

# CAC MINUTES

FOR THE MEETING OF January 15, 2015

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**CAC MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE:** Josh Baile, Karl Hanlon, Dulce Saenz, Kristin Maharg, Loretta Pineda, Bruce Hutchins, Bethany Gravell, Peter Mueller

**CAC Members Absent:** Kevin Puccio, Don Schlup

**Guests:** Tim Flynn

**Denver Water Staff:** Heather Stauffer, Melissa Elliott, Bill Dressel

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

Minutes and agenda were approved

There were no comments from the public.

## **CAC Update**

Melissa Elliott of Denver Water reviewed the CAC Update (attached) with the CAC.

## **Antero Dam Rehabilitation**

Bill Dressel of Denver Water's Engineering Division gave an update on the Antero Dam Rehabilitation Project. Built in 1909, and purchased by Denver Water in 1924, Antero Dam is one of the oldest dams in Denver Water's system and serves as a drought reserve for Denver Water. The dam is in critical need of rehabilitation to bring it in line with today's engineering standards. Antero has been operating at a reduced capacity since May of 2011. During phase 1 of the project, the levels at the reservoir were lowered to gauge height 16 in order for Denver Water to investigate the condition of the dam, and to improve safety conditions by ensuring the dam is not stressed during construction. Phase 1 of the project was completed in June of 2014. Denver Water has determined that the safest course of action is to drain the reservoir before the next phase of construction. Denver Water has been working with Colorado Parks and Wildlife to find the best time to salvage the fish from the reservoir before draining begins. Bill explained that the existing dam is tall and skinny. Phase 2 of the project, which began last summer and will be completed this summer, lowered the crest of the reservoir making it shorter and stouter. They are also installing the toe drain and the filter blanket during phase 2. Bill explained that working on a 100 year old dam is essentially like operating on a 100 year old patient. You need to ensure there is no stress and be very sensitive. Bill explained that if Denver Water didn't drain the reservoir there would be a greater chance that there would be an unplanned draining of Antero dam, in which case we would not have time to properly notify everyone or salvage the fish. Bill explained that refill of the reservoir is contingent upon the rate of construction. That is why construction has been sequenced so when one project is done another immediately begins ensuring construction happens as fast as possible. Once construction is complete refill of the reservoir could take anywhere between 1-4 years to re-fill depending on the type of water years we see.

## **Rate Structure Study**

It has been nearly 20 years since Denver water has done a rate structure study. Industry standards usually put a rate structure study at every 5 years. Denver Water has embarked on this process with an affordability study, a customer survey and lots of work with other utilities. Denver Water has assembled a Rate Structure Stakeholder Committee to give feedback on Denver Water's current rate structure and look at alternatives. The group has representatives from the Hispanic Chamber, the Denver Mayor's Office, Colorado Energy Outreach, Denver Water's distributor forum, the distributors technical advisory committee, the Colorado River District, Citizens Advisory Committee, and the environmental community, to name a few. Bethany Gravell is representing the CAC at those meetings and gave a brief overview of the first few meetings to the CAC. She will be sending a report to the CAC going forward after those meetings.

### **CAC Business**

The CAC discussed topics they would like to see included on the agenda for the year. Denver Water staff will compile and send the CAC a final draft of the agenda for their approval before next month's meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00pm