

**CITY OF BOULDER, COLORADO
BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS MEETING MINUTES**

Name of Board / Commission: Water Resources Advisory Board	
Date of Meeting: 17 June 2013	
Contact Information of Person Preparing Minutes: Kaaren Davis; 303-441-3233	
Board Members Present: Chuck Howe, Dan Johnson, Vicki Scharnhorst, Mark Squillace, Ed Clancy Board Members Absent: None	
Staff Present: Jeff Arthur, Director of Public Works for Utilities Bob Harberg, Engineering Project Management Coordinator Bret Linenfelder, Water Quality and Environmental Services Coordinator Joe Taddeucci, Water Resources Manager Russ Sands, Water Conservation Manager Kurt Bauer, Engineering Project Manager Ken Baird, Financial Manager Donna Scott, Stormwater Quality Supervisor Andy Taylor, Water Quality Inspector - Stormwater Kaaren Davis, Board Secretary Attending Consultant: Lee Rozaklis and Courtney Black of AMEC	
Meeting Type: Regular	
Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order	[7:00 p.m.]
This meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.	
Agenda Item 2 – Approval of the 20 May 2013 Meeting Minutes:	[7:00 p.m.]
Motion to approve the 20 May minutes with requested corrections by: Squillace; Seconded by: Johnson	
Motion Passes; 5:0	
There was a small amount of follow-up by staff on how the floodplain subject will be treated both in staff work and with regards to future meetings. WRAB comments/concerns were:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Exploration of the idea that the city could be more flexible/ adaptable to mid-course corrections throughout the process. How to organize the plan to allow the addition of new information to the process and make this option clear to members of the public who might be looking at the plan. Questions about FEMA LOMR and LOMA processes. Staff: this flexibility exists within the process and has been used previously. Links to the processes are on the website. • When the LiDAR data is collected and used to inform the mapping, some revisions could be made. There may be new people moved both in and out of the conveyance zone. Make sure that those affected are adequately informed and work with them in advance. • Concerns that modeling is imprecise and the need to adequately relay this to the public. Will the LiDAR go beyond the ability of the 2D model to adapt to? Staff: The LiDAR data should be more accurate and usable in the 2D modeling effort. 	
Agenda Item 3 – Public Participation and Comment (General)	[7:22 p.m.]
Public Comment:	
None	
Agenda Item 4 – Public hearing and Consideration of a Motion regarding the 2014 Utilities 6-year Capital Improvement Program:	[7:23 p.m.]
Ken Baird Presented the Item.	
Executive Summary from the Packet Materials:	
As part of the city's annual budget process, Utilities staff develops a six-year planning budget, this year for the time period of 2014 through 2019. Utilities staff has formulated revenue and expenditure projections for each of the three utility funds through the year 2019. Within the budget process council approves and appropriates funds only for the first year, 2014.	
At the April 15 and May 20, 2013 WRAB meetings, staff presented the preliminary 2014 Utilities budget including the six-year capital improvement program. Since the May 20 meeting, the following change within the Water Utility CIP has been incorporated into the Capital budget:	
\$1,600,000 was moved from 2018 to years 2014-2016 for acquisition of easements for the NCWCD	

Conveyance – Carter Lake Pipeline project.

This packet contains information concerning the Preliminary 2014 Utilities Budget and the 2014-2019 Utilities CIP. The attached fund financials (**Attachment A** – Water Utility, **Attachment B** – Wastewater Utility and **Attachment C** -Stormwater / Flood Management Utility) reflect actual revenues and expenditures for 2012, updated revenue projections/rate increases for the planning period and updated CIP. Staff requests a recommendation from the WRAB concerning the 2014 Utilities Budget including the 6-year Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Monthly Utility Rates. Staff will submit the CIP to the Planning Board which will meet to discuss the CIP and make a recommendation to City Council on Aug 1. City Council study sessions are currently scheduled for August 13, 2013 concerning the proposed city-wide 2014-2019 CIP and on September 10 on the preliminary 2014 city-wide budget.

