

Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Minutes
February 14, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Aspen Room/Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Angie Binder – Chair, Dick Eason - Vice Chair, Jay Campbell (Teams), Bill Gondrez, Daniel Widrich, Dennis Dechant (Teams), Tom Coker (Teams)

Absent: Janet Marlow, Dave Patterson

Staff Present: Marshall Brown, Alex Davis, Justin Montes, James DeHerrera, Alex Gagliardi, Swirvine Nyirenda, Greg Baker, Ted Hartfelder (Teams), Fernando Aranda (Teams), Gail Thrasher (Teams), Sonya Gonzalez (Teams), Dan Mikesell (Teams), Melina Bourdeau (Teams), Sarah Young (Teams),

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. Approval of January 10, 2023 Minutes

The January 10, 2023, minutes were approved with amendments.

2. Introductions/Public Invited to be Heard

None.

3. Communications Update

Greg Baker noted that city council approved the Water Availability Resolution advancing the drought stage to Stage I effective May 1. Council also approved and amendments to the drought surcharge. T. Coker asked about the status of the Kings Point Golf Course considering drought. M. brown reminded the committee that this was an agreement that grandfathered them in, however, negotiations with the developer resulted in less water being needed than originally stated. G. Baker also informed the committee that Aurora Water had received a Phase IV President's Award for the Partnership for Safe Water's Distribution program.

4.a. Quarterly Financial Update – 4th Quarter 2022

F. Aranda, Rate Analyst, highlighted the Quarterly Financial Report. He stated that the numbers were very preliminary and that they had not yet been audited.

4.b. Project of the Quarter – J. Montes highlighted the Radial Well projects at the Prairie Waters north campus facility. The next phase of this project is eligible for federal grants.

Questions were asked on clarification of the operational costs and current pipeline capacity.

5. Integrated Water Master Plan Update

James DeHerrera, Project Engineer, presented on the update of the Aurora Water Integrated Water Master Plan, last completed in 2017. To meet the needs of current and future customers alike, the various disciplines within the utility must coordinate planning efforts to ensure alignment, consistent assumptions, and optimal capital utilization. The utility completed its first Integrated Water Master Plan (IWMP) in 2017. The IWMP integrated short- and long-range planning across the Water Resources, Source of Supply, Water Treatment, and Water Transmission disciplines within Aurora Water. The result was a multi-discipline Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) focused on growth-related projects using consistent key assumptions and the same planning horizon for all disciplines.

Questions were asked on how much water will be needed to support the IWMP's targets. Staff responded that water need is a combination of water rights, storage and efficiencies. Project timing becomes as much a priority as the project itself. Could water costs become a constraining factor for growth? Yes, it could happen, however, we have not seen that dynamic play out yet in the arid west.

6. WISE Partnership

A. Davis provided a history and overview for the WISE Partnership. The WISE (Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency) Partnership is a regional water supply project that combines available water supplies and system capacities among Denver Water, Aurora Water and the South Metro WISE Authority, which consists of 10 water providers serving Douglas and Arapahoe counties. Participating South Metro communities include Highlands Ranch, Parker and Castle Rock, among others. In 2013, Aurora Water, Denver Water and the South Metro WISE Authority signed an IGA to provide a permanent, but interruptible, renewable water supply for SMWSA Members.

Questions were asked for clarification regarding the interruptibility of the agreements during drought. Staff noted that the agreement's block commitments have not kicked in yet due to SMWSA infrastructure challenges.

7. Proposed committee restructure update

G. Baker, Public Relations Manager for Aurora Water, updated the committee on the proposed change to the Citizen's Water Advisory Committee's structure. The Water Policy Committee reviewed the proposed ordinance and supported adding specific powers that would utilize the committee to act as a point for reconsideration by outside proposers of water supply agreements that have been denied by staff and proposed commercial or industrial developers that would exceed engineering standards for water use. They asked that the powers for reconsideration of extraterritorial water supply agreements denied by staff and provide advice on projected water needs for new annexation agreements be retained with council. Staff will amend the ordinance and resubmit this to the Water policy Committee.

8. New/Old Business

None

9. Review Follow-Up Questions

None

10. Confirm Next Meeting – Tuesday March 14, 2023.

The next meeting on March 14, 2023 was confirmed.

11. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Angie Binder

[Angie Binder \(Mar 20, 2023 17:23 MDT\)](#)

Angie Binder, Chair

Citizens' Water Advisory Committee

Adopted: Mar 20, 2023