

CITIZENS' WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CWAC) MINUTES

June 9, 2020 6:00 pm

Public Participation through call in number (listen only)

1-720-650-7664

Access code: 961 741 965# (no participant code)

Members Present: Janet Marlow (Chair), Tom Coker (Vice Chair), Jay Campbell, Don Langley, Richard Eason, David Patterson, William Gondrez

Excused Absence: There were no absences

Staff Present: Marshall Brown, Elizabeth Roberts, Sean Lieske, Tim York, Greg Baker, Sandy Moore

Visitors Present: Andrea Long called into the meeting.

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes – May 12, 2020

A motion was made to approve the minutes for the meeting of May 12th.
The May 12, 2020 minutes were approved.

2. Introductions/Public Invited to be Heard

There were none.

3. New/Old Business

G. Baker mentioned the Water Policy Committee meeting scheduled July 1st.

4. Communications Update

G. Baker announced the cancellation of the Annual Chemical Roundup on September 12th due to social distancing concerns. In lieu of the Roundup, Aurora Water will expand its curbside pickup and will reduce the partisan fee associated this service. Public Relations staff will also increase outreach on options for disposing of common items, including PaintCare Colorado for recycling leftover paint, and used oil drop off sites. S. Lieske explained, by using a portion of the allocated funds from the Chemical Roundup, the current contract would be extended to March 2021 for the Curb Side Program. A reduction in the cost to the customer from twenty (\$20) dollars to ten (\$10)

dollars will also be implemented. He hoped the program will be approved and running by July 1st.

5. Polyfluorinated Compound (PFAS) Update

S. Lieske presented and reviewed a general background relating to the class Per and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) of over four hundred fifty (450) specific man made forever chemicals. He provided an update on both the state and federal legislative efforts and detailed concerns with these actions from the water and wastewater perspectives.

S. Lieske said, the chemicals specifically, Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and Perfluorooctane Sulfate (PFOS) and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances are emerging contaminants of concern that have been used in a variety consumer products for years. Products such as Teflon. Firefighting foams are particularly difficult to break down due to the resistance of high temperatures. Recent studies are surfacing that point to the toxicity of these compounds related to carcinogenicity and concerns for mothers during pregnancy. In addition, the compounds are being discovered in a variety of water sources around the country. Trace amounts have been found in the blood samples of the general public and population. U.S. Military Installations have been known to have areas of large blooms of contamination due to firefighting activities. In response to the risks associated with these compounds, legislation has been introduced at both the Federal and State level aimed at regulating these compounds.

S. Lieske explained there are efforts by the State of Colorado to address these issues and specified HB20-1119 and Colorado State Policy 20-1, which is part of the Clean Water Act. Several options for treating the water include Granular Activated Carbon, Reverse Osmosis and Ion Exchange, but all would require large capital expenditures and would be expensive to maintain for a variety of reasons. The ground and drinking sources water for Aurora have been tested and results are below the EPA Health Advisory. The Binney Treatment Plant is able to treat many of these compounds, but our other treatment facilities are not.

Buckley Air Force Base has found high levels of the PFAS chemicals in groundwater samples obtained from below the base itself. They are studying how to remove the chemicals and will be testing an area north of the base.

D. Eason questioned, if there are concerns with the CAPSTC (City of Aurora Public Safety Training Center Fire and Police) location and the chemicals used, AFFF (Aqueous film forming foam), being so close to Aurora Reservoir?

S. Lieske replied, the chemicals have not been in used at the facility.

D. Eason said, parts per trillion is a pretty darn small number, asking at what rate can the chemicals be detected?

S. Lieske said, the testing can detect (five) 5 to (ten) 10 parts per trillion.

D. Langley questioned if the water going to the Binney Treatment Plant was being tested before it reaches the plant for PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic Acid) and PFOS (Perfluorooctane Sulfate).

