

Citizens' Water Advisory Committee (CWAC) Minutes
June 13, 2023, 6:00 p.m.
Aspen Room/Microsoft Teams

Members Present: Angie Binder – Chair, Dick Eason - Vice Chair, Jay Campbell (Teams), Daniel Widrich, Tom Coker, Janet Marlow (Teams)

Absent: Dennis Dechant

Staff Present: Alex Gagliardi, Greg Baker, Rory Franklin (Teams), Fernando Aranda (Teams), Melina Bourdeau (Teams), Sonya Gonzalez (Teams), Gail Thrasher (Teams), Marshall Brown, Tim York, Earl Wilkinson, Cat Olukotun

Visitors Present: None

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

1. Approval of May 9, 2023 Minutes

The May 9, 2023, minutes were approved.

2. Introductions/Public Invited to be Heard

M. Brown introduced E. Wilkinson as new AGM of Operations and C. Olukotun as new DD of Business Services. He briefed the board of changes to the organization including the Conservation department becoming part of the Water Resources department making the Supply & Demand department, changes to the P&E department and G. Baker's new position of DD of Internal/External Relations.

3. Communications Update

G. Baker explained that lifting drought restrictions will be presented to City Council on the 26th and that restrictions could end on the 29th.

G. Baker added that Reservoirs are at 75% full.

M. Brown said that Aurora Water could use additional storage to maximize the North Campus Water and looking at storage options out east. Aurora Water will look at using existing storage buckets but modified to utilize some of that North Campus Water. He explained that PFAS has made storage more challenging. Some options could be making existing reservoirs deeper instead of expanding the geographic footprint.

4. Water Fund Funding Scenarios

C. Olukotun, DD of Business Services, presented the Water and Sewer 2024 rate and fees adjustments. The proposed 2024 budget includes an increase in rates based on the most current financial plan, which is largely driven by Aurora Water's Capital Improvement Plan (CIP). Aurora Water understands the significant impacts rate increases have on customers, and

therefore, the agency’s policy is to pursue small incremental rate increases instead of infrequent large rate increases. The proposed rate increases for 2024 are 5% for Water, 7% for Sewer and no change to Stormwater. The proposed rate also includes a 5.0% increase in the monthly service charge.

In 2021 Aurora Water adjusted the residential class water rate structure. Staff developed a multi-year plan that would keep rates at the existing levels for several years for customers with usage of 5,000 gallons and below by changing the “tiers” and implementing the increases to usage above 5,000 gallons. This plan aimed to provide a strong conservation message to large users, while also continuing to provide affordability to low users. The proposed water percentage increase will result in no rate increase for customers with usage of 5,000 gallons and below.

A. Binder mentioned that she has concerns about so many rate increases, she was under the impression that intentions were to only raise rates every other year.

M. Brown explained that cost increases and PFAS costs have driven this change.

5. Water Conservation Overview and Annual Report

T. York provided an update on programs and projects from the last and current years. Also gave an update on programs showing the water savings for 2021 indoor and outdoor programs. He presented highlights of 2021 programs and initiatives. Aurora Water Conservation team is one of three platinum recognized teams in the country. Colorado Senate Bill 23-178 and House Bill 21-1229 which deals with water-wise landscaping in HOA Communities were discussed. There has been a large increase this year in the number of requests for water-wise landscape designs.

D. Widrich asked if Aurora Water has any rules for rain gardens.

T. York answered that you cannot dam water or divert the flow of water.

D. Eason asked if there is an ETA on fully converting over to AMI.

G. Baker answered that there is a goal to be done by March 2024.

6. New/Old Business

None

7. Review Follow-Up Questions

A. Binder asked for any updates on tours.

G. Baker answered they will be August 15th/16th. Daniel, Dick and Dennis will go on the tour.

A. Binder asked for an update on committee changes.

G. Baker answered they will move forward with keeping the current meeting and advertising for new members.

8. Confirm Next Meeting – Tuesday July 11, 2023.

The next meeting on July 11, 2023 was confirmed.

10. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.



Angie Binder, Chair
Citizens' Water Advisory Committee

Adopted:

7/11/23







1. 06-13-23 CWAC Minutes Final

Final Audit Report

2023-10-17

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