UTILITY COMMITTEE

The Utility Committee Meeting was held on March 24, 2014 at 5:01 p.m. with Chairwoman Williams presiding. Members present were Mr. Perza, Mr. Slavin, Mr. Blakeman, and Mr. Snaman. Members of Council present were Mr. Dixon and Mr. Hutchison. Mayor Carey was also present.

AGENDA ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Mr. Slavin moved for approval of the agenda as presented, seconded by Mr. Snaman and unanimously carried.

Delaware Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement for Intrastate Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (DEWARN)

Mrs. Sharon Duca, Director of Public Works, advised members that following the events of September 11, 2001, Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, and the severe flooding in New England and the Midwest in 2007, the need for water and wastewater systems to share resources to overcome disasters became evident. As a result, the Water Sector's professional associations and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Security Division (WSD) had been working to have every state establish intrastate mutual aid and assistance agreements between drinking water and wastewater utilities known as Water/Wastewater Agency Response Networks (WARN).

Mrs. Duca indicated that the Delaware Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement for Intrastate Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (DEWARN) had been executed by numerous water and wastewater utilities (public and private) throughout the State. She stated that the City and other jurisdictions already work together and provide assistance to each other during times of need. Mrs. Duca explained that if the City became a member, this would allow the City to receive assistance from other members, should an emergency occur, as well as provide assistance if possible. She stated that emergencies do not need to be catastrophic, such as those that led to the formation of the WARN communities, but can be any incident which requires emergency response. She assured members that the agreement would not mandate any obligation to assist other members in the event of an emergency, explaining that it would simply provide a means for members to assist each other if they are able. Mrs. Duca indicated that participation in this network would be achieved through the Department of Public Works and the City Manager's Office via Public Affairs and Emergency Management. Members were provided an informational brochure regarding DEWARN ***(Attachment #1)***.

Staff recommended that the City Manager be authorized to execute the DEWARN Agreement.

Responding to Mr. Perza, Mrs. Duca stated that she, along with the City Manager and the Public Affairs and Emergency Management Coordinator, would serve as the City's point of contact. She advised members that in all instances, the City Manager would be made aware of an issue before a final decision would be made on any request. Elaborating, Mr. Scott Koenig, City Manager, stated that although he, as City Manager, would be required to approve requests for personnel and equipment outside of the City, approval would be granted after considering staff's recommendation in this regard. He assured members that if a request were within reason, the City would do whatever possible to provide aid to a local jurisdiction included in the Network.

In response to Mr. Snaman, Mr. Koenig stated that, although there was no written agreement to provide assistance for electrical issues, there has been a long-term understanding that the City's Electric Department will respond whenever assistance is needed. In the past, Mr. Koenig stated that crews had been sent to other states as a part of mutual aid through the American Public Power Association (APPA).

Mrs. Williams questioned what, if anything, the City would do to accommodate requests for providing water to areas where there is no interconnection with the City. Responding, Mrs. Duca felt that, if such a need arose, assistance would extend outside of the Network and come from other sources, such as the National Guard.

Responding to Mr. Hutchison, Mrs. Duca advised members that the municipalities that are already members of DEWARN are Blades, Camden-Wyoming, Lewes, Milford, Milton, Newark, New Castle Municipal Services Commission, Selbyville, and Wilmington. Other members include United Water Delaware, Tidewater Utilities, and Artesian Water Company.

Mr. Blakeman moved to recommend approval of staff's recommendation to authorize the City Manager to execute the DEWARN Agreement, seconded by Mr. Snaman and unanimously carried.

Mr. Snaman moved for adjournment, seconded by Mr. Slavin and unanimously carried.

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

Beverly C. Williams
Chairwoman

BCW/TM/jg/js/dd
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Attachments
Attachment #1 - Brochure - Delaware Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (DEWARN)

NATIONAL SUPPORT

To support the effort to create a WARN program nationwide, eight national associations met and agreed to support a WARN program in every state in the nation.