M. Brown said, there have been trace amounts of PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic Acid) and PFOS (Perfluorooctane Sulfate) detected in the source water at the Binney Treatment Plant. They are addressing the issues and the chemicals are not leaving the plant. Testing has been done at Wemlinger and Griswold Treatment Plants and have not detected the chemicals.

S. Lieske said Aurora Water supports efforts and programs to rid the contaminants.

6. Water Conservation Programs & Annual Report

T. York provided the members with an overview of Aurora Water's Conservation programs. This included an update reflecting the water savings for 2019 indoor programs and 2018 outdoor programs. The Staff presented highlights of the 2019 programs as well as an update on upcoming changes for 2020. Tim York further explained the documents reflecting the data on each specific program. The presentation itself focused on overall numbers, touching on specific highlights and points of interest.

T. York reviewed the first water restrictions going back to the early 1950's and the growth of Aurora's conservation effort over time. For 2020, due to the hiring freeze related to the COVID pandemic, many seasonal positions, some of which are being back filled with staff from other departments. He reviewed the low-income programs that are available to residents, including the Low-Income Water Efficiency Program (LIWEP) and the GreatScapes Landscape program. The Greatscapes Program is based on income qualifications. He explained, the current landscape is removed and new water saving landscape is installed free of charge, stating there are also education opportunities. The goal is for the resident to be engaged and maintain the landscape.

Water Use Assessments are free to the customer and are very informative and educational. The Outside Water Assessment Program has been modified due to COVID-19. The Toilet Rebate Program has been revised to promote the use of 0.8 gallon per flush toilets. For the Water-wise Landscape Rebate Program, turf from either the front or side yard (if visible to the public) is replaced with low-water use plant material to increase water efficiency. Irrigation parts are eligible for rebates when older irrigation systems are upgraded to a newer type of systems it brings them up to current standards. Commercial and multifamily properties are also eligible for many of these programs. Rebates are also offered Rains Sensors, Smart Controllers. The Smart Controller Rebate Program has been a success for both the residential and commercial users. The Water-wise Landscape Design program is a separate program consisting of a free two (2) hour session with a landscape designer, in both residential and commercial. There are multiple Community Gardens growing fruits and vegetables within the city. The Waterwise Garden has six (6) acres currently in use and is where The Memorial Garden is located.

T. York explained that Water Management Plan enforcement is also part of Water Conservation's charge. Water Monitors look for noncompliance issues and respond to reported issues. Conservation also reviews irrigation plans and comments on landscape proposals for new development. Newly built homes can have a rebate for water wise installation, with no grass in front area. The tap fee is lessened by conservation efforts to use less water. There have been major changes in landscape construction and design. Native grasses and plants can greatly reduce water

use. He recognized Natalie Kirton- Brower's efforts supporting education efforts within the Outreach and Education Programs. The Know Your Flow program educates customers and also offers a rebate. There are various programs with large user program offering education. Conservation efforts in general are cheap, saving what we already have.

J. Campbell asked for information of the Fitzsimons area, referencing the Outdoor Program Map.

T. York requested J. Campbell send him an email and he would look into it and get back with him.

G. Baker said, the Conservation Team tracks the numbers for usage and savings, and this type of tracking is a tool used within water requisitions.

7. Review Follow-Up Questions at this Meeting

There were no follow up questions.

J. Marlow announced Don Langley's departure, he is moving out of the area and thanked Don Langley for his knowledge and time on the committee.

G. Baker thanked Don Langley for his expertise and his time on the committee.

D. Langley thanked the committee for the experience and the staff for being so welcoming.

M. Brown thanked Don Langley for being a part of the committee throughout the years.

8. Confirm Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, July 14, 2020, remotely via WebEx.

9. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:39 p.m.



Janet Marlow, Chair
Citizens' Water Advisory Committee



Submitted by Sandy Moore
Administrative Specialist, Aurora Water

ADOPTED: 7/14/20