



DRAFT

**Joint Committee on Austin Water Utility’s Financial Plan
October 16, 2014
Waller Creek Center, Room 104
625 East 10th Street
Austin, Texas**

For more information go to: <http://austintexas.gov/department/joint-subcommittee>

AGENDA

**Water & Wastewater
Commission Members**

Mickey Fishbeck
Chien Lee, P.E. (Absent)

**Resource Management
Commission Members**

Sean Kelly
Luke Metzger

**Impact Fee Advisory
Committee Members**

Kris Bailey
J.R. (Hank) Kidwell (Absent)
Brian Rodgers

Staff in Attendance:

David Anders Assistant Director, Daryl Slusher Assistant Director, Amy Hunter, Ron Bedinghaus, Jan Burazer, Sonja Stefaniw, Kristi Fenton, Robert Rowan, Rick Coronado, Songli Floyd, Elena Torres-Ponce, Denise Avery, Henrietta Melgar, Chris Chen and Jason Hill

Additional Attendees:

Citizens: Bill Bunch, Roy Waley

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fishbeck called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

B. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

1. Bill Bunch, Executive Director of Save our Springs Alliance. Spoke on the water rate issue and highland lakes issue, specifically single-family residential increases lower blocks vs. higher block percentage increases. Mr. Bunch spoke on Cost of Service model concept
2. Roy Waley, Conservation Chair of Austin Sierra Club, emphasized the percentage increases on rates and the need to educate people as to why water cost more, especially when citizens are trying to conserve. Mr. Waley, will propose the question to candidates elect at Council. Would like to see further discussions on reusable water sources and changing the Austin water business model; suggesting a change in the infrastructure by removing the conservation division from the department.

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Meeting minutes from the May 28, 2014 Joint Committee regular meeting were approved on Commissioner Metzger motion to approve and Commissioner Rodgers' second motion. Consenting were Commissioners Fishbeck, Bailey, and Kelly. Commissioners Lee and Kidwell were not present to vote on this item.

D. DISCUSSION ITEMS FOR COMMITTEE'S REVIEW:**1. Communicating Rate Increase to Public**

Commissioner Fishbeck states the Utility's wish to narrow the focus to the bill insert. Commissioner Bailey communicates his frustration on the way the information was released to the public, the Budget Offices misrepresentation of the rate effect to citizen's was poorly executed and a disservice to the water utility. Commissioner Kelley piggy-backed off Commissioner Bailey's concerns and frustration and furthered his comments to include the use of the water utility as an Enterprise fund. Commissioner Rodgers points out the responses to the questions regarding the bill insert were answered in the same manner indicating the Budget Office has not completed any action to rectify this misinformation presented.

2. Questions from the Committee

None

3. Residential Consumption and Revenue Analysis**4. Alternative Rate Option Review****E. VOTING ITEMS FROM COMMITTEE**

1. Joint Committee Recommendation to City Council
 - i. Communicating Increase to Public
2. Alternative 2015 Residential Rates
3. Joint Committee Recommendation to City Council
 - i. Rate Option
4. Calendar date for future Joint Committee meeting

F. STAFF BRIEFINGS, PRESENTATIONS, AND OR REPORTS

David Anders presented information

G. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

1. Joint Committee Recommendation to City Council

H. ADJOURN

Chair Fishbeck adjourned the meeting without objection at 9p.m.