

Citizens’ Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Minutes
July 13, 2021, 6:00 p.m.
AMC 15151 E. Alameda Pkwy – Aspen Conference Room 2nd Floor

WebEx Link:

<https://auroragov.webex.com/auroragov/j.php?MTID=m8ab81ecdb995f6f3ec185516480d2f1a>

Public Participation through call in number (listen only)
720-650-7664
Access code: 146 245 5086

Members Present: Janet Marlow - Chair, Angie Binder -Vice Chair, Jay Campbell, Tom Coker, Brandy DeLange, Richard Eason, William Gondrez,

Absent: Mike Spatter, David Patterson,

Staff Present: Greg Baker, Leiana Baker, Jo Ann Giddings, Gail Thrasher, Josh Godwin, Sonya Gonzalez, Greg Hansen, Fernando Aranda Perozo, Kathy Kitzmann, Rory Franklin

Visitors Present: None

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

1. Approval of Minutes – May 11, 2021

The June 8, 2021, minutes were approved.

2. Introductions/Public Invited to be Heard

None.

3. New/Old Business

None.

4. Communications Update

G. Baker gave an update.

5. 2021 State Legislative Update

K. Kitzmann gave an update on the 2021 State Legislative efforts by Aurora Water. Aurora Water Supported 22 bills and one joint resolution that were beneficial to protect, maintain, and develop Aurora’s water, sewer, and storm water systems for today and the future. Of these 23 (bills & resolution), 19 have passed, one is awaiting the Governor’s signature, and only three (3)

failed. Aurora Water opposed one introduced bill and opposed one draft bill with both bills failing. The remaining 37 bills and one resolution were monitored for potential amendments and passage.

6. Aurora Water Virtual Water Tour Demonstration

J. Godwin stated, the Virtual Water Tour (VWT) was developed to better explain the size and scope of Aurora Water's system in more than words: to provide a visual explanation of how expansive our system is and how Aurora moves water, at a high-level scale. This VWT is the first of its kind and while the original intent of the VWT was to help educate state legislators, the tour was developed with all in mind.

VWT Link: <https://storymaps.arcgis.com/collections/245f2bb7556a408fb24fd02842415b73>

7. 2022 Proposed Operating and Capital Improvement Program Budget

G. Thrasher stated, the 2022 budget is being proposed with a 3.5% average increase in water retail revenues, 4.0% increase in sewer rates and 3.5% in stormwater rates. Connection fees for water and sewer are proposed to increase 10.6% and 6.3% respectively. These increases are necessary to maintain and build Aurora Water's infrastructure and since there was no rate or fee increases in 2021 due to pandemic, the proposed budget was built knowing there is still uncertainty in the economy. During this time, late fees were waived on customer accounts. In addition, a 2% increase in salary-related costs is incorporated for 2022.

Increases in the Water and Wastewater Operating budgets are driven by personnel requests, an increase in utilities primarily for Metro Wastewater, and debt related increases to account for principal and interest payments in the original water and sewer debt schedules. Aurora Water is requesting 12 FTEs plus two .5 FTEs. One will be shared with Housing and Community Services. The other will be shared with the Information Technology Dept.

The combined Water and Wastewater Capital Improvement Program budget for 2022 is \$153.8 million and \$880.5 million over the five years.

8. 2022 Proposed Rate and Fee Changes

F. Aranda Perozo gave a presentation on the 2022 Proposed Rate and Fee Changes for water, sewer, and storm. The proposed 2022 budget includes the proposed rate and fee adjustments based on the latest financial plan. Aurora Water understands the impacts rate increases have to customers and therefore have a policy, whenever possible, to have small incremental rate increases as opposed to having infrequent large rate increases.

9. Water Tour Participation Discussion

G. Baker stated, the Water Tour is August 17-18 and seats are limited to allow more residents to attend. The Aurora Water Tour will be a biennial tour after this year.

10. Water Policy Committee Quarterly Report Discussion

This will be presented tomorrow at Water Policy Committee tomorrow.

11. Review Follow-Up Questions Generate at this Meeting

Will there be plant tours this year? G. Baker replied, no. There will be a tour to Wild Horse. A request was made to visit Rocky Ford. G. Baker suggested next year.

12. Confirm Next Meeting – Tuesday, August 10, 2021

13. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Janet Marlow
Janet Marlow (Sep 30, 2021 10:28 MDT)

Janet Marlow, Chair
Citizens' Water Advisory Committee

Submitted by Leiana Baker
Administrative Specialist, Aurora Water

Adopted: 8/10/21