

CAC MINUTES

FOR THE MEETING OF March 21, 2013

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

CAC Members Absent: None

Guests: Tim Flynn, Becky Long, Theresa M. Conley, Stephanie Scott, Shirley Schley

Denver Water Staff: Melissa Elliott, Heather Stauffer, Chris Piper, Bob Peters, Sally Covington, Laurna Kaatz

OPENING REMARKS, PUBLIC COMMENTS, AGENDA AND MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 5:05pm. Becky Long of Conservation Colorado spoke during the public comment period. She introduced Theresa M. Conley, Conservation Colorado's new water advocate. She also introduced Stephanie Scott, the new outreach coordinator for Colorado Trout Unlimited.

Shirley Schley, a member of the public, asked the CAC what the Denver Board of Water Commissioners is doing to control growth in Denver. She is concerned by the rapid growth in the area she lives in where a multifamily building with 2,000 units is being constructed. Several members of the CAC responded to Ms. Schley that Denver Water does not have the legal authority to make decisions on land use for the City of Denver and recommended that she express her concerns to her city council member.

There were no other comments from the public.

The agenda was approved without comment. February minutes were approved without comment.

DENVER WATER UPDATE- (Melissa Elliott)

Melissa asked that the CAC provide any comments about Stage 2 drought. Melissa explained that distributors are also concerned about the drought and associated drought pricing, but are supportive of the Denver Board of Water Commissioners and staff for working with them beforehand. The CAC asked about the last Board meeting and whether there were representatives from Colorado Trout Unlimited and residents from the Fraser River in attendance. Sally Covington told the CAC that there were representatives present at the last Board meeting. The Board was very appreciative of them being there, Jim Lochhead followed up with them via email, and Sally said Denver Water looks forward to continuing a dialogue that started several years ago with them as we move forward on the project. The CAC asked about the current state of the Moffat Collection System Project. Sally Covington explained that Denver Water will spend this year awaiting the final EIS, which has been slated for February 2014. We will also be working with Boulder County to address some of their concerns about the project. One thing that may not be clear is that the way that the CRCA is written would make it possible for Denver Water to actually put water back into the Fraser River during drought periods like this year. Don Schlup commended the Denver Water Board and staff for their efforts to keep customers and the Green Industry informed, however he emphasized that drought pricing would inevitably negatively affect the suburban customers he represents..

Legislative Report- (Chris Piper)

Chris explained that Denver Water splits bills they track into two parts, priority bills and monitored bills. CAC members were provided with tables outlining each of the bills that Denver Water is monitoring. The first bill we are interested in is HB13-1044- Authorize Graywater Use. Denver Water is supporting this bill, Colorado is one of the last of the western states to authorize the use of gray water. Another bill we are looking at is HB13-1090- Construction Contractor Subcontractor Prompt Pay. Denver Water is interested in this bill because as a public owner of construction projects we have contracts. However, this bill was postponed indefinitely.

SB13-041- Protect Water Storage Long-term Use, This bill addresses a challenge presented by the decision in the CO Supreme Court case "Upper Yampa Water Conservancy District v. Wolfe". Currently, to retain a right to hold water in storage an applicant needs to show purpose and need, anti-speculation. Denver Water believes that in addition to all of these hurdles and by spending millions of dollars to build a reservoir, diverting the water and placing it into storage satisfies the test of putting water to a beneficial use. This bill will add "storage" to the list of beneficial uses of water. The benefit to water providers is that they will be able to make absolute any conditional water rights placed in storage without having through costly and risky diligence hearings every six years before releasing water for decreed uses.

SB13-181-Water Conservation Board (CWCB) Construction Fund Projects is an annual bill that authorizes spending by the CWCB on specific water projects. Denver Water is supporting this bill. SB13-183- Water Conservation Common Interest Communities. This bill restricts HOAs from mandating turf grass. This bill is a fortification of a previous bill that went through the legislature a few years ago. So far there have been no major objections to this bill.

Preview of Concepts of 2013 Use Even Less Campaign- (Teri Chavez)

Teri presented some slides that showed the concepts for the upcoming ad campaign and asked the CAC for feedback on the ad concepts. This is no longer a conservation campaign; it is a drought campaign so we are trying to get the sense of urgency going. This campaign will extend for a longer period than our previous campaigns. The first step in the campaign is for people to start letting go of the "Use Only What You Need" slogan and introduce the "It's a Drought; Use Even Less" slogan. Teri also gave the CAC examples of: billboard concepts, television ads, as well as non- traditional tactics. After the presentation, Teri asked for feedback from the CAC on what they thought. Members of the CAC liked the concept of the drought patrol car. A few CAC members cautioned against using too much humor in the ad campaigns. They thought it would distract from the message and perhaps make the drought seem less serious than it actually is. They thought that a good strategy was to make it memorable but not too funny. A few CAC members also commented that they liked the yard signs and they thought that in order to advance behavioral changes the use of social pressure helps immensely. Other members of the CAC liked the table toppers that would go in restaurants because they thought it would generate a conversation around the drought.

Deep Aquifer Storage (Bob Peters)

Bob was following up on several deep aquifer storage presentations over the past few months. Bob gave an overview of Denver Water's potential pilot project to test deep aquifer storage. The deep aquifer storage pilot is necessary because it is important that Denver Water have all of our water supply options available to us in the future. This is a type of "no regret" solutions that we think that we should be looking at. ASR might be less costly than a new reservoir and cause less of an environmental impact than building a large reservoir would. There are also potential water quality benefits to ASR and less permitting is required. Bob did note that this pilot project has been deferred for another year due to budget constrictions related to revenue loss from drought.

Some of the challenges of deep aquifer storage include the fact that we live in a less groundwater producing area than others in the State. We also may run into water quality issues, Colorado Springs was told to de-chlorinate their water before it is put into the ground and re-chlorinate it when it comes back up. But Centennial injects chlorinated water; we don't know what we would need to do yet. We are also thinking about the concept of drilling wells across the City which could present challenges. Overall, the goal is to answer the question "Will this work for Denver Water?" A pilot project like this would last about 3-5 years. The science needs to be done and testing needs to be done. Bob asked for feedback from the CAC on some aspects of the project such as where to locate wells within Denver. Bob will also update the CAC when they decide to go ahead on the project.

Drought Update: Melissa Elliott

There is a lot of work being done with stakeholders on communicating information about the drought. We have been working to put together a communication plan that will go before the Board next week. Restrictions will begin on April 1, 2013. Drought pricing will take effect in May; pricing will be reflected in customer's June bills. The CAC asked for regular updates on specific stakeholder outreach at their meetings.

CAC Business

The CAC will discuss next month where to go on July's tour. They are interested in hearing how different stakeholder outreach goes.. The CAC may set up a Google calendar for CAC events. Jim Ives will not be at the next meeting.

Meeting Adjourned at 7:00pm