City Manager's Update

March 28, 2023

Water Independent Review Committee
30-Day Update

Jade Dundas
Capital Projects Director
(IRC Administrative Liaison)



Key Takeaways

1. Committee making good progress and should be on track to meet the 90 day timeline for delivery of the final report.
2. The Committee is principally doing its work in three subcommittees: Communications, Water System and Emergency Response and Operations.
3. Delivery of final report tentatively scheduled for end of May with Council presentation early June.

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January 10, 2023 - IRC Resolution

City Council hereby establishes an independent review committee to analyze the events and circumstances leading up to, and throughout the duration of, the recent prolonged water outage. This committee shall review the water outage in order to provide a comprehensive account of the event, an assessment of the City's operational and emergency response and communication efforts, and an analysis of needed infrastructure and process and policy changes that, if implemented, would maximize prevention of future events and improve communication, emergency response, and mitigation processes.

The committee shall be composed of nine members with multidisciplinary backgrounds to include the following position classifications: Two Residential Water Customers, One Commercial Water Customer, One Emergency Response Professional, Two Communications Professionals, and Three Subject Matter Experts in Public Water Systems. Two appointments shall be made by the Buncombe County Commission, and the remaining appointments shall be made by the Asheville City Council.

The committee shall engage an expert to prepare an initial report regarding the findings and recommendations of the committee, with updates on this process being shared with the City Council within 30 days of the committee being established.

The Committee shall provide a final report, including the written report of the committee's contracted expert, with the City Council within 90 days of the committee being established.

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9 Member Committee of Experts

Name	Role
John McLaughlin	Water Subject Matter Expert
Ted Tyree	Water Subject Matter Expert
Michael Holcombe	Water Subject Matter Expert
Mike McGill	Communication Subject Matter Expert
Rob Brisley	Communication Subject Matter Expert
Dennis Fagnant	Emergency Management Subject Matter Expert
Michele Ashley	Residential Water Customer
Kim "Dirt" Murphy	Residential Water Customer
Carolyn Roy	Business Water Customer

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Subcommittees - Focus Areas

- Communications
  - Internal
  - External
- Water System
  - Treatment Plant Operations
  - Transmission and Distribution System Operations
- Emergency Response and Operations

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Schedule of Committee Activities

Date	Event
January 10	City Council Vote to create independent review committee
February 20	Committee Kickoff Meeting
February - May	Committee and **subcommittee activities** scheduled as required to complete the review
March 1	Roles and Responsibilities Meeting
March 21	Committee Check in Meeting
March 28	Update to City Council
May 30	Tentative Date for final report to City Council

Subcommittee activities include but have not been limited to the following:

- Interviews with a broad range of stakeholders - internal and external to the City
- Collection and analysis of data related to the water system operations - normal and event operations
- Developing plans that will allow for the appropriate analysis of the events and how this information will be processed into a final comprehensive report

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Additional Support Services

- City Staff are providing administrative support to the Committee
  - Jade Dundas, Capital Projects Director
  - Beth Bechel, AFD Business Manager
- Meeting Coordination and Facilitation
  - KTO Strategies
- Report Generation and Technical Assistance
  - McGill Associates
- Water Modeling
  - Hazen - Currently working through contract terms

90-Day Reporting Deadline

- Target report delivery date
  - May 30, 2023

- In-person presentation of findings and recommendations to City Council
  - First available Council meeting in June

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Key Takeaways

1. Committee making good progress and should be on track to meet the 90 day timeline for delivery of final report.
2. The Committees is principally doing its work in three subcommittees and include-Communications, Water System and Emergency Response and Operations.
3. Delivery of final report tentatively scheduled for end of May with Council presentation early June.

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Questions

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