

**Citizens’ Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Minutes**  
**January 11, 2022, 6:00 p.m.**  
Held virtually via Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Angie Binder – Chair, Dick Eason - Vice Chair, Jay Campbell, Tom Coker, Dennis Dechant, Bill Gondrez, Dave Patterson, Janet Marlow

Absent: Daniel Widrich (excused)

Staff Present: Tim York, Rory Franklin, Marshall Brown, Leiana Baker, Greg Baker

Visitors Present: None

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

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**1. Elections – 2022 Chair and Vice-Chair**

Voting for Chair and Vice Chair. Angie Binder elected as Chair. Dick Eason elected as Vice Chair.

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**2. Approval of November 12, 2021 Minutes**

The November 12, 2021, minutes were approved.

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**3. Introductions/Public Invited to be Heard**

Introductions were done by the committee and Aurora Water staff.

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**4. New/Old Business**

None.

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**5. Communications Update**

None.

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**6. Non-functional Turf Update**

G. Baker and T. York gave an overview of the non-functional turf update. Aurora’s water conservation efforts have resulted in large and quantifiable water savings, yet about half of the city’s water use is still used for outdoor irrigation. Water used in irrigation cannot be recaptured and reused. In order to meet future water needs due to climate change and population growth, increasing the amount of reusable water is a primary goal of the utility. Aurora Water staff have been closely following an effort by the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) to create a definition for “nonfunctional turf” and regulate it’s use in the Las Vegas area. An SNWA advisory committee recently released a report of findings and a proposed implementation plan.

Staff is investigating a draft ordinance with a similar turf restriction for new development and are

working with the city's Planning Department and Park Recreation and Open Space (PROS) to refine any definitions for nonfunctional turf that would allow for programming areas that allow for recreational and social uses of turf. Does the committee supportive of an ordinance prohibiting the installation of nonfunctional turf in new development? The Committee is supportive of the ordinance.

D. Dechant asked, how do SNWA describes turf. T. York replied, Bermuda and Fescue grass. G. Baker added irrigated grass. A. Binder asked, will this further removal of turf? T. York replied, removal in older developments in the Las Vegas area. A. Binder asked, are we still allowing turf in similar areas? T. York gave an update on Aurora's Unified Development Ordinance requirements. D. Eason asked, would an Aurora ordinance be for new development only and are there increasing incentives for existing turf? M. Brown replied, we have done some refinements over time regarding existing turf. The ordinance is for future development and then we will look at the existing turf incentives. D. Dechant asked, how many of those have kids and how many are retired? How much reuse water is used for golf courses? M. Brown replied, we currently use reclaimed water for many city golf courses, and existing golf courses not be removed, there isn't enough water for future golf courses. All the water supplies we are looking at turning it into potable water. T. Coker asked, is Kings Point one of the considerations? M. Brown replied, yes. D. Patterson asked, what is the Aurora's Golf view on this? M. Brown replied, they feel that new golf courses are not needed at this time. B. Gondrez asked, how is this going to be affective with Aurora Highlands or any big project like that? M. Brown replied, it depends on the stage of building they are at. T. York added, the language in the ordinance addresses this. A. Binder stated, with the water conservation ordinance I would like to see a bigger push for financial incentives for turf removal.

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## **7. Chandler, AZ Commercial/Industrial New Use Approval**

G. Baker gave an overview. Balancing the impact of water development costs with the need to support continued economic growth has proven challenging as water availability becomes more constrained. Chandler, Arizona has developed a unique approval process for determining acceptable industries that require substantial water impacts. Staff would like to present on Chandler's methodology to see if CWAC would be willing to further investigate potential adoption of a similar system to prioritize future commercial and industrial water use based on economic value to the community.

Would the committee be willing to investigate and report out on the need for similar system of approval and prioritization of commercial and industrial water use? Yes.

D. Easton stated, if a consumer exceeded their limit, they had to purchase credits on the open market. G. Baker replied, Chandler allowed them to purchase water and give it to the utility to offset their use which is not something we do here. D. Eason asked, are other Colorado municipalities looking at this? G. Baker replied, as far as we know, they are not, they are looking at us to see what we do. G. Baker recommend the committee form a group to look into this. J. Marlow, J. Campbell, D. Dechant, J. Marlow will form the group.

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## **8. Discuss CWAC Quarterly Report to WPC in January**

Informational only.

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**9. Review/Verification of 2021 Attendance Records**

Informational only.

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**10. Review Follow-up Questions Generated at this Meeting**

None.

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**11. Confirm Next Meeting – Tuesday, February 8, 2022**

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**12. Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:36 p.m.

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Angie Binder

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Angie Binder, Chair  
Citizens' Water Advisory Committee

Adopted: Angie Binder

**Signature:** 

**Email:** [angiebinder@msn.com](mailto:angiebinder@msn.com)






# 1. 01-11-22 CWAC Minutes Draft

Final Audit Report

2022-02-22

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