WRAB Discussion Included:

- Concerns about Northern Water and the Carter Lake Pipeline and corridor, including the long term value of the relationship with Northern Water, cost-benefit of the pipeline with regards to both water supply and rate increases required to fund it. Staff, Scharnhorst, Howe and Johnson: The expenditures budgeted in the CIP are only concrete for the next year. The full document is an extrapolation of potential projects which will require the gathering of funds over time to complete, as well as a context for projects being imminently funded. Recommending approval of the CIP is not approval of all long term projects mentioned in the CIP. It is recommended approval for 2014 with additional opportunity to discuss longer term projects each year.
- Some general questions regarding the current status of some of the projects listed in the CIP.
- Concerns about arsenic levels in the wastewater, dewatering problems at Betasso, nutrient content for wastewater, and the fact that these issues are not addressed in the CIP. Staff and Scharnhorst: These issues are actually addressed in the CIP under regulation 85 (in the out years of the CIP) and regulation 31. Many of the construction based solutions are in the 20 year CIP as well. Infrastructure solutions to these issues require a great deal of capital and time to build and implement. Recognizing this is an issue for a number of communities, the State of Colorado has granted an extension of its previous temporary modifications (of Regulation 38) for arsenic until the end of 2021. Augmentation of the wastewater rate percentage increase to deal with these issues has been discussed in prior WRAB meetings and incorporated in the CIP as presented.

Public Comment:

- **Mike Ashford:** Is there a fixed cost and variable costs analysis behind the rate increase that reflects the projected capital costs versus the operating costs through the rate structure that may enable water conservation measures or others to be reflected in the actual usage over time? Staff: percentages are technically revenue increases that get plugged into the block rate structure and fixed fees. They do not necessarily translate into an across the board increase. Those who conserve will still be in the lower block rates and less impacted.

Motion: Scharnhorst, Seconded by Johnson:

The Water Resources Advisory Board recommends approval of the 2014-2019 CIP for the Water, Wastewater, and Flood/Stormwater Utilities including proposed rate adjustments to support 2014 revenue increases of 4% in the water utility, 5% in the wastewater utility, and 3% in the stormwater and flood control utility.

Vote: 3-2, Motion Passes

Minority Opinions:

Clancy: Wastewater issues (arsenic and nutrients) need to be better addressed in the shorter term.

Squillace: Though there are benefits to the Carter Lake pipeline, there is not yet sufficient information to assure that the benefits outweigh the substantial costs.

Agenda Item 5 – Information Item – Water Conservation Futures Study Updates [8:15p.m.]

Russ Sands and consultants Lee Rosaklis and Courtney Black of AMEC presented the item.

Executive Summary from Packet Materials:

The 2000 Water Conservation Futures Study (WCFS) set water use reduction goals for the City of Boulder

(city), reshaping the city's Water Conservation Program (WCP). In 2012, staff initiated a contract with AMEC Environment & Infrastructure (AMEC) to update the now 13-year old WCFS. The WCFS update will evaluate if new water use reduction goals should be set, identify how any additional saved water could be used, and make recommendations for future WCP efforts.

This Water Resource Advisory Board (WRAB) Information Item provides an update on the status of the WCFS update and draft information (see Attachment A). The Information Item is also intended to give WRAB an opportunity to provide comments prior to completing a final draft of the WCFS update, to be presented in October 2013.

WRAB Discussion Included:

- Clarifying questions regarding a potential a ballot initiative to amend the the Blue Line.
- What role if any reclaimed/reusable water plays in the analysis.
- Impacts of increased incomes on domestic supplies and how this, combined with the water rate/budget system might function in a drought conservation situation.
- Results already achieved in other communities.
- The potential to make green spaces water efficient by use of native/low water species.
- The need to make changes in outdoor use a community effort.

No board action was requested at this time.

Agenda Item 6 – Information item – Boulder Creek E. coli TMDL and Marine Street Basin Pilot E. coli Reduction Project Update. [9:26 p.m.]

Bret Linenfelser and Andy Taylor presented the item.

Executive Summary from Packet Materials:

In 2006, the Colorado Water Quality Control Division (Division) listed Segment 2b of Boulder Creek (from North Boulder Falls to the confluence with South Boulder Creek) on the 303(d) list for “*impaired waters*” due to high *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*) bacteria levels. Impaired waters are bodies of water that fail to meet water quality standards set by the Division or the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Once a water body has been listed as impaired, discharges to the water body are subject to a Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL). The primary objective of a TMDL is to calculate the maximum amount of a pollutant that the water body can assimilate and define what level of pollutant reduction is required to meet the instream water quality standard. In January 2011, city staff developed a third party *E. coli* TMDL which was submitted to the Division and EPA for approval and the TMDL was approved in September 2011. Since the city is responsible for stormsewer outfalls through the state-issued Municipal Separate Stormsewer System (MS4) discharge permit, the city is also responsible for reducing associated *E. coli* discharges to Boulder Creek.

