

# CAC MINUTES

FOR THE MEETING OF January 17, 2013

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**CAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Jim Ives, Phil Lidov, Jeff Erb (Phone), Peter Mueller, Bethany Gravel (Phone), Mel Rettig (Phone), Barry Hudson

**CAC Members Absent:** Jeff Willis, Bruce Hutchins, Don Schlup

**Guests:** Tim Flynn

**Denver Water Staff:** Melissa Elliott, Heather Stauffer, Sally Covington, Katie Knoll, Marc Waage, Sarah Dominick

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

The agenda was approved without comment. November minutes were revised to reflect Mel Rettig's phone presence at that meeting.

There were no comments from the public or committee.

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

The committee asked a question on the status and scope of the Upper South Platte Watershed Management Program. Sarah Dominick of Denver Water's planning department gave a brief overview of the project. Planning is currently working with Arcadus to do analysis on water quality data on the Upper South Platte River. They will be looking at trends in water quality as well as ways to improve water quality in the watershed

The Committee asked about research into engineering issues with raising the dam at Gross Reservoir. Melissa Elliott explained that Denver Water has been identifying projects done around the U.S that are similar to the proposed Gross Reservoir expansion project. They found a very similar project in San Diego, CA.

## **Overview of Deep Aquifer Storage- (Marc Waage)**

Marc Waage gave a presentation to the CAC on Deep Aquifer Storage as part of an overview of Denver Water's long range planning system. Looking ahead about 40-50 years in the future planning is able to look at our water system in terms of potential threats to water quality, emergency demand, as well as growing future demands. Planning is also using multi-outcome planning scenarios which give them the ability to look far ahead into future through different scenarios while also giving Denver Water the ability to put together near-term plans that are more adaptable. There are several scenarios that Long Range Planning looks at:

**Traditional Future:** the future is extrapolated from past trends, few other unanticipated changes occur.

**Water Quality Rules:** the public demands the highest practical quality of drinking water.

**Hot Water:** A warmer climate accompanied by more frequent and more severe droughts.

**Economic Woes:** an ongoing energy crisis accompanied by a prolonged, deep economic downturn.

**Green Revolution:** Environmental values and Sustainable living become dominant social norms.

After putting together the information from each of these scenarios the long range planning team is able to calculate our supply vs. unmet demand (i.e. Supply gaps) for each situation. This gives them a good portfolio to work with.

In terms of Deep Aquifer Storage, Denver Water wants to look at new ways to store water. Deep aquifer storage is more economically feasible than other methods of storage. The process involves taking the water collected during wet years, and injecting it into sandstone located deep under the ground. When we need the water during drought years we would pump it out and run it through treatment again. We have the ability to have from 10-20,000 acre-foot of water supply available underground. There are utilities all over the country that are doing this including Highlands Ranch in Colorado. One of the challenges that will need to be faced in Denver is how to implement this type of water storage in urbanized areas of Denver Water's system. Marc Waage suggested that the CAC suggest what Denver Water's criteria should be for site selection within the city. There are also questions of water quality in these systems, would Denver Water customers notice things like different temperature, taste etc?

### **Moffat Collection System Project Update**

Sally Covington provided an overview of the recent Boulder County delays on an intergovernmental Agreement with Denver Water. At their January 7 meeting Boulder County Commissioners decided to delay voting on an IGA with Denver Water related to the enlargement of Gross Reservoir. Boulder County Commissioners directed their staff to continue to work on several elements in the IGA, but said they preferred to wait to take action until Denver Water receives the Final Environmental Impact Statement on the project later this year. Denver Water issued the following statement and will continue to work with Boulder County on this issue: "The IGA is the result of hard work and collaboration between Boulder County and Denver Water, and respects the

important responsibilities we each have to our constituents. Together, we listened to the issues raised by the community in Boulder County and worked to address them. We believe this IGA accommodates the concerns of both parties, and produces a better result than a permitting process could achieve. We understand that raising the dam at Gross Reservoir is very large construction project, with inevitable impacts on nearby areas. Expansion of the reservoir, however, is essential to the reliability of Denver Water's system, which very nearly ran out of water on the north end during the 2002 drought. "

### **Legislative Update:**

There were no questions or concerns regarding the legislative update. It was proposed that the legislative report be circulated electronically during the sessions.

### **CAC Business**

The CAC reviewed their 2013 work plan and made suggestions about what they would like to see. The final version will be voted on and implemented at the February meeting.