

CITIZENS' WATER ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CWAC) MINUTES

September 8, 2020, 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Janet Marlow (Chair), Tom Coker (Vice-Chair), Jay Campbell, Richard Eason, David Patterson, Angie Binder

Absent: William Gondrez

Staff Present: Dan Mikesell, Sean Lieske, Greg Baker, Andrea Long, Rory Franklin, Sandy Moore, Swirvine Nyirenda, Elizabeth Roberts

Visitors Present: None.

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

1. Approval of Minutes –July 14, 2020

The July 14, 2020 minutes were approved.

2. Introductions/Public Invited to be Heard

None.

3. New/Old Business

None.

4. Communications Update

G. Baker stated, he has added the CWAC group in forwarding all articles released regarding Aurora Water. He also discussed the Denver Post article that was recently released pertaining to the Whitney Reservoir. He reached out to the writer to request corrections and will follow-up.

G. Baker also explained that The Examiner is a new online publication who may publish future articles on water.

5. Council Budget Presentation Recap

J. Marlow reviewed the annual CWAC budget to City Council via WebEx. Through the course of the discussion Council Member Gruber asked, if the committee was concerned about the availability of water to meet growth? J. Marlow responded, that she felt comfortable that we are meeting growth at this point.

Mayor Coffman also wanted follow-up regarding the Denver Post Whitney Creek article during the budget overview. M. Brown responded, that he would bring an update to Council on the status of the Eagle River Memorandum of Understanding which references Whitney Creek. G. Baker stated, he would do the same for CWAC.

6. PFAS Regulation Update

S. Lieske provided an update on a new policy from the Water Quality Commission concerning the Perfluorooctanoic Acid (PFOA) and the Perfluorooctane Sulfate (PFOS) man-made chemicals. S. Lieske gave a brief background on the PFOA and PFOS chemicals and how they are a huge pollutant to the environment. He went on to explain that the new policy, Policy 20-1, was created by the Water Quality Commission and will require sampling discharge water for the compounds. Because of the new policy, he expects there will be new legislation to follow.

D. Eason asked, are we able to process the samples in our own laboratories? S. Lieske responded by stating that unfortunately, we do not have the analytical capabilities to test for these compounds in-house and will have to send the samples out to private labs for evaluation.

7. Quincy Reservoir Water Quality Update

S. Lieske presented an update on Quincy Reservoir. In his explanation, he informed the committee that there was still a comprehensive study in progress to determine what will happen with Quincy Reservoir long-term. Meanwhile, there are measures being taken to treat the reservoir for ongoing water quality issues related to a toxic bloom of blue-green algae. In the short-term, Hydrogen Peroxide has been added to the reservoir to kill the toxic algae both in 2019 and 2020, which has helped in the interim while searching for a more long-term solution. In October, there will be an aluminum sulfide treatment to the reservoir that will prevent the algae from returning for five to ten years. While the aluminum sulfide treatment is being injected into the reservoir, it will need to be closed for approximately two weeks.

R. Franklin stated, that because the reservoir is a public amenity, public outreach will be necessary. There will be signage on the entrances explaining the closures, mailers will be sent to residents within a five-mile radius, a public notice will be posted through the Aurora Sentinel, and informational fliers will be available at the reservoirs main entrance. The purpose of the outreach is to inform the public about the ongoing issues with Quincy Reservoir and the reasoning behind the two-week closure.

8. First Creek Interceptor System

A. Long gave a presentation of the Aurora Water sanitary system and the purpose and goals of the First Creek Interceptor System. The primary goal of the First Creek Interceptor System is increasing the capacity for the First Creek Basin with the added benefit of eliminating the need for

lift stations which can be costly to maintain and upgrade. The First Creek Interceptor System will be a gravity system that flows northeast toward Metro Wastewater Reclamations Districts (MWRD) northern treatment plant. The timeline is aggressive with the hope of going live by 2024. This new system will allow for continued growth throughout the City because of the increased capacity.

D. Eason asked, do we need to obtain additional right-of-way's, or is this within existing right-of-way's? A. Long stated, that we will need to obtain land acquisition easements because the project will entail going through businesses and private properties.

A. Binder asked, if the current Hite Metro plant is at capacity? And if that is why they built a new facility? A. Long stated, that she was unsure about why the new facility was built but surmised that it was likely for growth and to free up space at their original facility. D. Mikesell added, that by moving flows from the northern plant, it will defer costs that are happening at the Hite facility. The new facility will also be able to handle more flows from the northeast area including: Denver, Aurora, Commerce City, Brighton, and South Adams County.

9. Proposed Half-Day Committee Workshop

G. Baker asked, if a half-day workshop with more in-depth presentations, including: rates, water leases and water acquisitions, would be something the committee might be interested in since the water tour was cancelled this year? He also stated, it would be an outdoor activity to ensure everyone's safety, possibly at the Aurora Reservoir.

J. Campbell and D. Eason both approved. G. Baker requested the committee submit a few dates so he can coordinate a day and time.

A. Binder suggested a presentation of the drought. G. Baker stated there will be a very in-depth presentation on and about drought for the October CWAC meeting.

J. Marlow requested making a trip to Binney if that was still a possibility. G. Baker replied, that he would like to discuss with D. Mikesell and his staff to see if that was something they would be comfortable with. D. Mikesell added, the timing will be a key factor as the facility closes the second week of October. He stated that he would coordinate with G. Baker to see if they could come up with a good date before the closure otherwise there will be virtually no processes to see.

10. Review Follow-Up Questions at this Meeting

None.

11. Confirm Next Meeting

The next regular meeting will be held Tuesday, October 13, 2020, remotely via WebEx.

12. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 6:57 p.m.


Janet Marlow, Chair
Citizens' Water Advisory Committee


Submitted by Sandy Moore
Administrative Specialist, Aurora Water

Adopted: 9/8/2020