

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

<b>Name of Board / Commission:</b> Water Resources Advisory Board	
<b>Date of Meeting:</b> 21 April 2014	
<b>Contact Information of Person Preparing Minutes:</b> Kaaren Davis 303.441.3233	
<b>Board Members Present:</b> Vicki Scharnhorst, Ed Clancy, Mark Squillace, Lesley Smith <b>Board Members Absent:</b> Dan Johnson	
<b>Staff Present:</b> Jeff Arthur, Director of Public Works for Utilities Bob Harberg, Principal Engineer - Utilities Bret Linenfelter, Water Quality and Environmental Services Manager Annie Noble, Flood and Greenways Engineering Coordinator Joe Taddeucci, Water Resources Manager Tom Settle, Water Treatment Facilities Manager Chris Meschuk, Co-CIP Coordinator Craig Skeie, Water Resources Facilities Manager Ken Baird, Utilities Financial Manager Kaaren Davis, Board Secretary	
<b>Meeting Type:</b> Regular	
<b>Agenda Item 1 – Call to Order</b>	<b>[7:00 p.m.]</b>
<b>Agenda Item 2 – Swearing in of New Board Member:</b>	<b>[7:01 p.m.]</b>
<b>Oath of office administered to new board member Lesley Smith</b>	
<b>Agenda Item 3 – Election of Board Officers:</b>	<b>[7:03 p.m.]</b>
<b>Chair:</b> Scharnhorst nominated by Clancy, Seconded by: Squillace <b>Vote: 3:1 (Scharnhorst abstains)</b> <b>Vice Chair:</b> Dan Johnson nominated by Scharnhorst. Seconded by: Clancy <b>Vote: 4:0</b> <b>Secretary:</b> Clancy nominated by Squillace, Seconded by: Scharnhorst <b>Vote: 3:1(Clancy abstains)</b>	
<b>Agenda Item 4 – Approval of the 24 February and 17 March 2014 Meeting Minutes:</b>	<b>[7:05 p.m.]</b>
<b>24 February minutes:</b> Minutes approval held over for a meeting where there is a quorum of board members who attended the meeting.	
<b>17 March minutes:</b> Minutes approval held over for a meeting where there is a quorum of board members who attended the meeting.	
<b>Agenda Item 5 – Public Participation and Comment</b>	<b>[7:06 p.m.]</b>
<b>Public Comment:</b>	
<b>Carl Norby (time combined with Wan Norby and Warner Andrews):</b> Frasier Meadows is moving in the right direction thanks to the Utilities Department. What’s next? Concerned that Council does not seem very concerned about flooding issues at Frasier Meadows. The word “Flood” did not appear in their last session. Suggests that WRAB take a heroic stance and relay to Council a request for 20x the proposed expenditures for rehabilitation and replacement of utilities facilities which would assist with mitigating future flood events (storm and sanitary sewers in particular).	
<b>Mallory Kates:</b> On the night of the flood, it began raining very hard and she brought guests into her downstairs guest rooms and found water on the floor. Water was gushing up from the toilet, the shower and the tub. Called a contractor but by the following morning the water was more than five feet high. Astonished that we can be living in Boulder where we know what the existing issues are and that we cannot get those issues taken care of faster to prevent a similar incident in the future. The City is moving too slowly. How do we convey a sense of urgency to Council?	

**Bob Coleman:**

Found brown water coming up through toilets and drains on the 12<sup>th</sup> of September 2013. A foot of water rose within an hour. Two feet within a short time later. Homeowner now has a large loan out for repairs of his basement. Has spent the past six months of his life dealing with the aftermath of the flood. The government provides essential services including life, health safety. City staff is doing a great job. Council is not. It would be preferable for the city to spend even a small percentage of time and money that they have spent studying municipalization [of an electric utility] into the infrastructure support of essential services that help with flood prevention. The leadership (Council) has no interest in providing the essential services. They are more interested in other issues. WRAB should convey to council the sense of community outrage at Council's lack of adequate action on this issue.

**Agenda Item 6– Information Item – 2015-2020 Capital Improvements Program [7:22 p.m.]**

Bob Harberg and Utilities staff presented the item to the board which included a Powerpoint™ presentation.

**Executive Summary from the Packet Materials:**

As part of the city's annual budget process, Utilities develops a six-year planning budget, this year for the time period of 2015 through 2020. The Water Resources Advisory Board (WRAB) role in this process is defined in the Boulder Revised Code: ". . . to review all environmental assessments and capital improvements conducted or proposed by the utilities division." Utilities staff has formulated initial revenue and expenditure projections for each of the three utility funds through the year 2020. Within the budget process, City Council approves and appropriates funds only for the first year, 2015.

The September 2013 flood highlighted the vulnerability of the community and utility infrastructure to natural disasters, including flooding. In order to better integrate data and public feedback related to the flood into the 2015-2020 CIP discussion, staff presented "previews" of the Water, Wastewater, and Stormwater/Flood Management Utility Capital Improvement Programs at the January, February, and March WRAB meetings. While the April WRAB meeting is generally used to provide a very high-level overview of the CIP process, this year's agenda item provides an opportunity for the WRAB to discuss a "preliminary draft" of the CIP. Input from WRAB will guide staff in preparation of a draft CIP for discussion by WRAB at the May meeting. WRAB will be asked to make a recommendation to City Council regarding the 2015-2020 CIP at its June meeting. The Planning Board will review the complete city CIP, including utilities, in August. City Council generally plans for two study sessions regarding the CIP in September, prior to adopting the 2015 budget.

