



June 7, 2023, Meeting

New GIS Apps – Uriel Castillo

Uriel Castillo presented on the platform Local Data Governance Model which the City Utilities has been using the last 15 years and how the utility will be upgrading to the ESRI Utility Network for 3D modeling. Uriel also discussed the different visualization methods that using ESRI will allow the team to utilize in the GIS system. It allows for better interdepartmental connection as well as external connection with the customers. Day-to-day operations are also improved with the insights that the new platforms can give to the operators. Matthew explained that ESRI has allowed for just a single person to do mapping while the rest of the team can do data analytics, better utilizing staff resources. Matthew stated that ESRI will help with better data analytics and overall improve efficiency of data utilization in our goal to better sustain Fort Wayne.

A question was asked if we will be seeing any changes to public access to GIS? Uriel stated that there will be no immediate changes to the interactive map for the public but there are updates being made on the backend to someday upgrade the system.

Sustaining Fort Wayne – Climate Action and Adaptation Plan – Kerry Korpela

Kerry talked about City Utilities energy savings, efficiency, and sustainability initiatives that are being implemented in conjunction with the new Sustaining Fort Wayne program being worked on by the city. City Utilities is working with an assessment framework that operates at a project level called Invision. Invision was put forth by the Institute for Sustainable Infrastructure in the Harvard School of Architecture. The assessment process will implement sustainability at every level.

We are also working on the Grease Cooperative to partner with restaurants to implement the consistent clean-up of their grease interceptors.

The Sustain Fort Wayne Initiative is implementing our Climate Action Adaptation Plan (CAAP) to mitigate the rate of climate change, adapt to the way we live, and prepare ourselves to withstand and recover from the effects of climate change. The team is working in tandem with the Mayor's Office to take on the challenge.

Rod Vargo asked what the budget will be for the CAAP and Sustain Fort Wayne Initiative? Kerry stated that the team will have around \$200,000 to work with for the rest of the year. Money is still being reorganized and grant money requested to gather additional funding for initiative, so there is no final count on the total budget yet. Rod expressed strong support for the approaches being taken on the CAAP. Readily sustainable and supportable by a broad range of public perspectives

Update on Water Taste and Odor – Matthew Wirtz

Matthew explained that City Utilities uses surface water as a source of the city's drinking water. A wash of organics of algae growth in the river is what caused the poor odor and organic tasting water. Thus, the unusual dry month of May did not allow for the flushing of this organic matter from the river. The organics MIB and GISON are natural and always present in our water, these amounts were elevated causing the earthy/organic taste. City Utilities has searched, including the internet, and found neither GISON nor MIB have known health effects. Matthew indicated a



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potential of four wells should collectively allow an option of up to 10 million gallons (MG) total as needed, although at an extra cost due to pumping. That compares to an average customer demand for water of 30-35 MG and currently 40-45 MG due to drought and swimming pool season. Well-water temperature is 53-54 degrees Fahrenheit, which may help reduce deterioration of infrastructure during freezing weather. The water quality from the Wabash Limestone is also very good. Water is leaving the plant at more normal levels and by the weekend should be completely back to normal and up to the standard that the customers of Fort Wayne expect.