

CITIZENS' WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CWAC) MINUTES
April 13, 2021, 6:00 p.m.
Webex

Members Present: Janet Marlow (Chair), Angie Binder (Vice-Chair), Tom Coker, Richard Eason, David Patterson, William Gondrez, Mike Spatter, Brandy DeLange

Absent: None

Staff Present: Marshall Brown, Greg Baker, Jo Ann Giddings, Alex Davis, Sandy Moore

Visitors Present: None.

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes – February 9, 2021

The February 9, 2021 minutes were approved.

2. Introductions/Public Invited to be Heard

There were none.

3. New/Old Business

William Gondrez stated he is running for Aurora City Council in Ward One.

4. Communications Update

G. Baker stated, several weeks ago, the United States Forest Service (USFS) released their decision memo of a categorical exclusion for geo-tech exploration work in Homestake Valley. The final authorization is expected in 30 days. Sometime in late July or August there will be ten borings for the project within USFS land and Whitney Reservoir.

G. Baker stated, we received the State Engineers report concerning our pilot release with Homestake Reservoir. The cities of Colorado Springs, Aurora, and Pueblo donated a combined total of 1600-acre feet of water to the project. There was a voluntary release of water from the Homestake Reservoir into the Eagle River for tracking and learning purposes. In the future, water may be called on from the Colorado River. The water was difficult to track to the Colorado state line. There are improvements in the monitoring and diversions going downstream that could be accomplished.

G. Baker stated, the snowpack is down by fifteen percent. The capacity level is between 62 percent and 63 percent. With the upcoming snowstorms and Prairie Waters, it is unlikely we will need to increase water restrictions this year.

5. Service Line Warranties Follow-Up Discussion

M. Brown stated, there have been changes in the insurance industry regarding service lines. There are insurance companies that provide an additional rider for coverage, and the cost of the riders are competitive. Staff is not going to recommend going forward with a service line warranty partnership. The updated information will be provided to the Water Policy Committee.

D. Eason stated, the International City and County Manager's Association (ICMA) had presented a questionnaire on the issue. From the responses received, about one-half of the people were satisfied with the program, and the other half were not.

M. Brown stated, some cities had let their partnerships lapse.

T. Coker stated, he had asked United Services Automobile Association (USAA) to consider offering this type of coverage.

6. Colorado's Interstate Compacts

A. Davis presented information about Colorado's Interstate Compacts allocating water with river basins. The presentation covered some foundational information and focused on the river basins of the most significance to the City of Aurora.

A. Binder asked, during a severe drought, who makes the decisions for the State of Colorado? A. Davis replied, the State Engineer is responsible for administering water and meeting the obligations of the compacts. The Water Conservation Board is responsible for water policy in the State of Colorado. Both agencies work closely together and report to the Director of Natural Resources, who works closely with the Attorney General's Office and Governor's Office.

W. Gondrez asked, why the tribal agreements had not been mentioned? A. Davis replied, she did not know very much about the tribal agreements. The federal government, each state and tribe have a different process for determining their water rights.

7. Public Relations Overview

G. Baker presented a historical and current overview of the Public Relations Division. The Public Relations Division has three sections; Public Affairs, Environmental Education and Outreach, and Water Conservation. Environmental Education and Outreach, and Water Conservation will present their functions and annual reports later in the year. Following the

drought in the years of 2002-2003, Water Conservation efforts were moved from Operations to Public Affairs to allow for program expansion. The presentation also concluded the CWAC Orientation.

A. Binder suggested it might be helpful to know what other cities and jurisdictions have looked at with conservation measures. G. Baker replied, Aurora Water already has a robust conservation program in place. G. Baker also stated, he would ask Tim York to look at Las Vegas, Nevada's proposed ordinance to re-use water and review if there might be something, we could use either now or in the future.

B. DeLange asked, what the strategic approach in communications with direct potable re-use water with the state water plan is? G. Baker replied, this is critical for our water brand and reusability is something most utilities are not looking at, mostly due to perception issues. In the past, there have been meetings with large stakeholders regarding perception issues and continuing education on the subject. The public has a greater comfort and trust level now than in it has in the past.

B. DeLange stated, it would be interesting to see how water rights can also be related to reusing water as well. G. Baker stated, the least expensive water is the water you already own.

8. Discuss CWAC Quarterly Report to WPC In January

J. Marlow reviewed the CWAC Quarterly Report to the Water Policy Committee (WPC) with the CWAC Committee and asked if anyone had any recommendations.

D. Eason asked if there should be a change to the Developmental Revenue percentage? G. Baker replied, he would discuss the issue with Jo Ann Giddings. G. Baker stated, J. Giddings had sent a message confirming the information is accurate.

J. Marlow stated, the CWAC Quarterly Report presentation is on April 21, 2021.

9. Review Follow-Up Question Generated at this Meeting

There were none.

10. Confirm Next Meeting – Tuesday, April 13, 2021

J. Marlow confirmed the next meeting Tuesday, May 11, 2021

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.



Janet Marlow, Chair
Citizens' Water Advisory Committee



Submitted by Sandy Moore
Administrative Specialist, Aurora Water

Adopted: 4/13/2021