

Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Minutes
September 13, 2022, 6:00 p.m.
Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Dick Eason - Vice Chair, Jay Campbell, Tom Coker, Dave Patterson, Bill Gondrez, Janet Marlow, Daniel Widrich

Absent: Angie Binder – Chair, Dennis Dechant

Staff Present: Sherry Scaggiari, Leiana Baker, Greg Baker, Melina Bourdeau, Fernando Aranda, Jo Ann Giddings, Rory Franklin, Marshall Brown

Visitors Present: None

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

1. Approval of August 9, 2022, Minutes

The August 9, 2022, minutes were approved.

2. Introductions/Public Invited to be Heard

None.

3. New/Old Business

None.

4. Communications Update

Conservation Ordinance passed. M. Brown discussed the shortages/imbalance on the Colorado River. Municipalities have a really small percentage of use on the Colorado River. There have been a lot of discussions across different sectors on who's willing to do the right thing and create conservation. Agriculture uses over 80% of the water from the Colorado River and will need to be a significant part of the solution to bring River uses into balance – many agricultural water users have been concerned that municipalities aren't willing to commit to appropriate conservation (non-functional turf has been specifically highlighted). We worked with multiple other municipal water providers including Denver Water, Pueblo Water, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Southern Nevada Water Authority to draft a Memorandum of Understanding committing to municipal water efficiencies and conservation. The MOU commits participants to taking the following actions:

- Continue to expand our programs to increase indoor and outdoor water use efficiency.
- Introduce a program to reduce the quantity of non-functional turf grass by 30% through replacement of drought and climate resilient landscaping, while maintaining vital urban landscapes and tree canopies that benefit our communities, wildlife, and the environment.
- Increase water reuse and recycling programs where feasible, contingent on the dependability and security of our existing Colorado River supplies essential to support these efforts.

- Implement best practices and sharing lessons learned to help one another accelerate our efficiency strategies.

There is a goal of 30% by when? M. Brown replied, it's up to the individual participant - we'll be coming to the committee with ideas and proposals and working with the PROS department. The city has a lot of non-functional turf and we'll create a program that focuses on those, and includes enhancements to our rebates. Which municipality is the biggest user by volume in Colorado? M. Brown replied, Denver. Is it fairly standard to take the total volume divided by the number of residents? M. Brown replied, that there are some inconsistencies with the way the numbers are calculated, but gallons per capita per day (gpcd) is the general measurement and it varies from around 80 gpcd to around 450 gpcd in the west. Who do we talk to about getting involved and lobbying with this type of work? M. Brown replied, the Bureau of Reclamation is getting a lot of feedback and the Colorado Water Conservation Board. Is the Department of Agriculture involved? M. Brown replied, they've been quiet on this discussion. Water rights are owned by individuals and controlled more at the state level. Is most of the water usage happening in the lower basin? M. Brown replied, California is the largest user of the Colorado River and Colorado is second.

5. 2nd Quarter Financial Update

J. Giddings gave an overview of the Second Quarter 2022 Financial Report.

With the supply chain issues, can the city get water meters? J. Giddings replied, City is able to get meters and we keep some meters at the warehouse. With the growth we're seeing and the connections is it mostly residential or commercial? J. Giddings replied, mostly residential.

6. Water Management Plan Overview

G. Baker presented on the Water Management Plan Overview, which provides demand management elements during drought stages. Aurora Water may suggest declaring stage I drought in 2023, which would mean 2 day-per-week watering for residential customers. D. Eason asked, We've got four days that people are watering, three that they are not. Does this have an impact on the treatment plants? G. Baker replied, it does not on a daily basis. We use the non-residential watering days for irrigation, municipal, commercial and multifamily to balance the load on the system. D. Widrich asked, How often do we expect a Stage 2 or 3? M. Brown replied, we're in the process of updating our Integrated Water Management Plan (IWMP) and in that plan we do scenario planning which looks the ability of avoid stages and at the community's acceptability for the frequency of stage declarations. We'll bring an update of the IWMP to the committee in about a year. D. Widrich asked, Do we offer reclaimed or recycled water to our customers? G. Baker replied, we do not due to the cost of dedicated infrastructure for reclaimed water. Recycled water is the basis of our Prairie Waters potable reuse system. J. Marlow asked, If temperatures continue to rise and we get less snowpack how would that affect everything? M. Brown replied, most of the precipitation will still be applied and those models don't predict the amount of precipitation changes much. We are building for more storage to capture the water.

7. 2022 Proposed Budget Presentation

G. Baker stated, the meeting is Tuesday, September 20, 2022, and will be a virtual meeting on Webex. What is the difference between the water fund projected revenue excludes proceeds from borrowing but includes wastewater funds? J. Giddings replied, we are not planning, however, we are looking at some debt in the wastewater.

8. Review Follow-Up Questions Generated at this meeting

9. Confirm Next Meeting – Tuesday October 11, 2022

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:29 p.m.

Angie Binder

[Angie Binder \(Oct 25, 2022 13:33 MDT\)](#)

Angie Binder, Chair
Citizens' Water Advisory Committee

Adopted: 10/11/22