

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

Name of Board / Commission: Water Resources Advisory Board	
Date of Meeting: 30 September, 2013	
Contact Information of Person Preparing Minutes: Kaaren Davis; 303-441-3233	
Board Members Present: Chuck Howe, Dan Johnson, Mark Squillace , Ed Clancy Board Members Absent: Vicki Scharnhorst,	
Staff Present: Jeff Arthur, Director of Public Works for Utilities Bret Linenfelter, Water Quality and Environmental Services Manager Bob Harberg, Principal Utilities Engineer Joanna Crean, Public Works Projects Coordinator Kaaren Davis, Board Secretary	
Meeting Type: Regular	
Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order	[7:10 p.m.]
This meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. Howe introduces a commendation for staff which reads: Whereas a record flood has hit Boulder, causing extensive damage to all sectors of the City including the infrastructure systems; Whereas the staff of our Water Utility responded courageously and responsibly to the crisis, working many hours of overtime, often in hazardous situations to maintain basic services and to correct damages to the water, wastewater and stormwater systems, Therefore the Water Resources Advisory Board commends all the Water Utility Staff for dedication to the duty far beyond ordinary expectations and sends the thanks of all of Boulder for their vital services.	
Motion by Howe; Seconded by Squillace: to forward the commendation to Council.	
Vote: 4-0	
Agenda Item 2 – Approval of the 19 August 2013 Meeting Minutes:	[7:16 p.m.]
Motion to approve the 19 August minutes as with requested corrections: Johnson; Seconded by: Squillace	
Motion Passes; 4:0	
Agenda Item 3 – Public Participation and Comment	[7:22 p.m.]
Public Comment: None	
Agenda Item 4 – Information Item – Utility Rate Studies	[7:23 p.m.]
Jeff Arthur presented the item.	
Executive Summary from the Packet Materials: Customer billings comprise the majority of revenues within the Water, Wastewater and Stormwater/Flood Management Utilities. The rates and changes for these services are reviewed periodically to ensure that they are sufficient to meet ongoing Utility needs and also meeting other intended purposes such as equity, stability and other considerations that will be discussed below. Staff is beginning the process of conducting rate studies for utilities. This item is presented to provide background and context for rate studies and give WRAB members the opportunity to provide initial input on rate considerations and updates.	
WRAB Discussion Included:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of the enterprise and the difference between carrying reserves and carrying an excess fund balance. • Discussion on the idea that 90% of costs are fixed and rate structures have little to do with operations. There may be some benefit to ensuring that the general population understands this. • A suggestion that more detailed metering across both water and energy would be beneficial in order to be able to detect what does and does not change people’s usage behaviors. • Relation of PIF charges to the current charge structure. • Questions about available means to modify the formula for tiers, as tier 4 and 5 users seem to be carrying a lot of the load. 	

- Whether the rapid growth of breweries affects the water supply or wastewater volumes.
- Percentage of total revenue that comes from blocks 4 and 5.
- How important conservation is to the rate structure policy.
- Consideration in rate study of proven methods of modifying human behaviors.

Staff is seeking board feedback on the following questions:

- 1. Does WRAB have any questions or input related to what to consider in the rate studies?**
- 2. Does WRAB have any input on what information they would like to see through the process of the rate studies?**
- 3. Does WRAB have any comments on the sequencing of rate studies with the Water Conservation Futures study update and Commercial/Industrial/Institutional water budget benchmarking study?**

No official action was requested of the board at this time. Questions will be referred to Ken Baird and addressed in a more complete presentation of the item at a later meeting.

Agenda Item 5 – Matters

[7:48 p.m.]

From the Board: (8:50 p.m.)

- Clancy raised the following matters:
 - Suggested a collection program to allow people to take un-used pharmaceuticals to the Police Department (both CU and Boulder Police Departments).
- Johnson raised the following matters:
 - Questions about how efforts to line the sewer system affected sewer line infiltration by ground water, which seemed to be a major contributing factor in the flood damage issues.

From Staff:

[7:48 p.m.]

- **Jeff Arthur** presented an overview of the effects of flooding on the city's infrastructure. And preliminary assessments for recovery.
 - Water Resources - no apparent significant damage;
 - Water Treatment – During the event both facilities lost power. There were difficulties getting fuel and chemicals to Betasso, but it has remained operational with full treatment. 63rd stayed offline after power was restored due to source water turbidity in the reservoir and canal. It is still being drained and cleaned and needs to have some electronic equipment repaired and replaced. When treatment resumes it will be from Boulder Reservoir since the feeder canal from Carter Lake expected to be offline until spring due to flood damage;
 - Water Transmission/ Distribution: System pressure retained throughout, no boil order required, only two main breaks since the event. Transmission mains in Boulder Canyon were exposed by the flooding however and are being stabilized. Some extra measures have had to be taken to keep up the chlorine residual in Gunbarrel because of the distance between Betasso and Gunbarrell. Access to several treated water reservoirs has been cut off, though reservoirs are operational;
 - Wastewater Treatment- Flood berm functioned well.. Facility is fully operational and influent flow rate is slowly coming down.. Automated bar screens were destroyed.. One bar screen was fabricated from the two damaged screens and is now functional. Anaerobic digester had damage to lid. Some grit/ sediment removal is in order. Widespread issues with backups, largely due to the very high volume of water in the system. As volume of water in the system recedes, the system is recovering well;
 - Stormwater System and Major Drainage ways - Crews are currently out jetting and vacuuming stormwater system to get the system back to being able to function in the event of another precipitation. Significant debris removal and restoration to be done on all drainage ways.
 - Flow Modeling – Scale of the event varied depending on the area. Overall modeling looks to be fairly accurate in the early stages of assessment.
 - Preliminary Damage Estimates: Water \$3.3 M, Wastewater \$2.5 M, Stormwater & Flood Management \$13.9 M.

Agenda Item 8 – Discussion on Future Schedule

[9:03 p.m.]

- October – WW pre-treatment and flood CIP check-in. Information items only.

Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment

[9:07 p.m.]

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, by motion regularly adopted, the meeting was adjourned at 9:44 p.m.

Motion to adjourn by: Squillace ; Seconded by: Johnson

Motion Passes 4:0

Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting:

The next WRAB meeting will be October 21, 2013 at 7:00 p.m., in the West Conference Room, 1st floor of the municipal building, 1777 Broadway.

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.