



**City Light Review Panel Meeting  
Meeting Minutes**

**Date of Meeting: February 15, 2022 | 9:00 – 11:00 AM**  
**| Meeting held via Microsoft Teams “Final”**

<b>MEETING ATTENDANCE</b>					
<b>Panel Members:</b>					
<b>Names</b>		<b>Name</b>		<b>Name</b>	
Anne Ayre	√	Leo Lam	√	John Putz	√
Mikel Hansen	√	Kerry Meade	√	Tim Skeel	
Scott Haskins	√	Joel Paisner	√	Michelle Mitchell-Brannon (appointment pending)	√
<b>Staff and Others:</b>					
Debra Smith	√	Jen Chan	√	Karen Reed (Consultant /RP Facilitator)	√
Kirsty Grainger	√	Mike Haynes	√	Craig Smith	√
Jim Baggs	√	DaVonna Johnson	√	Michelle Vargo	√
Kalyana Kakani		Emeka Anyanwu	√	Maura Brueger	
Julie Moore	√	Chris Ruffini		Chris Tantoco	√
Greg Shiring	√	Carsten Croff	√	Leigh Barreca	√
Eric McConaghy	√	Caia Caldwell	√	Brain Taubeneck	√
Kate Nolan	√	Jenny Levesque	√	Joni Bosh (NVEC)	√
Vanessa Lund (Lund Faucett)	√	Ellen Pepin-Cato (Lund Faucett)	√	Any Wheelless (NVEC)	√

**Welcome and Introductions.** The meeting was called to order at 9:04 a.m.

**Public Comment.** There was no public comment.

**Standing Items:**

**Review Agenda.** Karen Reed reviewed the agenda.

**Approval of January 24, 2022 Meeting Minutes.** Minutes were approved as presented

**Chair’s Report.** There was no Chair’s report.

**Communications to Panel.** There was one email to the Panel regarding the status of filling the Low-Income Advocate position. Leigh responded that we have found a candidate, Michelle Mitchell-Brannon, and are preparing appointment materials.

**General Manager’s update.**

Debra Smith shared several information items with the Panel:



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- The Skagit Partner Letter is in the meeting packet, signaling the 1-year reset. SCL checked in with partners to confirm how they were feeling before sending this letter.
- Yesterday, Marco Lowe the Chief Operating Officer for Mayor Harrell attended the SCL Leadership Team meeting. SCL will report to Mr. Lowe's office. Today is Mayor Harrell's State of the City Address.
- Chief of Staff, Jen Chan has been coordinating the Executive Team 2022 work planning efforts and fleshing out the Projects, Initiatives and Activities (PIAs) to talk about how we define success and make progress towards our goals.
- Last week we distributed the first issue of our new e-newsletter—*Community Connections*. This was shared with Panel members via the Teams Chat. In listening to our Customer Satisfaction Survey results, we know there are a lot of opportunities to better communicate with our customers, and this is an exciting step.
- Supply chain issues are leading to increased lead-time on acquiring equipment such as cable. Cable can take up to a year, transformers up to 18 months. Weather, labor, and other blockages are contributing to this. Inflation is about twice what we expected, and we are working on absorbing these costs. The concrete strike is also impacting work downtown.

### 2023 – 2028 Strategic Plan

#### Strategic Plan Update Schedule

Leigh presented. The schedule and presentation are in Panel packets.

#### Draft Rate Path/Revenue Requirement

Carsten Croff presented; the presentation is in the Panel packet. The key financial objective of the Rate Path is to have a rate that looks like inflation. Reliance on debt is significantly reduced over prior plans. Another significant change is a notably increased demand forecast compared to the last forecast.

**Q:** Can you speak to how renewables are less reliable and how that works to fill your identified need for additional supply resources? **A:** We've identified a summer need and we've looked at all resources that are available in the region; we feel that renewables are the most optimal package. They are not 100% reliable because they are intermittent, but you plan on a critical output. As you size up the renewables you need, you look at when you have a critical event and how that could impact availability.

**Comment:** This is a great presentation, thank you.

**Q:** You mentioned transportation incentives. What specifically are those programs? **A:** There is a



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wide range of programs that will further enable us to incentivize transportation electrification. These include marketing, direct incentives to customers, or other infrastructure needs that support electrification. Washington State law allows utilities to implement a broad range of programs.

**Q:** Looking at the average growth in the revenue requirement, is that fairly typical? **A:** The rates we have for this plan are significantly less than previous rate increases. If you think of rates as  $\text{Rate} = \text{Revenue}/\text{Sales}$ , we have gotten to where our sales are pretty flat, so most of the rate growth is driven by our revenue requirement.

**Q:** With that cap on CIP, are we feeling like we are making optimum investments? **A:** Yes. It does challenge us on setting priorities. We are working with the Mayor's office and City Budget Office to inform our decisions. Internally we are setting priorities and managing within the capital plan.

### Outreach Plan

Jenny Levesque presented.

**Q:** How are you ensuring equity, diversity, and inclusion in your outreach? Are you meeting with low-income customer groups? **A:** We talked to a few different groups including the City's Environmental Justice Committee (part of the Office of Sustainability and Environment, OSE.) Our Race and Social Justice Change Team is also engaging in conversations. In addition, last year we met with representatives from two Seattle social service organizations, the Seattle Multi-Service Center and Hopelink. We are including their input into the 2023 – 2028 plan update process.

### Projects, Initiatives and Activities (PIAs) for the 2023 – 2028 Strategic Plan update

Leigh presented and led a panel discussion about the proposed PIAs. Overviews of PIAs are included in the Panel packet.

- Craig Smith presented on Improve the Customer Experience
- Emeka Anyanwu presented on Create our Energy Future
- Jen Chan & DaVonna Johnson presented on Develop Workforce and Organizational Agility
- Kirsty Grainger presented on Ensure Financial Stewardship and Affordability
- Mike Haynes presented on We Power

**Q:** Customer Experience: In the last strategic plan, the development of dashboards with key performance indicators (KPI) was included. Are you incorporating KPIs in the programs you presented today? **A:** Yes, you will see that under the We Power umbrella – we are working on



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building dashboards for each City Light division. We completed two last year, as part of the pilot, and will have specific customer operations dashboards in the next few years.

**Q:** Customer Experience: Will you be incorporating customer notification (text) when there are interruptions? **A:** We know this is a desire and we've looked at tying into a city texting platform and are exploring options around increased notification options.

**Q:** We Power: Does undergrounding include suburban cities? **A:** Yes.

**Adjourn:** Meeting adjourned at 10:58 a.m.

**Next meeting:** March 23, 2022.