

# **CAC MINUTES**

## **FOR THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 17, 2011**

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**CAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Phil Lidov, Bruce Hutchins, Don Schlup, Jeff Willis, Mel Rettig, Becky Long

**ABSENT:** Jim Ives, Carol Pace, Barry Hudson, David Spector

**GUESTS:** Tim Flynn, Phillip Doe, Members of Be the Change and the South Park Coalition

**DENVER WATER STAFF:** Brian Good, Dave Little, Paula Daukas, Liz Gardener, Joe Sloan, Ellen Cinchock

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

The January minutes were approved without comment.

#### **DENVER WATER UPDATE (Marie Bassett) -**

Ms. Bassett was not present for the meeting. Regarding the Recycled Water Program update - Jeff Willis asked Brian Good if new zones have been identified where recycled water projects will be added. Mr. Good explained new zones have been identified but noted Denver cannot expand like other cities as opportunities for recycled water are not available due to the limited amount of water in Colorado.

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN (Brian Good, David Little) –**

The Denver Water Board decided, along with CEO/Manager Jim Lochhead, to create a strategic plan that can guide Denver Water toward the future. The Strategic Plan will allow employees to advise the public the main goals for Denver Water. The Executive Team and Section Heads met in December and January gather ideas for goals. The first portion of the Strategic Plan will be presented to the Board for their approval on March 9. Every aspect of Denver Water will fit into the Strategic Plan. This will be a significant culture shift for employees, but the goal of the Strategic Plan is to be able to react more quickly and improve communication to our customers and stakeholders. Phil Lidov asked if the CAC will be able to review the Strategic Plan. Brian Good said that better engagement with the CAC is part of the Strategic Plan and they will return for their input. The first section of the Strategic Plan is customer service. Denver Water will show employees work for their customers, and not the Board. Every part of Denver Water's tasks is related to customer service. Mr. Good and Mr. Little spoke to the Distributors last week and requested input on how Denver Water should better provide information to them.

The Strategic Plan will be a daunting task for the Water Department. Employee performance evaluations will be tied to the plan and metrics will be created. Bruce Hutchins asked what the litmus test would be for reaching these metrics. The Tasks and Projects section of the Strategic Plan will gauge if the metrics are met and will include maintenance of the goals. Mr. Little and Mr. Good agreed that there will be some conflicts in priorities among the sections. The CAC thanked Mr. Little and Mr. Good for their presentation.

#### **WATER 2012 (Liz Gardener) –**

Liz Gardener, Suburban Conservation Coordinator for Denver Water, thanked the CAC members for inviting her to discuss Water 2012. Ms. Gardener explained that, several years ago, various groups throughout the state discussed the need to have a statewide water celebration. Water 2012 will celebrate all aspects of water. As several water agencies are celebrating anniversaries, Water 2012 will be able to tie-in to their festivities. Volunteers are needed. Artist Rick Sargent has agreed to assist with the festivities. So far 95 people have volunteered to help communities plan for the event. Ms. Gardener is on a committee that is writing a grant that will pay for (4) displays that will travel to the state's libraries and educate children about water in Colorado. One side of each display will show the importance of water, the other side will be blank for the communities to design their own Water 2012 display. Students from the Art Institute of Colorado will assist with the design of the displays. There are several Water 2012 committees: the K -12 Committee, Water 2012 website committee, Colorado universities committee, Statewide Media committee, and a speaker's guild that will provide a list of speakers for water topics. Funds have been collected to hire a project coordinator. Ms. Gardener asked the CAC members if they had ideas for the event. The CAC provided Ms. Gardener with a list of groups that may be interested in volunteering. Those interested in learning more can contact Ms. Gardener or go to [www.cfwe.org](http://www.cfwe.org) for more information. Don Schlup volunteered to assist with the events.

### **OIL AND GAS DEVELOPMENT IN SOUTH PARK, CO – (Phillip Doe)**

Phillip Doe, Board member for Be the Change USA ([www.btc-usa.org](http://www.btc-usa.org)), Colin O'Connor, and Wes Wilson, retired EPA analyst, thanked the CAC members for inviting them to the meeting. Mr. Doe gave an overview of his group and the South Park Coalition. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM), leased 90,000 acres of land that will be leased out for oil and exploration. Hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," is a process that uses water and chemicals to extract oil or natural gas from tight shale formations in the ground. The BLM land lease to the El Paso company is for exploration and extraction of oil or natural gas. Paula Daukas asked where the water source would be. Mr. Doe said treated water from the town of Fairplay would be used. Each "frack" job would require one to two and half million gallons of treated water. Each well could have 10 – 20 "frack" jobs, and 300 wells have been proposed. The chemicals used can produce toxic materials and the process is likely to pick up radon and uranium. Mr. Wilson said this is the first time hydraulic fracturing has been done upstream of Denver's water supply. Denver Water has requested that the BLM not lease on their property. Half of the leased land belongs to the state.

The problems that can occur during the fracking process are: bad well construction, chemical/gas/oil spills, leaking pits, and production fluids mismanagement. The fracking pits do not require leak detectors. Don Schlup asked how the chemicals are being removed from the ground. Mr. Wilson said the materials are declared as biohazard but NOT removed? The fracking areas are also exempt from the stormwater provision. Ms. Daukas asked if the produced water needs to be disposed of. Mr. Wilson said the water is hauled away to a centralized treatment facility.

The systemic risks include Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC), that could later condense and rain on our ecosystem. El Paso does reveal the chemicals that are used in the process, so the ecological implications can be serious. The EPA is conducting a new study on fracking, but the process will take several years to complete. The life cycle of a fracking well is thirty years. If oil is found, El Paso stated that a pipeline from Colorado Springs will be created to transport the oil from South Park.

A review will be done on the first four test wells, but Mr. Wilson worried damage could be done to the soil and water supply during those tests. Mr. Doe is unsure why all of the land was bought up before the results from the test wells came back. Ms. Daukas asked if the perspective to stop fracking is because of the environmental risk. Mr. Doe said yes, and other states have signed laws to prevent oil companies from fracking. In Fairplay, the Mountain Plumber would be threatened.

Mr. Doe invited the CAC members to attend a meeting on Saturday, February 19, that will go into more detail about the consequences. Ms. Daukas advised the group that Denver Water is not ignoring the fracking issue, but they have not taken a position on it. The CAC thanked Mr. Doe, Mr. O'Connor, and Mr. Wilson for their presentation.

### **CAC BUSINESS** –

#### **Work Plan-**

The CAC members reviewed the 2011 Workplan and motion was made by Becky Long to approve it. Jeff Willis seconded the motion, and it was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:07 P.M.