This packet contains preliminary information concerning the 2015 Utilities Budget and the draft 2015-2020 Utilities CIP. The fund financials (**Attachment A**) have been updated to reflect actual revenues and expenditures for 2013, and the revised budget for 2014. These fund financials incorporate recommended changes to the CIP. There will be other, likely less significant, changes in the operating budget after the City's budget office distributes budget guidelines on April 21 and these changes may also influence recommended rates.

**WRAB Discussion Included:**

- A request for clarification between "flood" dollars and "FEMA eligible" dollars when discussing full expenditures on flood recovery.
- Concerns regarding the coordination of recovery efforts between the Utilities and Open Space on the drainageways. Open Space appears not to be doing anything to restore their drainageways to pre-flood conditions. Staff: Explained that many of the affected Open Space reaches are outside City limits and jurisdiction, and further do not qualify for reimbursement under FEMA's "immediate threat" classification. Monthly coordination meetings are happening between the City and County to coordinate what can be done.
- Questions about coordination between the City and CU on debris removal and recovery projects for imminent threats on any drainageway that crosses CU properties.
- Requests for clarification on the proposed improvements to the collection systems.
- Confirmation that design of improvement to drainageways may not increase water surface elevations downstream.
- Comments from some board members that the funding for sanitary sewer line rehab/replacement looks light given the critical need for faster replacement as shown in the impact of the flood on the sanitary sewer system. More funding needed to get even the Tier 1 issues fixed.

- Details of plans to study the capacity of the collection/conveyance system to detect potential problem areas where current capacity may not be adequate.
- Whether there may be opportunities to help subsidize backflow prevention devices for affected residents.
- Comments from some board members that consideration should be given to increasing the amount of funding for property acquisition in the Stormwater and Flood Management Utility CIP.
- Confirmation that funding of asset replacement has been set at 75% of theoretical replacement rate.
- Question regarding whether decommissioned nitrifying trickling filter and chlorine contact basins could be used for phosphorus removal
- Question regarding the magnitude of expenditures that are needed to completely rehabilitate the wastewater collection/conveyance system to eliminate sewer backups.

Input from board members on tolerance for proposed rate increases: If we are going to ask for a big increase, this year (post flood) is the right year to do it. Some suggestion that wastewater increase should be bigger to deal with sanitary sewer rehab/replacement faster.

**Agenda Item 7– Information Item – Water Supply Update** **[9:15 p.m.]**

Joe Taddeucci and Utilities staff presented the item to the board which included a PowerPoint™ presentation.

**Executive Summary from the Packet Materials:**

This memo provides an update on 2014 water supply conditions and the city’s drought stage determination procedures as set forth in the Drought Plan (Attachment 3)

**As this is an information item only, no formal action was requested of the board.**

**Agenda Item 5 – Matters** **[9:36 p.m.]**

**From the Board:**

Board member Clancy brought up the below matter(s):

- Would like someone from Open Space to come talk to the board about flood recovery.

Board member Smith brought up the below matter(s):

- CU Colleague in Twomile area is frustrated by not getting enough information about new flood maps. Is there information out there about the rollout schedule for the new flood maps? Staff response: Working on new LiDAR mapping and analysis to see what the effects of the flood were on the floodplain. Hydrology is being reviewed. Hopeful to have something to share with the public in about 4-6 weeks. Main priority has been getting the drainageways cleared so mapping has taken a lower priority.

Board member Squillace brought up the below matter(s):

- Letter on Front Range water association group regarding pursuit of water availability from the Western Slope. WRAB and City Council ought to say something or talk about this issue if we feel this is a potential problem.

**From Staff:** **[9:34p.m.]**

- Council having a study session tomorrow which will provide staff with an opportunity to update them on proposed rate increases related to the CIP.
- Tubing and swimming ban on Boulder Creek while debris removal operations are underway.
- Denver Water is close to releasing an EIS for Gross Reservoir. The City has an MOU with Denver Water and Lafayette to create in stream flow on South Boulder Creek to create additional storage.
- Vicki will represent WRAB at the City’s 100 Resilient Cities kick off event.

**Agenda Item 6 – Discussion on Future Schedule** **[9:55 p.m.]**

May meeting may have some information about recurrence intervals on the Creek. Placeholders for South Boulder Creek items which may move dependent on current work with Open Space on environmentally sensitive areas. Board Orientation on the same night as our next meeting. Staff will investigate how to ensure that new member Smith can be present for the CIP Public Hearing and still get an appropriate orientation.

**Agenda Item 9 – Adjournment**

**[10:05 p.m.]**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, by motion regularly adopted, the meeting was adjourned at 10:05 p.m.

**Motion to adjourn by: Squillace; Seconded by: Clancy**

**Motion Passes 4:0**

**Date, Time, and Location of Next Meeting:**

The next WRAB meeting will be Monday, 19 May 2014 at 7:00 p.m., in the Municipal Service Center Conference Room; 5050 E. Pearl unless directed by staff or the board.

APPROVED BY:

ATTESTED BY:

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Board Chair

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Board Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

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Date

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