- American Water Works Association
- Association of Metropolitan Water Agencies
- Association of State and Interstate Water Pollution Control Administrators
- Association of State Drinking Water Administrators
- National Association of Clean Water Agencies
- National Association of Water Companies
- National Rural Water Association
- Water Environmental Federation

SUPPORT IN DELAWARE

Support in the development of intrastate mutual aid programs and an integrated response at the local, county and state levels of government is provided by the following regulatory agencies:

- Delaware Health and Social Services, Division of Public Health, Office of Drinking Water
- Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control
- Delaware Emergency Management Agency
- Delaware Public Services Commission
- US Environmental Protection Agency

Photo on front cover by: Lori Foraker

DEWARN MEMBERS

Artesian Water Company

Town of Blades

Camden-Wyoming Sewer & Water Authority

Governor Bacon Health Center

Lewes Board of Public Works

City of Milford

Town of Milton

City of Newark

New Castle Municipal Services Commission

Town of Selbyville

Tidewater Utilities

United Water Delaware

City of Wilmington



Rising sea level and storm surge. Jennifer Luoma, Dept. of Natural Resources and Environmental Control

For more information contact:
Rob Penman - DEWARN Chairman
302-453-6946



DEWARN

WATER/WASTEWATER AGENCY RESPONSE NETWORK

UTILITIES HELPING UTILITIES

MAIN BREAKS ♦ FIRES ♦ FLOODS ♦ STORMS
TERRORISM ♦ TORNADOES ♦ SPILLS

Utility Committee Meeting of 03/24/2014
ATTACHMENT #1

WHAT IS DEWARN

DEWARN is a Water/Wastewater Agency Response Network (WARN) of "utilities helping utilities" to:

- Prepare for the next natural or human caused emergency.
- Organize response according to established requirements.
- Share personnel and other resources statewide by agreement.

Past disaster response and lessons learned tell us that:

- Utility operations are specialized.
- Utilities must be self-sufficient and fill the gap between disaster onset and arrival of other governmental aid.
- Communities cannot function without water.
- Water/Wastewater restoration provides hope.

WHAT DEWARN CAN DO FOR YOU

In order to be eligible for federal grants and reimbursements before, during and after an emergency, all community water/wastewater systems are to:

- Adopt the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- Support the development of interstate mutual aid programs.
- Integrate response at the field, local and state levels of government.

The DEWARN program will help facilitate meeting these requirements.

MISSION

The mission of the DEWARN network is to support and promote statewide emergency preparedness, disaster response, and mutual aid assistance for public and private water and wastewater utilities for natural and human caused events in the state.

PURPOSE

The DEWARN network will provide water and wastewater utilities with:

- A mutual assistance agreement and process for sharing emergency resources among water and wastewater agencies statewide.
- A mutual assistance program consistent with other statewide mutual aid and assistance programs and the National Incident Management System.
- The resources to respond and recover more quickly from a natural or human caused disaster.
- A forum for developing and maintaining emergency contacts and relationships.



Water main break. © Tom Hindman, tomhindman.blogspot.com

PARTICIPATION

The DEWARN Mutual Assistance Agreement is available to all public and private water and wastewater utilities in Delaware.

AGREEMENT

All actions, recommendations, etc. are made in accordance with the articles of the DEWARN Mutual Aid and Assistance Agreement.

DEWARN BENEFITS

- Increased planning and coordination enhances access to specialized resources.
- A single agreement provides access to all member utilities statewide.
- Provides insurance for access to resources during an emergency without pre-contractual limitations or retainer fees.
- Expedites arrival of aid.
- Members have a pre-established relationship under which they are able to share resources during an emergency at the discretion of each participating agency.
- Consistent with the National Incident Management System (NIMS).
- Provides a list of emergency contacts and phone numbers.
- Reduces administrative conflict.
- Agreement contains indemnification and workers' compensation provisions to protect participating utilities, and provides for reimbursement of costs, as needed.
- Avoids federal bureaucracy.
- Increases hope that recovery comes quickly.

For more information contact:
Rob Penman - DEWARN Chairman
302-453-6946

MAIN BREAKS • FIRES • FLOODS • STORMS • TERRORISM • TORNADOES • SPILLS