

# CAC MINUTES

FOR THE MEETING OF May 16, 2013

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**CAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Bruce Hutchins, Phil Lidov, Don Schlup, Mel Reddig (phone), Barry Hudson, Peter Mueller, Jeff Erb, Jim Ives

**CAC Members Absent:** Bethany Gravell, Jeff Willis

**Guests:** Tim Flynn,

**Denver Water Staff:** Melissa Elliott, Heather Stauffer, Dave Bennett, Jeff Tejral, Greg Fisher

## **OPENING REMARKS, PUBLIC COMMENTS, AGENDA AND MINUTES**

The agenda and minutes were approved without comment.

There were no comments from the public.

### **DENVER WATER UPDATE- (Melissa Elliott)**

Our efforts have been primarily focused on drought. As the CAC had a discussion with the Board of Water Commissioners on the topic last week, there are no further updates at this time. Mel Reddig said that he was very pleased with the discussion with the Denver Board of Water Commissioners; he mentioned that he felt like the Citizens Advisory Committee had an impact on the Board of Water Commissioner's decision making process.

### **WISE project overview- (Dave Bennett)**

The Water Infrastructure and Supply Efficiency (WISE) partnership is a regional cooperative water supply plan between Denver Water, Aurora Water and South Metro Water Supply Authority (SMWSA). The backbone of the WISE partnership is Aurora's Prairie Water Project (PWP). The PWP pumps reusable water from the lower South Platte River back to Aurora, where it is treated. There are times that Aurora has excess reusable flows in the South Platte that could be captured and excess capacity in their pipelines, costing them around 700 million dollars. Similarly, Denver Water has excess effluent flows. The WISE partnership is based on transporting excess effluent flows from Aurora and Denver Water's systems to the SMWSA member agencies creating a new surface water supply for communities currently relying on non-renewable groundwater sources.

### **Presentation on conservation goals beyond 2016 (Jeff Tejral)**

Currently we are involved in a ten year plan to reduce consumption by 20 percent by 2016. The reason we're talking about our post 2016 goals now is that 2016 is not that far away. Denver Water's approved conservation plan is up for renewal in 2014. The State of Colorado has a "layer cake" approach Jeff asked the CAC for their input on several aspects of the Conservation program's post 2016 goals. He asked the CAC how Denver Water should think about setting this next goal. We already know we can reduce waste and get down a certain percentage, but what else can we include?

The CAC made several suggestions including:

- 1) Ensure our water system retains a low level of leaks
- 2) Advocate politically for certain kinds of considerations such as land use planning.
- 3) Charging rates appropriately based on “real cost”
- 4) Water budgeting; all properties over a certain amount of acreage/ everyone would be eligible for a water budget.
- 5) Would like to see Denver Water’s conservation outreach tie into the larger promotion of Colorado’s values. Ex: Tell customers why conserving water is important for agriculture and fishing.
- 6) Incentivize people to Xeriscape their yards
- 7) Educate customers on the proper amount of water to use on lawns
- 8) Change behavior with positive incentives
- 9) WISE is a great example of coalition between agencies; it would be great to see that type of coalition in the future on conservation projects.

Who else should Denver Water be talking to?

- 10) Denver Water should be talking to Environmental groups
- 11) Green Industry/ landscapers
- 12) Homebuilders
- 13) City and County building departments (in order to require water efficient appliances and fixtures)
- 14) Create opportunities for other customer’s to speak up, the CAC should be a tool to get that going
- 15) Larger constituency (ex: the Governor )
- 16) Talk to engineers about tap size requirements
- 17) Educating customers on installing sprinkler systems
- 18) Talk to school districts about youth education opportunities for learning about water in Colorado

### **CAC Business**

The CAC confirmed that they will be taking a full day tour of the Northern System Renewal Project on July 18 that includes a stop at Gross Reservoir. The CAC also brainstormed on topics that they would like to discuss in more detail at future meetings. They discussed things like having a legislative update as well as some of Denver Water’s financial options in a drought, as well as land use planning.