

CAC MINUTES

FOR THE MEETING OF August 21, 2014

CAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE: Barry Hudson, Bruce Hutchins, Jim Ives, Don Schlup, Peter Mueller, Kevin Puccio,

CAC Members Absent: Bethany Gravell, Karl Hanlon

Guests: Tim Flynn, Ryan Padilla, Joseph Kratz

Denver Water Staff: Melissa Elliott, Heather Stauffer, Jeff Tejral, Todd Cristiano, Brandi Honeycutt, Austin Krcmarik

OPENING REMARKS, PUBLIC COMMENTS, AGENDA AND MINUTES

Minutes and agenda are approved.

There were no comments from the public.

Denver Water Update – (Melissa Elliott)

In 2012 Denver water introduced the “Mobile Workforce System”, a real-time data collection for field activities. After two year of the system being in place Denver Water has seen a 31% reduction in mileage logged between field locations.

The operations complex redevelopment team is currently reviewing the master plan for Denver Water’s proposed complex redevelopment and discussing how Denver Water will function in the future. The goal is to build a modern site that improves the efficiency, functionality, security and safety of all operations. The OCR core team, including the design consultant and construction contractor, recently participated in a tour of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) facilities in Golden. The tour educated the core team on possible ways NREL resources might assist Denver Water’s redevelopment project. One idea included creating a net zero energy and a net zero water campus. The Denver Board of Water Commissioners will have a recommendation on that at their Board meeting on September 27th and the CAC will be updated on their decision after that.

Denver water’s pipe rehabilitation project, a proactive maintenance program, is about half way done. By the end of October, crews will have cleaned and relined 39,000 feet of aging pipe in four Denver neighborhoods: West Highland, Alamo Placita, Whittier and Washington Park East.

CAC members may have seen on the news last week about the main break that temporarily shut off water to Coors field. The pipe that broke in that incident was nearly 100 years old and in need of maintenance. That break highlighted the need for increased need for infrastructure maintenance throughout Denver Water’s system. Denver Water is also thinking about installing a second pipe into Coors field to avoid any future service shutoffs due to main breaks.

Rate Structure Study Outreach Plan- (Todd Cristiano)

Todd Cristiano, Denver Water's manager of rates gave an overview of the rates structure study outreach plan and a brief overview of proposed 2015 rates to the CAC. The guiding principles framing the goals of the rate structure study include: creating a pricing structure that is fair, equitable and easily understood. Creating a pricing structure that is, as the City Charter requires, as low as good service will permit and is based on the cost to provide service for the water used. The rates structure supports a financially strong and stable organization to ensure customers have reliable, high-quality water now and in the future. And the rates structure promotes opportunities for our customers to benefit in the wise use of water through continued conservation and efficiencies.

Because the rates structures directly affect every customer, once adopted the changes must be communicated in a timely manner. The CAC is one of the stakeholder outreach groups that Denver Water will want to reach out to. January 1, 2016 is the implementation date for the new structure. The 18 month process should allow Denver Water plenty of time for analysis and coordinated outreach. As part of this effort Denver Water just recently participated with the water research foundation in putting together a rates study workshop. 50 utilities were invited from across the nation and 4 utility presenters presented about their rates structure changes and experiences. In addition the customer survey on rates is happening. As the process continues forward Todd will be providing updates to the CAC.

Conservation Plan- (Jeff Tejral)

The state of Colorado requires Denver Water to have a conservation plan in place. Denver Water has not submitted an updated plan since 2007. The plan on file is outdated and needs to be updated. Jeff and his team are working to get a conservation plan submitted to the state by the end of this year. The basics of the plan include 14 items and cover a wide range of topics from identifying/ repairing leaks in the distribution system to a public involvement process. In addition to creating this plan to submit to the state, Denver Water's conservation department is also going to create an updated operating plan. The idea is for this document to live on the website and be a guide for conservation staff. This plan will be much more in depth and detailed than the State plan which will focus more on large concepts. Currently the plan is about one quarter of the way done.

Water Saver Partnership between Denver Water and Greenwood Village-(Brandi Honeycutt)

Greenwood Village has traditionally had a very large amount of consumption per household. In 2012 Denver Water partnered with the City of Greenwood Village to find ways to reduce water consumption in the city. About 14 homes volunteered to participate in the "The Jasmine Project" which through community outreach would try to find ways to increase irrigation efficiency, increase water conservation awareness, create behavior changes and landscape

changes in Greenwood Village. The goal was “efficient water use while maintaining the appearance of Greenwood Village.” Denver Water recommendations for the community included: residential water audits for irrigation and indoor use, single family letters which compared your use to efficient use and compared your water use to your neighbors with similar lot sizes and indoor use patterns, a xeriscape demonstration garden and advertising garden in a box to the community. Greenwood Village also has a newsletter which Denver Water uses to get information out. The water audits were very well received by the community and customers reported feeling confident that they understood their irrigation, and would recommend the water audit to their neighbors. This year Denver Water scheduled 53 water audits, sent out 2100 single family residence letters, gave 41 rebates and sold 9 garden in a box to neighbors in Greenwood Village. Brandi is planning to run a consumption report on the addresses involved with the pilot program and present her findings to Greenwood Village City Council soon. In 2015 Brandi hopes to start work on a xeriscape garden in the area, continue work promoting Garden in a Box to neighbors and be able to branch out and do commercial audits both indoor and outdoor.

CAC Business-(Phil Lidov)

The CAC discussed upcoming committee appointments. Two Denver citizen representatives, the public interest representative and the distributor representative position will need to be filled for next year. The distributors’ forum will elect their own representative, but the CAC will advertise the openings for the Denver citizen and public interest representatives. Applications will be accepted until October 3rd. September’s presentation from Todd Cristiano does not need to last more than 30 minutes. September 10 is the CAC quarterly breakfast with the Board. The CAC discussed possible topics for discussion at that meeting.