gallon. So there is -- our water is a good value to everyone in the Utility District. It's -- it's not just us. I -- I -- even in South Florida, they're paying probably a little bit more, many of the utilities, but -- but you know, it's still probably under a penny a gallon. So I just wanted to close with this. If we have any further questions, discussions, uh, we -- I can entertain those at this time.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Okay. So it's open to the Board. Any questions? Okay. I'm sorry.

**DEPUTY DISTRICT CLERK ANTHONY:** We got a card.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Oh, I'm sorry. Okay. What -- because we're all finished. We do have one card from Greg Moray [phonetic]. Sir, you're up.

**GREG MORAY:** Yes.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** State your name, address.

**GREG MORAY:** Uh, my name is, uh, Greg Moray. I'm 21<sup>st</sup> Street, Avenue C, Riviera Beach, Florida. And, um, education is a -- is a -- you have to educate the public on what we're doing about increases, so Mr. Thomas over there is right on, hitting right on. Um, but we also should be asking maybe we can ask our big politicians from Washington, you know, like, maybe Debbie Wasserman-Schultz or Patrick Murphy, to come -- to come in and to listen to the concerns of the neighbors. So, um, and I also was in Washington, D.C. just recently, and I was at the reception, um, of Joe Kennedy's in Washington, D.C. and happened to bump into Debbie Wasserman-Schultz right there, and we had a wonderful conversation, and so I'm sure she would be just passionate about the people in Riviera Beach, Florida. And so I'm sure she would want to come here. And she asked me, she would like to come to Rybovich and have a lunch. And I said, Absolutely.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**GREG MORAY:** We'll invite all the city councilors, and we'll invite her, and we -- we can invite Vicky Kennedy, as well. I'm sure she has great concerns here in the Palm Beach area. And then we can invite, uh, Joe Kennedy himself. I know these people very personally. They do want to come here on other issues but we have issues of water right now.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Uh-huh.

**GREG MORAY:** And I'm sure she can help somewhere in federal assistance or state assistance or something like that, of that nature. So I'll look forward -- I'll be passing these out at the CRA meetings.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Oh, good.

**GREG MORAY:** And I've got a lovely letter from Joe Kennedy about this city.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Oh, wonderful.

**GREG MORAY:** I'm gonna give it to everyone of youse. Love you with all my heart. Thank you, guys.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Thank you so much. You always try to bring us good news.

**GREG MORAY:** Thank you.

**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** Any other cards? If not --

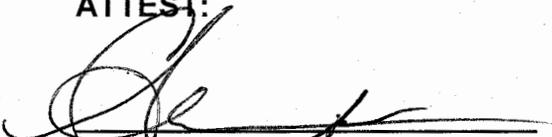
**BOARD MEMBER DAVIS:** Motion to adjourn.

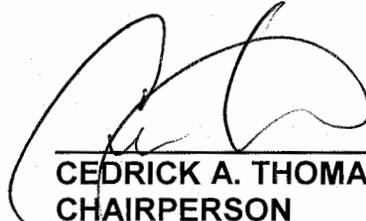
**CHAIRPERSON BROOKS:** That's it. Thank you so much for your presentation.

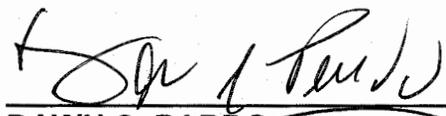
(CONCLUSION OF WORKSHOP)

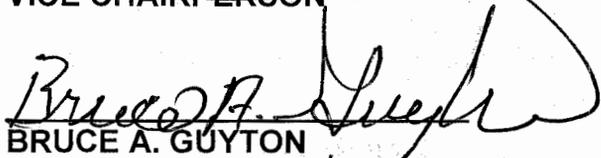
**APPROVED:**

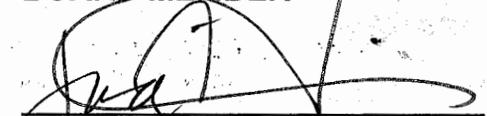
**ATTEST:**

  
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UTILITY SPECIAL DISTRICT CLERK

  
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DAWN S. PARDO  
VICE CHAIRPERSON

  
BRUCE A. GUYTON  
BOARD MEMBER

  
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BOARD MEMBER

  
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BOARD MEMBER

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**SECONDED BY:** B. GUYTON

C. THOMAS AYE  
D. PARDO AYE  
B. GUYTON AYE  
J. DAVIS AYE  
T. DAVIS AYE

**DATE APPROVED:** 04/03/2013