After TMDL approval, city staff initiated the next step in the TMDL process, which is to develop an Implementation Plan. The Implementation Plan outlines options for evaluating sources of *E. coli*, identifies how *E. coli* reduction requirements could be met and also prioritizes stormsewer outfalls. Prior to fully initiating the Implementation Plan, staff conducted a pilot project focusing on reducing *E. coli* in the “Marine Street Basin”, located in the eastern portion of Boulder. Based on historic *E. coli* monitoring, stormsewer outfall discharges from the Marine Street Basin had elevated *E. coli* concentrations. Through a comprehensive evaluation it was determined that the presence of wildlife, specifically raccoons, was likely creating elevated *E. coli* levels since raccoons were residing in the stormsewer system. Historically, raccoons had easy access to the stormsewer system through the end of the stormsewer pipe where it discharges to Boulder Creek. After removing the raccoons from the stormsewer system, and installing a mechanical device to keep raccoons from re-entering the stormsewer, monitoring showed a substantial reduction in *E. coli* concentrations.

Since the Marine Street Basin *E. coli* reduction pilot project was successful in substantially reducing *E. coli* discharges city staff will initiate a similar, but large scale, project in 2013, called the “Basin 2 Project. Staff will keep WRAB informed of the progress of the Basin 2 Project, and status of achieving compliance with the *E. coli* TMDL, at future meetings.

Funding is included in the draft 2014 through 2019 Stormwater and Flood CIP to support the Basin 2 Project and staff will be requesting WRAB provide a final recommendation concerning the proposed 2014

Utilities budget at the June 17 meeting.

WRAB Discussion Included:

- Process for inlet and grate replacement.
- This is a very useful study and should be published in professional journals, etc.
- What the cost of being on the 303 contamination list is, short term and long term.

This agenda item was an informational item only. No board action requested at this time.

Agenda Item 7 – Matters

[9:55 p.m.]

From the Board: (9:55 p.m.)

- Johnson raised the following matters:
 - Pleased that staff took the initiative in finding alternatives for selling power (specifically to Tri-state) in a new 5 year contract.
- Scharnhorst raised the following matters:
 - As the WRAB representative to the GAC, Scharnhorst reports on the results of the meeting on the 13th specifically the approval and recommendation to Planning Board and Council of the Greenways CIP.
- Howe raised the following matters:
 - Water conservation board has a new director.
 - Will be talking to staff about arranging a tour with water managers from the Middle East.

From Staff:

[10:01 p.m.]

- **Fire in Rocky Mountain:** Staff is monitoring potential effects of the fire on CBT water quality.
- **Staffing Changes for Board Secretary Duties:** Kaaren Davis assuming board secretary duties for the time being.
- **Water Treatment Manager Position:** Steve Folley and Mike Emarine will jointly manage the duties of this position during the hiring process to replace Randy Crittenden.

Agenda Item 8 – Discussion on Future Schedule

[10:05 p.m.]

- Twomile Canyon Creek flood mapping (and other flood mapping issues) will be moved back to January 2014 to allow for the incorporation of the LiDAR data. There will also be additional public process resulting from the addition of that data.
- July- Water treatment overview (Arsenic, Fluoride, CIP, etc.)
- July-Hydroelectric operations and opportunities
- Items further along in the year will come before the board as they are ready for presentation. Schedule subject to change.
- November-December the board generally puts forth recommendations to Council. This year there may be some changes in the means of submission to streamline the submission process and align the boards' recommendations with Council and overall city priorities.

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment

[10:12 p.m.]

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, by motion regularly adopted, the meeting was adjourned at 10:12 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by: Clancy ; Seconded by: Johnson

Motion Passes 5:0

Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting:

The next WRAB meeting will be July 15, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., in the 1777 West Conference Room of the city Municipal Building located at 1777 Broadway, unless otherwise decided by staff and the Board.

APPROVED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

Board Chair

Board Secretary

Date

Date

An audio recording of the full meeting for which these minutes are a summary, is available on the Water Resources Advisory Board web page.